

Igniting the  
*Learning Spirit*  
2017



Your Journey Happens Here



If you're wondering if there is a place for you at Canadore College to meet, learn, teach, volunteer, and/or partner with Indigenous students, staff and faculty, then *Igniting the Learning Spirit* is for you.

For additional copies or to learn more about the First Peoples' Centre and Canadore College, please contact:

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**MEET THE PEOPLE  
BEHIND THE  
PHOTOGRAPHS  
AND INTERVIEWS**

Lindsay and Tasheena Sarazin are the brother and sister team from Wolf Eye Photography who photographed, video recorded, conducted interviews and wrote articles about the people featured in this report.

Lindsay is also a proud graduate of Canadore's Broadcasting - Television and Video Production Program.

To Tasheena and Lindsay, and everyone who contributed their stories and journeys,

*Meegwetch*



What is the  
*Learning Spirit?*

Meet **LORRAINE LIBERTY-WHITEDUCK**  
Grandmother-in-Residence

*"When I enter other institutions, I see the focus on the mind. When I enter Canadore, I see the focus on the heart."*

## ARE YOU THINKING ABOUT CANADORE COLLEGE?

*“Canadore is made stronger by having one of the highest representations of Indigenous learners per capita in the college system. We are very proud of the Canadore approach to culturally respectful and holistic education.”*

**SHAWN CHORNEY**, Vice-President Enrolment Management, Indigenous & Student Services

*“I would say, just give it a shot for one year, and see how it goes. Pick a one-year program, and go from there. The people at Canadore, the First Peoples' Centre, the professors and the students, they will try to help you as best they can. They will try to make you a part of this family. I'm finding it hard to leave Canadore. I love Canadore and I love North Bay.”*

**RYLAN HESTER**, 2<sup>nd</sup> Year  
Community and Justice Services Program

Each year, Canadore College welcomes approximately 700 Indigenous learners to our three campuses in the City of North Bay, located on the traditional territory of Nipissing First Nation and on lands protected by the Robinson-Huron Treaty of 1850. Our satellite campus is in Parry Sound, located on the traditional territory of Wasauksing.

Last year over half of those learners attended programs offered on campus, whereas others went to Indigenous partner campuses or learned and earned credentials in their home communities. Many more chose a part-time learning path.

Nearly 20 percent of Canadore's total on-campus student population celebrates Indigenous heritage from diverse nations.

The First Peoples' Centre offers comprehensive cultural and academic support for Indigenous learners attending Canadore and reaches out to many more through recruitment, promotion, and community outreach projects.

Canadore College and its students add nearly \$290 million to the regions of Nipissing and Parry Sound annually. Approximately 1,000 students graduate from Canadore each year, joining 43,000 alumni working across the globe.

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# Greetings



## Meet **GEORGE BURTON** President, Canadore College

Canadore College has been delivering quality training and education for 50 years, with over 30 of these years being committed to partnering with Indigenous Peoples to offer meaningful training.

The College acknowledges that education is an important element to self-determination and is dedicated to building on the foundation of the already-existing educational choices we offer, including expanding on more programs rooted in Indigenous cultures, spiritual beliefs and languages.

Beyond the classroom, Canadore is accountable to helping eliminate prejudice and discrimination targeted at Indigenous Peoples.

Canadore is listening. Canadore is ready to be your partner in action and leadership, to find a way forward - together.



## Meet **ROBIN CHOKOMOLIN** President, Canadore Students' Council

My name is Robin Chokomolin and I am from Wahgoshig First Nation and I'm a single mother to a beautiful little boy named Cohen. He is my greatest supporter and the root of my motivation.

I am currently in the Indigenous Wellness and Addictions Prevention program and I absolutely love it. My culture is very important to me and I'm so happy that Canadore has a program that's so focused on cultural-based learning, healing and teaching. I chose to come to Canadore specifically for this program and every day I am grateful that I did. The support from my fellow staff and students, the professors, the First Peoples' Centre, and the ability to practice my culture and participate in ceremonies right on campus makes this college feel just like my home away from home.

I hope to see you around campus, and I look forward to working with and for you for the next year.

Meegwetch!



