



UNIVERSITY  
OF MANITOBA

**Natural Resources Institute**

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Indigenous and Municipal Relations  
September 14, 2017

Dear Deputy Minister Angie Bruce:

Thank you for providing me the opportunity to meet with you on August 25, 2017 to discuss our successful \$2.5 million dollar partnership grant from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC). This partnership has the largest public universities and colleges in Manitoba, (Red River College, University of Winnipeg, Brandon University, Assiniboine Community College, University College of the North and University of Manitoba) collaborating together with Indigenous communities to create curriculum and training opportunities for rurally remote Indigenous Manitobans. Expanding programs and offering opportunities for remotely rural Indigenous communities to access post-secondary certifications without having to leave their home communities is reconciliation in action and a necessary step towards closing the education, employment and economic equity gaps between Indigenous and non- Indigenous Manitobans.

This grant will provide post-secondary educational opportunities in the areas of housing design, home building trades and Indigenous Food Security, which has a large Indigenous health component, for over a hundred students from Wasagamack and Garden Hill First Nations in Manitoba. University and college researchers will assist by researching sustainable housing designs, housing plans, business plans and product development for this work, with the hope that this will be seen as a model that could be offered at a provincial or national level in the future.

Our goals and expected outcomes for this grant align with your departments goals to, “*..closing the gap in quality of life between Indigenous people and other Manitobans, particularly in the areas of education, health, housing, economic opportunities and employment*”.

I very much appreciated our discussion of having a representative from your department on the steering committee. We are having regular monthly steering committee meetings starting in September 22<sup>nd</sup> at noon to 3:30 with lunch provided at the Natural Resources Institute, University of Manitoba (room 320). We look forward to receiving the name and contact number of this person so that we can forward the invitation, agenda and accompanying documents.

We also discussed the possibility of waiving stumpage fees for building houses with lumber on crown land in the Island Lake area for building homes in Island Lake. As we move forward in our program role out, we look forward to future talks on how to operationalize that.

As well, I want to thank you for your kind offer to refer me to the Education Deputy Minister Education and Training Deputy Minister James Wilson regarding apprenticeship and education. I will look forward to hearing from his office to coordinate that meeting.

Your support for this partnership research is highly valued. Thank you for your time, interest and support as move forward with this very important work.

Sincerely,



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Shirley Thompson, PhD, M Eng.

Associate Professor, Natural Resources Institute, University of Manitoba, 70 Dysart Rd.,  
Principal Investigator, DO WE KNOW THE NAME OF THE PARTERSHIP YET??????????

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