



## Sault College News Release

For immediate release

### Sault College Signs Colleges and Institutes Canada Indigenous Education Protocol



(Sault Ste. Marie, ON March 13, 2015)

Sault College has signed Colleges and Institutes Canada's (CICan) historic [Indigenous Education Protocol](#) today. The protocol was developed in consultation with partners in Indigenous communities to reaffirm the importance of Indigenous education.

"Sault College continues to be an education destination for Aboriginal students from around the province and we have identified Anishinaabek education as a key priority for the institution with a strong focus and mandate for Anishinaabek student success and inclusion," stated Ron Common, President of Sault College at the event. "Today's signing will help to ensure that Sault College continues to develop relationships and works in partnership with all Aboriginal peoples in the province to better their skills and improve their participation in Ontario's labour market and economy."

Dr. Ron Common, President of Sault College, Peter Berlingieri, Chair, Sault College Board of Governors, Marnie Yourchuk, NETC Chair and James Scott, Native Student Council President, signed the national document that underscores the importance of structures and approaches

required to address Indigenous peoples' learning needs and support self-determination and socio-economic development of Indigenous communities. The protocol is founded on seven principles that aim to guide the institutions who will sign the document.

The Indigenous Education Protocol was developed by CICan Indigenous Education Committee comprising of college and institute representatives including Sault College's Carolyn Hepburn, Director, Native Education and Academic Upgrading. The committee led consultations with national Indigenous organizations including the Assembly of First Nations, the Metis National Council and Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami.

"Sault College becomes the eighth organization in Ontario to sign the national document," notes Hepburn. "The spirit of the Protocol is to support colleges' and institutes' commitment to Indigenous education and provide a vision of how we can strive to improve and better serve Indigenous peoples. This is a significant day in the history of our College and I honoured to be a part of this national document."

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#### **About Sault College Native Education**

Sault College continues to enrol, educate, and graduate Native students from programs across the College. The Native student population has grown rapidly over the past few years, and we are committed to serving ever-larger numbers of Native learners during the years ahead. Dedicated to Native student success, our Native Education Department offers a unique learning environment which embraces language, culture, and traditions with an emphasis placed on student success strategies that will assist students in achieving excellence both academically and in their chosen career. Sault College, located in Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario is one of 24 community colleges in Ontario. Visit our website at [www.saultcollege.ca](http://www.saultcollege.ca) for more information.

**In photo from left to right** – James Scott, Native Student Council President, Dr. Ron Common, President, Sault College, Peter Berlingieri, Chair, Sault College Board of Governors and Marnie Yourchuk, Chair, Native Education and Training Council of Sault College

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