Indigenous Wellness and Addictions Prevention Program

## Find your spark, ignite the *Learning Spirit*

We started this project by asking the Canadore community, “What does igniting the learning spirit mean to you?”

We talked to our Grandmother-in-Residence, Lorraine Liberty-Whiteduck, who said, “It means different things to different people. For me it is simple: it is heart. How do we nurture that? In many different ways—for some, it is connecting with nature, for others, it is being active in ceremonies or being part of a community.”

Employees, students and alumni shared similar ideas: igniting the learning spirit is about relationships, leadership, healing, speaking our languages and telling stories. One said, “Igniting the learning spirit is about the passion, drive and excitement each of us feels when we discover—and share—our unique gifts.”

No matter what area students pursue studies in—health, social sciences, the trades, etc.—Mary Wabano, director of the First Peoples’ Centre suggests that, “Igniting the learning spirit opens us up to learning new things and building confidence, always strengthening our identities as Indigenous Peoples.”

At Canadore College, we celebrate and nurture students and their gifts, fueling their fire and drive throughout their time with us and long after they leave.

**Come join us and find your spark.  
Your journey happens here.**



## Your Journey Begins

at the

### FIRST PEOPLES' CENTRE

"Come and visit us," says Mary Wabano, Director of the First Peoples' Centre and Associate Dean, School of Indigenous Studies. "The First Peoples' Centre is your home away from home."

We support Indigenous learners on campus and in their own communities through our community-led programs and partnerships with Aboriginal Institutes.

Similar to many students today, Mary came from a small community in James Bay, and moved to North Bay to attend Canadore College. She knows firsthand how isolating and challenging that experience can be and used this knowledge to help guide how the First Peoples' Centre now supports students and their families.

#### Meet **MARY WABANO**

Director, First Peoples' Centre

Associate Dean, School of Indigenous Studies

Alumna, Canadore College

*"We provide wraparound support to our students—often the whole family—and that support is academic, emotional, social and spiritual.*

*We design our services to support students in all aspects of their lives and that support is important to transition, retention and student success."*

When you think about home you think about relationships, family, community, food, celebrations and traditions. All of those things are here at the First Peoples' Centre. In fact, it is a home for students and their families, as many of the students are already parents and bring their young and school-aged children with them.

Our Grandmother focuses on working with students on an individual level as well as with small groups. There are opportunities to learn more about culture and ceremonies, and to obtain practical support like assistance in finding schools and daycares. We do that by linking with community partners and First Nations communities.

The First Peoples' Centre provides peer mentoring and peer tutoring and has a student retention and recruitment officer who does a lot of programming directly geared to student needs. We go out and ask students, "What is it we could be providing to help with your success and your studies?" In response, we provide a lot of activities that are family oriented and promote positive lifestyles.

If you are wondering if Canadore College could be the right place for you, Mary is proud to say: "Come and meet us and we will help you figure that out so that you can make the decision that works best for you."

In the meantime, meet the community of caring students, staff, and alumni featured in these pages.

**They are sure to ignite your learning spirit!**

**SOME OF THE WAYS WE SUPPORT OUR STUDENTS ALONG THEIR JOURNEYS**

PARTNERSHIPS WITH COMMUNITIES • WORKSHOPS • SHARING CIRCLES • CAREER PLANNING • ADVOCACY • COUNSELLING

PARTNERSHIPS WITH INDUSTRY • CULTURAL SUPPORT • TRANSITION SUPPORT • SHARED VALUES • CUSTOMS • TEAM BUILDING

RELATIONSHIPS • CONFIDENCE BUILDING • HEALING • RECONCILIATION • LEADERSHIP • SOCIAL EVENTS



## Story of the *Starburst* at Canadore College

The Starburst shares the story of how Canadore College supports Indigenous learners. At the centre of the Starburst is heart, culture and a caring community. We chose the eagle to represent the many ways the First Peoples' Centre ignites and nurtures the gifts of students and communities throughout the college.

**HEART, CULTURE AND A CARING COMMUNITY OF FACULTY, STAFF, STUDENTS, ALUMNI AND PARTNERS** nurture and help students along their journeys.

