

# \$1.8 million for Post Secondary Institutions to improve education for Aboriginal people

Sarnia, Ont. -- Seven colleges and six universities will receive a total of \$1,846,000 from the Native Education and Training Strategy to develop and improve programs and services for Aboriginal people attending Ontario post secondary institutions, Richard Allen, Minister of Colleges and Universities announced. The strategy was announced last May.

A key element in receiving funding from the strategy is the establishment by each post secondary institution of a committee with significant membership from local Aboriginal communities. The committee is responsible for addressing broader institutional issues related to the post secondary education of Aboriginal people including the approval of proposals for funding under the strategy.

The funding will be used to increase the number of Aboriginal counsellors who will provide academic, career and personal counselling for Aboriginal people attending each institution. Funding is also available for special projects including the support and development of courses that reflect the cultural, social and economic needs of Aboriginal people. Some institutions will also receive supplementary grants to offset costs associated with the delivery of programs specifically designed for Aboriginal people.

"We must work together with Aboriginal communities and organizations and our post secondary institutions to increase the sensitivity of colleges and universities to Aboriginal culture and issues," said Allen. "In this way we can increase the participation and completion rates of Aboriginal people in university

and college programs and remove the barriers that have limited their educational and training achievements in the past."

More than 100 proposals from 21 colleges and universities and two Aboriginal institutions were received by a Proposal Selection Committee that was established to review and recommend proposals for funding under the Native Education and Training Strategy.

The committee is composed of representatives from Aboriginal organizations, the province's post secondary institutions, the Ontario Council on University Affairs, the Council of Regents and the Ministry of Colleges and Universities. It is co-chaired by Ruth Corbett of the Nishnawbe-Aski Nation and Merle Pegahmagabow of the Union of Ontario Indians.

"The work of the committee and the institutions in this process has created some very significant results," said Allen. "We must continue to work to ensure local Aboriginal communities have direct access to the governing bodies of the institutions and that all institutions have Aboriginal committees with meaningful representation from the Aboriginal communities."

The institutions and the projects receiving funding and the total amount of funding each institution are Lakehead University for Native Support services Counsellor Co-ordinator, Tutor/Elder Project, Native Studies Program, and Native Nurses Entry Program (supplementary grant) for a total amount of \$197,500; Laurentian University for Native Student Counsellor and Native Pre-law program for a total of \$104,900; McMaster University for Indigenous Counsellor for a total of \$57,000; University of

Toronto for Admissions Advisor,

Cultural & Elder-in-Residence projects; Special events and Sweatlodge (Teaching session) for a total of \$78,500; Trent University for Native Counsellor and Liaison, Elders-in-Residence; Elders & Traditional Peoples Gathering; Native Studies Reading & Resource Room; Community-based course development; Case development for Native Management and Economic Development program and Native students' Needs Assessment Survey for a total of \$262,200; University of Western Ontario for Native Counsellor and Meeting place for the total of \$66,300; Cambrian College for Native Access Co-ordinator, Native Research, Evaluation and Program development for a total of \$118,800; Canadore College for Native Counsellor, Workshops, Native Studies Dept./Dev. Officer; Native Specific Access - Research (program development) for a total of \$170,100; Confederation College for Native Counsellor, Native Student Center, Education Certificate Program, Native Mental Health Worker (supplementary grant), Native Family Worker Program (supplementary grant) for a total of \$298,300; Lambton College for Native Counsellor, Aboriginal Culture/Learning Centre and Curriculum Development for a total of \$111,900; Northern College for Travelling Native Student Advisor, Student Orientation Project and Independent Study Program for a total of \$162,100; St. Clair College for a Native Counsellor for a total of \$66,800 and finally Sault College for a Native Student Counsellor, Native Program Development Manager and Native Language Lab Technician for a total for \$151,600.