



Sault College News Release

For immediate release

College celebrates first annual National Aboriginal Day

Sault Ste. Marie, ON June 22, 2016

June 21st marks National Aboriginal Day in Canada and the College celebrated the day by honouring Aboriginal students and their communities.

Tuesday, June 21st, 2016 is the 1st annual Sault College National Aboriginal Day Ceremony. This event is a part of wider celebrations going on across Canada recognising and celebrating the cultures and contributions of the First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples of Canada. The day was first celebrated in 1996, after it was proclaimed that year by then Governor General of Canada Roméo LeBlanc. This day was selected for many reasons-including its cultural significance as the Summer solstice and it is a day on which many Aboriginal groups traditionally celebrate their heritage. "This was a beautiful celebration and we hope it marks the first of many on campus", said Jonathan Nolan, President of Sault College Native Student Council.

The celebration saw the Canadian Indian flag raised along with a Welcome Song greeting, by beautiful hand drummer Marly Day. Afterwards Nolan gave an inspirational speech followed by a prayer by Sault College Professor Lisa Piotrowski. "Moving forward I would ask everyone to be mindful of what today means to them and to remember how resilient our First Nation, Metis & Inuit Peoples are. Finally, I want to say Chi-Miigwetch to all of our Attendees. My hope is for everyone to enjoy National Aboriginal Day every year!" – stated Nolan.

About Sault College - #yestothebest

The vision of Sault College is to provide a transformative life experience through empowering those who study with us to think and learn in progressive, innovative ways, including those we have not yet imagined. Sault College grants Ontario College certificates, diplomas, advanced diplomas, graduate certificates, and degrees to its graduates. The College is the largest deliverer of apprenticeship training in all of Northern Ontario. Educating over 2300 full-time and 4000 part-time students each year, Sault College has a significant economic impact on the community, with spin-offs in excess of \$158 million. Over \$1.8 million dollars in scholarships, bursaries and awards are distributed annually to students at the College. Located on the border to the United States and situated in the middle of three of the largest Great Lakes on the planet, Sault College is one of 24 publicly-funded colleges in the province of Ontario.

Visit our website at www.saultcollege.ca to learn more.

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