

December 9, 2016

Dear students and faculty and staff colleagues,

As you may have read in the December 1 cover story of [Western News](#), our Board of Governors' and Senate's recent unanimous endorsement of the [Indigenous Strategic Plan](#) marks an historic occasion for our University.

Not only does this plan move us closer to meeting our institutional commitment to improve accessibility and success in higher education for Indigenous peoples, it also signals Western's affirmation of recommendations made by the **Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC)** [in its 2015 report](#).

Western is also signatory to a [set of 13 principles](#) adopted by **Universities Canada** — made in response to the TRC report — that outlines our shared commitment to enhancing educational opportunities for Indigenous students and fostering reconciliation across the country.

Now that our Indigenous Strategic Plan has been approved, a Provost's Task Force is being established in the New Year with the mandate to recommend how the plan's goals are to be implemented. Western's success with the implementation will be determined in large measure by the level of engagement and support demonstrated by our entire campus community, working in partnership with Western's Indigenous students, faculty and staff, and with members of the local Indigenous community. Our collective work on this important initiative has only just begun.

Please join me and the Provost's Task Force in making a real difference in the lives and educational opportunities provided to Indigenous students and scholars.

Faculty and Staff Engagement Survey scheduled for New Year

The 2017 WE SPEAK Faculty & Staff Survey is set to run January 24 to February 13, 2017. The survey will seek your opinions about your day-to-day work experience within your Faculty/Division and at Western as a whole. Our 2012 WE SPEAK Survey showed us how the results can spur meaningful change and improvements.

Metrics@Work, a Canadian company that conducted the 2012 We Speak Survey, is managing the 2017 survey. Faculty and staff will be emailed a unique link to the confidential survey, which will take approximately 20 minutes to complete. Western will receive only aggregated results - no individual responses will be reported to Western.

I encourage all faculty and staff to take part and I look forward to sharing the results with you in April. Please read more about the survey on the [WE SPEAK website](#) and in the [WE SPEAK information sheet](#).

Sincerely,



Amit Chakma
President & Vice-Chancellor