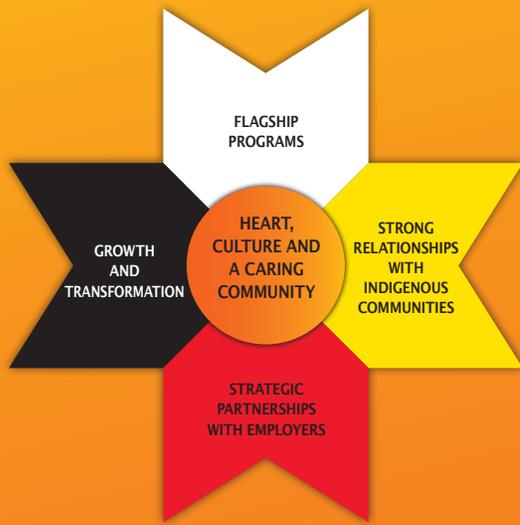
**FLAGSHIP PROGRAMS** are culturally and socially relevant, focusing on experiential learning and the dreams and needs of Indigenous students and communities. This means constantly carving out Indigenous learning spaces for students and community.

**STRONG RELATIONSHIPS WITH INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES** ensure Indigenous communities are supported to deliver programs based on their goals, needs and current capacity. Community-led programs, including those run by innovative and resourceful Aboriginal Institutes, ensure students can study close to home.

**STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS WITH EMPLOYERS** help students gain skills and experience as they transition seamlessly into meaningful work opportunities. Culturally-aware employers understand and respect Indigenous Peoples' contributions.

**GROWTH AND TRANSFORMATION** across Canadore College, and regionally, provincially and beyond, means implementing all aspects of our five-year strategy and continuing to act on the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action. It also means a strong commitment to applied research that will continue to reflect and amplify the experiences and voices of Indigenous students, communities and partners.





