



October 15, 2009



The governing boards of FNTI (First Nations Technical Institute) and the Six Nations Polytechnic Board (SNP) share a positive vision of strong and vibrant Haudenosaunee communities. The strength of this vision comes from our growing number of post-secondary graduates and our capacity to build on our strengths as Onkwehon:we.

Therefore, in support of community-based, culturally relevant post-secondary education, the Boards have agreed by Board motion to appoint Rebecca Jamieson as President and CEO for both institutions. President Jamieson will be charged with the creation of a virtual institute by April 2010 that will improve access to post-secondary education for Aboriginal learners and maintain community-based, culturally relevant post-secondary education delivery for both Tyendinaga and Six Nations communities.

This shared vision for the future will provide for the following benefits for Aboriginal learners:

- ✓ increased access to post-secondary education
 - with a larger variety of joint program and course offerings.
 - increased flexibility in program delivery options through enhanced and shared infrastructure for things such as online learning and virtual classrooms.
- ✓ increased opportunities for student success
 - more students will be able to study where they live thereby maintaining the critical links to community and family support systems.
 - enhanced student support network across multiple geographical areas and two physical campuses.

Improved economies of scale in the following areas will provide for capacity building opportunities based on common performance outcomes.

- Joint recruitment (student and staff).
- Reduced administration by having shared functions and responsibilities (i.e. one President and CAO). Result would be more money available to student services and program offerings.
- Common data and reporting systems: registration and enrolment; academic planning; financial reporting; human resource planning and policies.
- Common Quality Assurance Measures: performance outcomes and tracking; program standards: program, course and curriculum development processes and templates; accreditation status.

Both Boards look forward to building their working relationship in support of their common vision.

For more information contact:

FNTI
Board Chair – Jennifer Neepin
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Six Nations Polytechnic
Board Chair - Bonnie Freeman
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Background:

FNTI (First Nations Technical Institute), an Aboriginal owned and controlled post-secondary institute, was created in 1985 through innovative and dynamic partnerships between the Tyendinaga Mohawk Council, FNTI Board of Directors, Indian and Northern Affairs Canada and the Ontario Ministry of Education & Training. FNTI delivers post-secondary programs approved by the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities.

There are over 350 post-secondary students and adult learners from across the country enrolled in capacity building programs at FNTI. Over FNTI's history there have been over 2000 successful graduates from a variety of certificate, diploma and degree programs.

Six Nations Polytechnic (SNP) has been in operation since 1993. SNP exists to ensure: Increased Aboriginal access to post secondary education; enhanced economic capabilities for community development through occupational and professional skills development linked to labour force needs; and preservation of Ogweho:weh language and culture. SNP most recently launched the Indigenous Knowledge Centre (IKC) and the critically needed Ogwe:howe Language Diploma Program. The IKC is a collaborative centre for research and indigenous knowledge transmission guided by Six Nations Indigenous Knowledge Guardians Hubert Skye, Ima Johnson and Lottie Keye and supported by McMaster University researchers.

Bio: Rebecca Jamieson, Tuscarora, Six Nations of the Grand River

For the past fourteen years, Rebecca has been the Director of Student Services and Counselling for the Grand River Post Secondary Education Office at Six Nations of the Grand River. The GRPSEO provides funding and education plan counselling to Six Nations students attending college and university. The office serves over 700 students annually, the majority of whom attend school in Ontario, Canada and New York, USA. The office is located at the Six Nations of the Grand River, a First Nation community located approximately 150 km south-west of Toronto.

Rebecca has been involved at all levels of First Nations education in a wide range of roles including counselling; teaching; policy, curriculum and institutional research and development; teacher education; administration and governance. In Ontario, Rebecca has also been actively involved in public postsecondary education, serving as the first Executive Director of the College Standards and Accreditation Council (CSAC), and on the Board of Governors for several Ontario Universities and Mohawk College. She continues to develop strategies and partnerships designed to support student success.

Rebecca holds an undergraduate degree in psychology and philosophy from Wilfrid Laurier University and a Master of Education from the University of Toronto. Rebecca is a member of the College of Teachers and holds Supervisory Officers Qualifications. She is trained in mediation and alternative dispute resolution and is a Graduate of the Carver Institute, Policy Governance.

Rebecca was most recently honoured with the Order of Ontario for her contributions to Aboriginal Post-Secondary Education.