



# FRAMEWORK FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING RELATIONSHIPS WITH ABORIGINAL NATIONS AND ABORIGINAL STUDENTS

## *CANADORE COLLEGE*

Canadore College recognizes that within the context of the development of aboriginal self-government arrangements and the devolution of responsibility and accountability, Aboriginal Nations, individually and collectively, are taking an increasingly direct and active role in education and training. The college is committed to making every effort to work with Aboriginal Nations in support of their education and training objectives.

This document outlines the framework that will be used by the college to work on building mutually beneficial relations with Aboriginal Nations.

The framework is based on the fact that, in all of its work, the college is legally responsible to its Board of Governors in terms of: financial accountability for its management of funds; programme accountability for the development, delivery and outcomes of education and training courses; and management accountability for its general operation as a government crown agency.

**Revised: May 03, 2004**





## CANADORE COLLEGE - RESPONSIBILITIES TO ABORIGINAL NATIONS

Canadore College has two broad sets of responsibilities to Aboriginal Nations and Aboriginal students.

### **Corporate Responsibility**

Canadore College, as a public institution, and in keeping with its general partnership policy, has a responsibility to conduct its relationships with Aboriginal Nations and Aboriginal organizations in a way that:

- respects Aboriginal Nations' governance authority, governance structures and formal decision-making processes,
- respects Aboriginal Nations' cultural and social aspirations,
- respects the mandates and decision-making structures of Aboriginal organizations, and
- respects the education and training priorities and aspirations of Aboriginal organizations.

To meet its corporate responsibilities in a coordinated manner, Canadore College's Director of Aboriginal Learning will work with Aboriginal Nations and Aboriginal organizations on both general partnership arrangements and specific partnership projects.



## **Educational Responsibility**

Canadore's strategic direction as articulated in *Canadore 2012: An Environment for Learning*, identifies that Canadore College will lead in student success and provide an exceptional living and learning environment for students. In keeping with this direction, Canadore College has a responsibility to make every effort to ensure the success of its Aboriginal students.

To meet its education and training responsibilities to Aboriginal students, Canadore College will work to achieve an appropriate mix of courses, programmes and student support services that will address both the general and the culturally-specific training requirements of these students. Canadore College will work in partnership with Aboriginal Nations, Aboriginal organizations and government ministries to address the education and training needs of Aboriginal students and, on a regular basis, will review the requirements for appropriate staffing, inside and outside the classroom, with Aboriginal educators, administrators and support staff.

## **GENERAL NATURE OF RELATIONSHIPS WITH ABORIGINAL NATIONS**

### *Aboriginal Nations*

Canadore College, as a public education and training institution, has ongoing working relationships with Aboriginal Nations on a range of matters from contract training, to the delivery of aboriginal programming, the provision of culturally-relevant services to aboriginal students and partnerships on business, social and community issues. These relationships are with individual Aboriginal Nations or with several Aboriginal Nations, collectively, depending on the issue.





### *Aboriginal Programming*

Canadore College, as a publicly-funded education and training institution, develops and delivers education and training programmes specific to the needs of Aboriginal students, in partnership with Aboriginal Nations, government agencies including Aboriginal government agencies, Aboriginal training institutions, off-reserve Aboriginal organizations and/or any bodies duly authorized by an Aboriginal Nation to represent Aboriginal interests.

### *Aboriginal Students Services and Support*


Canadore College, as a community college with responsibility and accountability to meet the training needs of residents in its geographic region, will pay ongoing attention to supporting Aboriginal Nation students enrolled in any programme at Canadore with culturally appropriate student services and counselling.

### *Partnerships with Aboriginal Nations*

Canadore College understands its responsibility to have constructive and mutually beneficial relationships with Aboriginal Nations, independent of the nature and number of aboriginal programmes offered in the college or the number of Aboriginal students enrolled at Canadore.

To support the development of the broadest range of working relationships and partnerships with Aboriginal Nations, in support of Aboriginal education and training, Canadore College has designated responsibility *to coordinate Aboriginal relations* to the Director of Aboriginal Learning.





The Director of Aboriginal Learning will serve as a “single window” through which Aboriginal Nations and Aboriginal organizations can build a relationship with college personnel as they pursue their priorities and interests in contract training, community-specific programming, support to students and related partnership arrangements with the college.

