

# THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA



Vancouver Senate Admissions Committee  
c/o  
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May 2, 2008

To: Vancouver Senate

From: Admissions Committee

Re: **Affiliation Agreement: UBC Faculty of Education Native Indian  
Teacher Education Program (NITEP) and Thompson Rivers  
University Faculty of Education (approval)**

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The attached affiliation agreement was reviewed by the Council of Senates' Executive Committee in June 2007, which made a recommendation that the matter be referred to the Admissions Committee and the Vancouver and Okanagan Faculties of Education for further consultation. Following extensive consultation, the Admissions Committee recommends:

*That the affiliation agreement between the UBC Faculty of Education Native Indian Teacher Education Program and the Thompson Rivers University Faculty of Education be approved as specified in the attached Memorandum of Understanding.*

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. James Berger, Chair  
Admissions Committee



Memorandum of Understanding Between UBC Faculty of Education – Native Indian Teacher Education Program and Thompson Rivers University – Faculty of Education.

Request submitted to the UBC Council of Senates, May 14, 2007, by Acting NITEP Director, Dr. Jo-ann Archibald.

The Native Indian Teacher Education Program (NITEP) was established in 1974. NITEP is a UBC Faculty of Education –Bachelor of Education program (Elementary or Secondary) that builds upon Aboriginal knowledge, identity and cultural heritage while preparing persons of Aboriginal ancestry to be effective educators for public, band, and independent schools. The first two years are completed at regional field centres, which are currently located at Bella Coola, Kamloops, Duncan, and the UBC Vancouver campus. NITEP is a concurrent program in the following two ways: (1) arts/sciences courses are taken along with education courses throughout the B.Ed program; and (2) in the first two years students are registered at both UBC Faculty of Education and a regional college/university at the field centres located off campus. For example, at Kamloops, NITEP students take their arts/sciences courses at Thompson Rivers University (TRU). In September 2007, the Kamloops NITEP field centre moved to the TRU campus. The NITEP Coordinator is a faculty member of the UBC Faculty of Education. The Faculty of Education courses are taught by the Coordinator and faculty members from its applicable departments.

For years 3-5, the NITEP students move to the Vancouver campus to complete their degree requirements. Up to 40% of the NITEP students have traditionally stayed in their regional areas instead of moving to the university campus. Reasons usually include lack of finances to relocate and live in Vancouver and family and community responsibilities. Most of the NITEP students are women with children. These students have often asked to complete their degree in their regional area. Students usually choose NITEP as their teacher education of choice because it addresses Aboriginal education and culture.

Representatives from NITEP and Thompson Rivers University Faculty of Education met during 2006-07 to discuss the creation of a pathway for degree completion at TRU for those NITEP students who want to and who need to stay in the Kamloops area. The teacher education programs of NITEP and TRU are similar in the senior years because TRU was historically a UBC Faculty of Education program.

The draft Memorandum of Understanding was developed to indicate the cooperative agreements that were established between NITEP/UBC Faculty of Education and TRU/Faculty of Education. Of concern to the UBC Senate is clause 3(b) that states, “TRU transcripts for students completing their B.Ed. after transferring from the NITEP program to TRU will include a note to the effect that ‘This individual has completed a Native Indian Teacher Education Program (NITEP)-UBC program specialization.’” This clause was suggested by the former Dean of Education at TRU because their transcript

has a space for noting the program specialization that students have completed. Students and Aboriginal communities value NITEP. If NITEP was able to offer its complete B.Ed program at Kamloops, students would remain in its program. However, that is not financially feasible.

The transcript notation is a way to indicate the Aboriginal teacher education specialization completed in the early years of the program. This notation should be helpful to these students when they complete their degree and seek employment. Teachers who have more knowledge and preparation in the area of Aboriginal education will be better positioned for securing teaching jobs because this area is a priority of provincial governments, school districts, and professional educational associations.