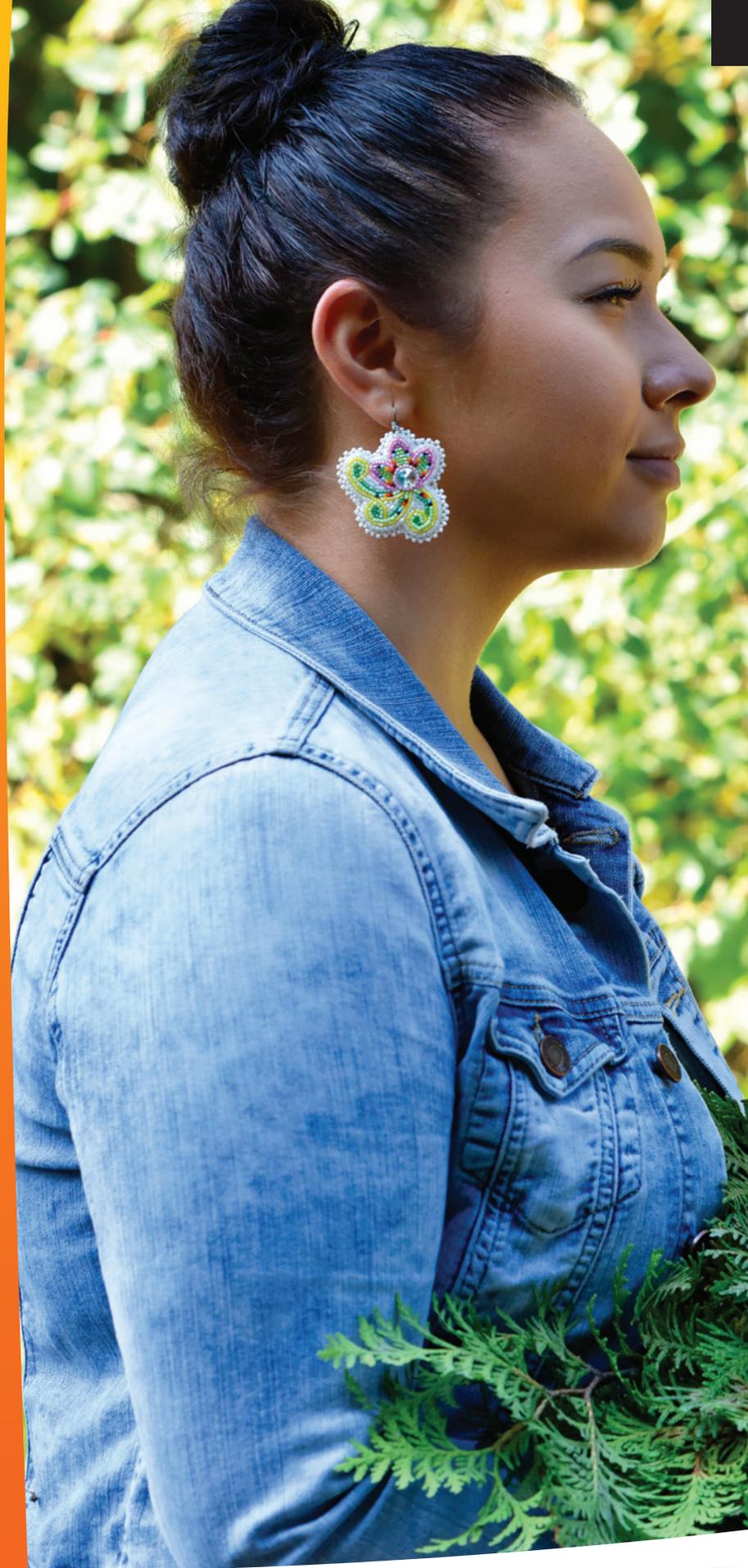
# Flagship Programs

Indigenous students are thriving in a range of flagship programs across Canadore College.

We call them flagship programs because they are groundbreaking and forward thinking.

Canadore College provides students with a choice of 75 full-time and apprenticeship programs and even more part-time programs.

From Business and Management to Trades and Technology, there are too many programs to mention. So we're highlighting a few by inviting our students and alumni to tell you how Canadore helps to ignite their learning spirits.





## SCHOOL OF INDIGENOUS STUDIES

The School of Indigenous Studies was developed in 2016 to bring together and build on the successes of programs designed specifically to address Indigenous community issues and goals.

Many of these programs are culture-based, employ Indigenous faculty and use land-based and experiential learning—all critical to program quality.

Course work reflects Indigenous Knowledge, worldviews and ceremonies, particularly in the Indigenous Wellness and Addictions program.

The success of these programs is seen in the success of our students with an 80.5% retention rate for Indigenous learners.

School of Indigenous Studies:

Indigenous Preparatory Studies

Indigenous Pre-Health Studies

Indigenous Wellness, Addictions and Prevention

Early Childhood Education - Anishinaabemowin

Indigenous Diabetes Prevention Support Worker

First Peoples' Aviation Technology - Flight

First Nations Child Welfare Advocate Graduate Certificate

**To learn about more Canadore programs,  
visit [canadore.ca](http://canadore.ca)**



## INDIGENOUS PREPARATORY STUDIES PROGRAM

Gain a solid understanding of Indigenous history and culture, which will better prepare you to meet the challenges of post-secondary education. This unique culture-based program will help you find direction while learning the skills needed to make an informed decision about your college education and future career.

**SASHA EKOMIAK** was raised in Elliot Lake with roots in both Chasasibi and Gaspé, Québec. Sasha wasn't sure if college was the right place for her. Today, Sasha is a proud graduate of Canadore's Indigenous Preparatory Studies Program and is currently attending Nipissing University.

"Canadore College is such an amazing place to be and to learn. There is so much nature around, there are so many opportunities to learn and so much support."

What inspired her to come to Canadore? "I took a few years off after high school to travel. I've always loved animals. I knew that my calling was to work with animals and I wanted to be a wildlife veterinarian. So I came to Canadore to dip my toe in the water, to get used to schooling. It was a great transition."

Moving away from home was difficult. Sasha speaks openly about her struggles to maintain balance in her mental health and wellness. With the support of her family and Elders, traditional medicines, counsellors, professors and staff, Sasha has found learning about her history empowering.

Now majoring in biology and minoring in Indigenous studies and gender equality/social justice at Nipissing University, Sasha continues to be motivated by her education. "Taking gender equality and social justice is really eye opening and it's inspiring me to make a change in people's lives. We've learned about residential schools, missing and murdered Aboriginal women and the Sixties Scoop."