In working with Aboriginal Nations, Aboriginal organizations and Aboriginal training institutes on partnership arrangements, Canadore College will:

recognize and respect the cultural distinctiveness of each Aboriginal Nation,

recognize and respect cultural diversity among Aboriginal Nations,


work to understand, address and implement the specific education and training priorities of each Aboriginal partner,

recognize and respect the self-governance aspirations of each of its Aboriginal Nation partners and support the governance structure and authority of the Aboriginal Nation or organization in question,

ensure appropriate Aboriginal Nation input, through representatives authorized by affected Aboriginal Nations, to any programme developed and delivered as a programme for Aboriginal students,

work on direct, ongoing and effective lines of communication and consultation with Aboriginal communities and organizations,

develop accountability measures to ensure appropriate reports on resources allocated to Aboriginal education,



develop strategic alliances with Aboriginal training facilities and institutes, and support education and training initiatives developed and delivered by Aboriginal Nations and Aboriginal institutions, when asked to do so.

Canadore College has a commitment to work with and support Aboriginal Nations on education and training options that are identified by our Aboriginal partners as meeting the needs of their community members.


### *Commitment to Aboriginal Students*

In any commitment on aboriginal programming, aboriginal student services or cultural support systems within the college, Canadore College's first responsibility is to the Aboriginal students enrolled at Canadore College. Canadore College will develop appropriate performance indicators and accountability measures to ensure that its responsibilities are tracked and met.

Where Canadore College initiates a programme or undertakes a commitment to Aboriginal students in partnership with another agency or organization, Canadore College will ensure that the partnership agreement has clear lines of accountability and responsibility.

Canadore College will work continuously with Aboriginal Nations, to be a college where Aboriginal students can study and pursue career goals in comfort, with pride and with a sense of connection to their home communities. To this end, Canadore College will:

- facilitate cultural and spiritual activities on campus that are initiated by Aboriginal students,
- recognize, respect and support each Aboriginal student's right to determine his or her own education and training path,
- address, on an ongoing basis, adequate and culturally appropriate support systems for Aboriginal students attending Canadore College,

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- respect Aboriginal Nations' authority and governance structures when seeking advice and input into programmes developed and delivered as programmes for Aboriginal students,
  - maintain a clear perspective on the relationships and connections between (a) the college's recognition of the authorities and mandates of Aboriginal Nations and Aboriginal organizations, (b) the college's partnership commitments to specific Aboriginal Nations and Aboriginal organizations, (c) the college's responsibilities to its Aboriginal students, (d) the college's advisory committee structure, including aboriginal programme advisory committees, and (e) the college's own governance structure and obligations for public accountability.

### **IMPLEMENTATION**

Commitments, activities and plans developed within *the framework for relations with Aboriginal Nations and Aboriginal students* will be implemented in keeping with:

- the governance authority and responsibility of the Canadore College Board of Governors,
  - Canadore 2012 Strategic Direction and Canadore Strategic Plan,
  - the Canadore College Partnership Policy,
  - the strategic and academic priorities of the college,
  - Canadore College's recognition of the authorities and responsibilities of Aboriginal Nations and Aboriginal organizations,
- and
- the terms of any strategic alliance agreements between Canadore College and Aboriginal education and training institutions.

The framework will be reviewed and, if necessary, updated every three years as part of the regular policy review process.



## **Aboriginal Programming Strategy Statement**

Within the Framework for Relationships with First Nations and First Nation students on Education and Training at Canadore College; and

In recognition of our commitment to provide timely, relevant and culturally supportive aboriginal education; and

In recognition of our institutional support for the mission and mandate of the aboriginal education institutes;

The Board of Governors of Canadore College, with the endorsement of our Aboriginal Circle on Education, has established a statement of our strategic direction towards aboriginal specific programming.

### **New aboriginal specific post-secondary programming:**

Canadore College will explore, develop and offer aboriginal post-secondary programming, at its discretion, and only within a partnership arrangement with an Aboriginal Education Institute and/or at the request of an Aboriginal community or organization.

### **Continuing Education and Contract Training Services:**

Canadore College will explore, develop and offer aboriginal specific continuing education and contract training services, at its discretion, and where appropriate within a partnership arrangement with an Aboriginal Education Institute and/or at the request of an Aboriginal community or organization.

### **Existing post-secondary programming:**

In consultation with Aboriginal content experts, Canadore College will explore, research and develop opportunities, which lend to offering aboriginal specific modules; electives and content interwoven within apprenticeship, certificate and/or diploma programming. To this end, it is our strategy to prepare aboriginal students for employment opportunities within an aboriginal and/or non-aboriginal community or organization and, within a culturally relevant and comfortable learning environment.

**CANADORE IS COMMITTED TO ABORIGINAL LEARNING**