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James Wilson
Deputy Minister of Education and Training
162 Legislative Building
Winnipeg MB R3C 0V8

Dear Mr. Wilson:

Thank you for taking the time to discuss the Northern Teaching Lodges and Mino Bimaadiziwan partnership with me yesterday. As discussed, I'm following up on our discussion with this email to provide you some more information on the project and suggest how the Ministry of Education and Training could assist.

This project is being led by Dr. Shirley Thompson, Associate Professor in the Natural Resources Institute at the University of Manitoba and executed in partnership with Garden Hill First Nation and Wasagamack First Nation. Partners and collaborators include Red River College, University of Winnipeg, Brandon University, University College of the North, Lakehead University, University of Saskatchewan and University of Toronto, as well as social enterprises such as Sundial Performance Buildings, Dark Horse Architecture, Anikowiin and Aki Energy. The project was submitted to the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) and was awarded a \$2.5M grant. These grants are extremely difficult to obtain, and this positive result is reflection of the qualities of the team and project. The following is a brief summary of the project.

This partnership application focused on the remote First Nations of Garden Hill and Wasagamack, includes most public post-secondary colleges and universities in Manitoba, as well as social enterprises. This strong partnership will provide instructional capacity and research resources to explore optimal solutions to resolve development challenges through applied adult education. By conducting participatory action research we will collaborate to leapfrog Indigenous development and post-secondary education from colonially imposed to self-determined and community-led educational development. The housing designs and ideally the post-secondary programs will be open-source to create positive change.

Given the opportunity this project has for developing a new way of delivering post-secondary education in remote communities, providing training that helps meet the needs

of communities and if successful, stimulating social and economic benefits, we would like to have greater participation from the Government of Manitoba in the project. We have had preliminary discussions with Apprenticeship Manitoba on using the sustainable housing training as a springboard to getting students into apprenticeships. Ideally, we would like to have curriculum developed that could be delivered by any of the colleges in rural and remote communities with the train-the-trainer community-based instructors. This would require a collaborative effort between interested colleges and universities and support of the Ministry.

At this point, we would like to invite the Ministry, through its Post-Secondary division, to explore participation in this project by having a representative meet with us to discuss the project and ways to collaborate. Although this is short notice, there is a meeting with Apprenticeship Manitoba on Friday, November 3rd from 10:30 to 12:30 at the University of Manitoba which the would be welcome to attend.

It would be appreciated if you could forward this to the appropriate person in your Department and have them contact me for a preliminary discussion.

The educational goals of the project are to provide students with a certified program that leads to a post-secondary credential recognized by the Province as this will enable graduates to continue on to further education of they so desire. Ideally, the programming would be approved by Apprenticeship Manitoba so that graduates would be able to apply to have their Level 1 educational component recognized and some hours credited towards their Level I Apprenticeship. The project will also support community-based people with knowledge in their disciplines to take the Certificate in Adult Education offered by Red River College, which will qualify them to teach in their communities.

Thank you for considering this request.

Respectfully,



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