Sasha was recently honoured by the Hon. Elizabeth Dowdeswell, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, for her vision of a reconciled Canada, as part of the Imagine a Canada national arts and communications initiative.

**Meet SASHA EKOMIAK**  
Graduate, Indigenous Preparatory Studies Program

*"I hope that I can inspire others to come to school and even break those negative stereotypes. I now feel like my spirit is alive and dancing."*

## COMMUNITY AND JUSTICE SERVICES PROGRAM

You'll be prepared for a rewarding and challenging career working with youth and adults in crisis. You will gain a working knowledge of the law, criminology, victimology and human behaviour and benefit from practical workshops, industry tours and an integrated field placement component. Applied workshops include conflict resolution, mental health and addictions, suicide prevention and forensics. This comprehensive training will give you the skills you need to work in the fields of youth justice, restorative justice and adult corrections.

**RYLAN HESTER** is from Waskaganish, Québec, and raised mostly in Mistisini. He grew up in a traditional Cree household around hunting and fishing.

Rylan wasn't sure if college was going to be right for him, but made a leap of faith after hearing great things about the Community and Justice Services Program at Canadore.

Being the only one in his immediate family to pursue post-secondary education, leaving everything he knew was difficult. Now Rylan is very satisfied with his decision to take a chance and hopes others will find that courage as well.

"Some people are just scared of trying and failing at something. But you shouldn't feel ashamed about that. It's better to try something than do nothing. It's hard to go to places unknown, especially away from home. It was the toughest decision for me. It was hard for me to leave my family."

With Cree being his first language, adjusting to Canadore was extra challenging. "It takes time to learn English, but our professors know how to prepare us."

Rylan says the First Peoples' Centre has been a huge help providing him with tutors and extra help in both English and math. By reaching out for help and support from friends, school, and family, Rylan has been able to achieve high grades and make plans for his future.

"I'm planning to take the Mental Health and Addictions program, because they're closely related. And if all goes well, I'd like to go to Nipissing University for Criminal Justice."



### Meet **RYLAN HESTER** 2<sup>nd</sup> Year, Community and Justice Services Program

*"It's hard to go to places unknown, especially away from home. It was the toughest decision for me. It was hard for me to leave my family."*



## INDIGENOUS WELLNESS AND ADDICTIONS PREVENTION PROGRAM

Gain the skills and knowledge you need for employment in a variety of addictions settings through practical, hands-on learning, including an eight-week field placement. The curriculum is based on the holistic teachings of the Medicine Wheel, with a focus on the root causes of addiction within Indigenous communities. You will learn both cultural and mainstream approaches to addictions counselling. Training ranges from pharmacology to traditional methods including Sacred Circles, Teaching/Learning Circles, and the use of the four sacred medicines – tobacco, cedar, sage and sweet grass.

**KAHTERAKS GOODLEAF** is a Mohawk woman from Kahnawake First Nation, just outside of Montréal, Québec. Recently finishing a two-year social science program in Montréal, 24-year-old Kat is flourishing in the Indigenous Wellness and Addictions Prevention Program (IWAP) at Canadore. Celebrating her third year of sobriety, she's found a safe space to connect and grow spiritually through the cultural teachings and knowledge provided by the Indigenous Wellness and Addictions program.

Opportunities like being involved with the Canadore Aboriginal Student Association (CASA) have helped Kat find purpose. The support and acceptance of the First Peoples' Centre has also made her feel more at home and a part of a community.

"I was so nervous moving away from home. I didn't know anyone. I remember saying, 'What did I do?' I had heard about a fish fry, and that everyone was invited. I showed up, and instantly felt welcome and at home."

While Kat felt she had previously learned a lot, she wanted more tools to help her community. That meant she needed to understand health and wellness in Indigenous communities, from an Indigenous perspective. "IWAP has given me a lot of experience with circle facilitation, the Medicine Wheel, and self-care plans to create balance within myself. And cultural ceremonies are very powerful healing tools. As an Indigenous student at Canadore there are common cultural practices that bring everyone together like family. You matter here."