The following UBC Faculty of Education courses are completed over the two year period at the Kamloops NITEP centre, which comprise the NITEP-UBC program specialization noted above:

EDUC 140, Introduction to First Nations Studies, 3 credits  
EDUC 141 Cultural Studies, 3 credits  
EDUC 143 Seminar and Classroom Observation 1, 1 credit  
EDUC 240 Issues in First Nations Education, 3 credits  
EDUC 244 Seminar and Classroom Observation 11, 2 credits  
EDST 314 Social Issues in Education, 3 credits  
EPSE 317 Development and Exceptionality in the Regular Classroom, 3 credits  
LLED 336 Speech Communication for Teachers, 3 credits  
SCED 190 General Science, 6 credits (optional)  
Total credits = 24-27

## MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU)

### **BETWEEN:**

The Native Indian Teacher Education Program (NITEP) of the University of British Columbia (UBC)

And

The Bachelor of Education Program at Thompson Rivers University (TRU)

### **WHEREAS:**

A: NITEP offers the first two years of a teacher education program at the NITEP Field Centre which is located in space provided by TRU to NITEP on the TRU Kamloops campus.

B: Both UBC and TRU offer teacher education programs for third, fourth and fifth year students, with the relevant UBC program being offered at its Vancouver campus and TRU's program being offered at its Kamloops campus.

C: The relationship between the NITEP and the Bachelor of Education program at TRU has been guided by the following principles:

- a mutual interest in advancing Aboriginal teacher education;
- a mutual commitment to accommodate students' interests and needs to complete a degree in their region of choice;
- a mutual interest in opportunities to share expertise and resources related to Aboriginal teacher education; and

D: NITEP and TRU wish to cooperate on an initiative to give NITEP students the option to complete their studies at either the TRU campus or at the Vancouver campus of UBC.

### **THEREFORE the parties agree that:**

1. NITEP students who prefer to complete their Bachelor of Education degree requirements at Kamloops will, during their second year, be able to elect to transfer to the TRU Bachelor of Education Program after the successful completion of their second year at NITEP's Field Centre.
2. NITEP students who want to continue their Bachelor of Education degree requirements at UBC will continue to the Vancouver campus for years three, four, and five.

3. With respect to the implementation of this initiative NITEP and TRU agree as follows:

a) Each party will remain solely responsible for operation and content of its academic programs. NITEP will manage the admissions process for NITEP students and provide its portion of the education degree program, which includes years one and two of the NITEP course offerings on the TRU campus. TRU will be responsible for managing the admissions process and course offerings for years three, four and five of its education degree program.

b) TRU transcripts for students completing their B.Ed. after transferring from the NITEP program to TRU will include a note to the effect that "This individual has completed a Native Indian Teacher Education Program (NITEP)-UBC program specialization".

c) TRU and NITEP agree to form an advisory committee regarding the implementation of the initiative, with equal representation from each party. The advisory committee will discuss matters such as coordinated recruitment and new program development. The recommendations of the committee are not binding on either party.

d) NITEP students will declare their intentions for a program completion route by February 15 of their second year for entry into the B. Ed. Program at either UBC or TRU in their third year.

e) TRU will provide appropriate classroom space for NITEP courses and office space for the NITEP Centre Coordinator and a part time secretary. NITEP agrees to provide an annual contribution to TRU of \$4500. TRU will invoice NITEP for the proportionate amount of this contribution at the end of each semester. The parties agree that this amount may be amended from time to time by mutual agreement of the parties.

f) The NITEP Centre Coordinator and part-time Secretary will remain employees of UBC.

4. The parties agree to cooperatively explore learning and research initiatives that are mutually beneficial to each institution.

5. This MOU is meant to be a legally binding agreement, and will not be interpreted as waiving, creating, recognizing, denying or amending any legally enforceable rights or interests of the parties.

6. Notwithstanding its date of execution, the date of commencement of this MOU will be XXXXXX.

7. Either party may terminate this MOU by providing written notice to the other party.

IN WITNESS whereof, the parties have signed this Memorandum of Understanding on the dates set out below:

THOMPSON RIVERS UNIVERSITY

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UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

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