### Meet KAHTERAKS GOODLEAF

2<sup>nd</sup> year, IWAP

*"As an Indigenous student at Canadore, there are common cultural practices that bring everyone together like family. You matter here."*

# DIGITAL CINEMATOGRAPHY PROGRAM

The film industry is thriving in Canada, and there is a growing need for skilled workers in this dynamic and exciting field. Learn the art of filmmaking using new digital technologies like the RED EPIC camera used to shoot films like *The Hobbit* film series and *The Great Gatsby*. Start working on your own short film in your first year! This program is geared for the industry of today, where professionals must be able to understand all aspects of production including cinematography, screenwriting, editing and directing. You will gain a solid foundation to create visual stories and graduate with the tools you need to enter this rapidly-changing and evolving field.

**DANIEL COUCHIE** remembers how he and his brother, as children, would pool their change to pick up a movie at the corner store. At Canadore, his love for cinema has translated into the knowledge, skills and confidence to produce films. Starting with a two-minute short film, Daniel then made a six-minute independent horror film titled *Normy*, accepted into 10 film festivals.

"I like films that really mix the genres, like genre-bending or comedy horrors. The story telling is a little more dynamic for me." Daniel credits the program for his success: "Definitely a testament to the quality of training we get here at Canadore. I'm glad I've been pushed to perform at a high level."

"I did a lot of jobs in my earlier adult life that I was happy with for a short time, but it never felt right for me. My heart wasn't in it." Daniel's decision to come back to school wasn't an easy one. "I felt nervous coming back as a mature student. I found it challenging at first but I'm not the only older student. There is a great diversity here and I felt better when I got to know my classmates." Soon Daniel realized he had found the right place: "This has been a dream come true and I've never seen a more committed group of people. We get so excited when we capture something beautiful."

The First Peoples' Centre has also been a major support providing Daniel with guidance counsellors, computers with internet access, office software, a kitchen to warm up lunches, and more. Daniel believes his experience would be very different without such a strong support system. Any words of advice? Daniel encourages others to follow their hearts and take a risk: "Don't settle!"



Meet **DANIEL COUCHIE**  
3<sup>rd</sup> Year, Digital Cinematography Program

*"Definitely a testament to the quality of training we get here at Canadore. I'm glad I've been pushed to perform at a high level."*



## STRENGTH AND SPORT CONDITIONING PROGRAM

There is an increasing need for certified professionals in strength and sport conditioning. This specialized program, designed for individuals who have an interest in sports and fitness, will teach you the skills and techniques needed to help athletes or sports teams reach their maximum physical potential. Strength and sport conditioning is athletic training aimed at greater strength, power, speed, agility, coordination and balance. You will learn general exercise principles, nutrition, and sport-specific science, along with practical advanced training in weightlifting, agility, plyometrics, balance and sprint training for athletes.

**KIERAN PELTIER** is a 22-year-old, originally from Wikwemikong Unceded Indian Reserve and currently completing a Bachelor Degree at Nipissing University in Physical and Health Education. He also works as a Strength Coach and a university research assistant. But his academic and professional journey started at Canadore where he studied Strength and Sport Conditioning and found his 'college family' working as an Aboriginal Student Ambassador for the First Peoples' Centre.

Kieran believes that making friends is the first step to finding "home away from home." But that was only the beginning. "After a year at Canadore, they offered me an exchange program. Moving to Ireland was the best thing that's happened to me in 22 years. There was not a moment there I didn't enjoy. I worked really hard and I feel like I adapted well." Kieran studied Sports, Strength and Conditioning at the Limerick Institute of Technology earning a bachelor of science degree. The exchange program provided all the support to be successful including transportation and housing.

"I grew up seeing people who didn't have many resources," says Kieran. Today Kieran feels good helping local athletes progress and helping individuals find their way to better health.

Advice? "Canadore is a great place and the Aboriginal population is growing here too. The First Peoples' Centre has a lot of resources available to help you get through so take a risk and throw your chips in!"

### Meet KIERAN PELTIER

Graduate, Strength and Sport Conditioning Program

*"After a year at Canadore they offered me an exchange program. Moving to Ireland was the best thing that's happened to me in 22 years."*





FLAGSHIP  
PROGRAMS

GROWTH  
AND  
TRANSFORMATION

HEART,  
CULTURE AND  
A CARING  
COMMUNITY

STRONG  
RELATIONSHIPS  
WITH  
INDIGENOUS  
COMMUNITIES

STRATEGIC  
PARTNERSHIPS  
WITH EMPLOYERS

## Strong Relationships with Indigenous Communities

Canadore College works with communities to design and develop new programs to address significant training and labour needs. In some cases, a course is created and delivered in the community to address a local need; other times, a course may be offered online or in a more central setting, geared to provide the best learning and training experience.

**Meet JUDY MANITOWABI**  
Manager, Contract and  
Community-Based Programs

*"Canadore has always been dear to my heart and not just because I live nearby. I used to be a volunteer on the Board of Governors and I admired the work that was being done and wanted to be a part of the action happening here"*

## COMMUNITY-LED PROGRAMS

Judy and her team reach out to communities and it is Judy's job to ensure that the needs of the communities are met.

Judy Manitowabi shares that, "Canadore has always been dear to my heart and not just because I live nearby. I used to be a volunteer on the Board of Governors and I admired the work that was being done and wanted to be a part of the action happening here."

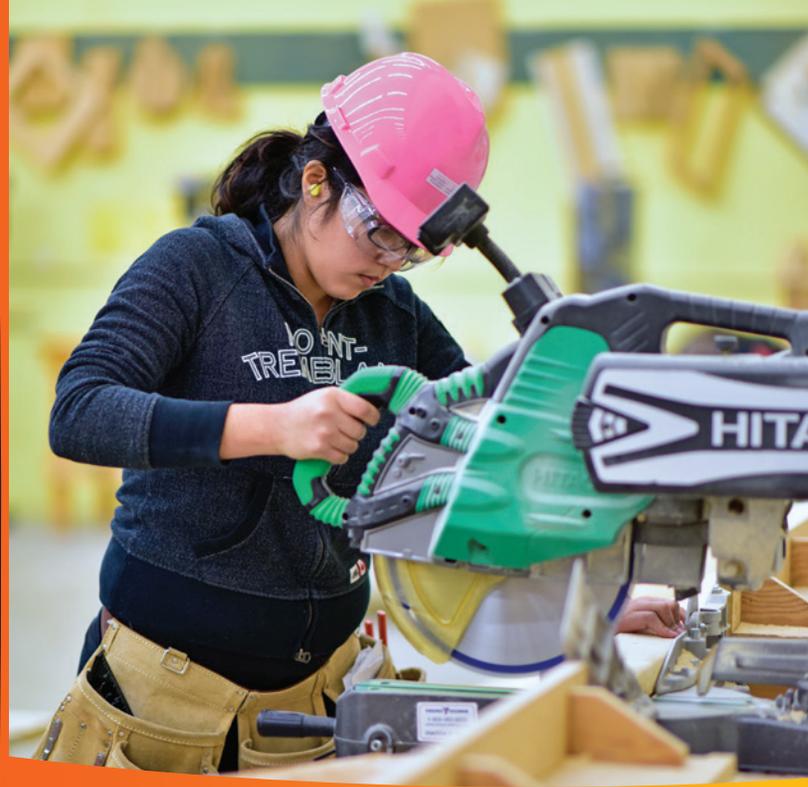
The communities define their goals and Canadore works with them to create the right course or program in response. Judy works with communities no matter where they are at in their planning—this means she's skilled in helping communities with research, program and curriculum development, hiring, solidifying funding and so much more!

"There are many people that have never had a chance to pursue an education," says Judy. "When we bring a course to them, this can be their opportunity to find out what it is like, and see if they want to go on to complete more courses or even earn a diploma."

This year, Canadore College delivered six programs through community-led planning and training and four of those programs celebrated 100% retention rates, graduating 43 students.

**Do you have a program you would like to run in your community? Or on campus in one of our industry-leading classrooms?**

**Talk to us today.**



### COMMUNITY-LED PROGRAMS OFFERED THIS PAST YEAR

#### Rural Recreation

*Developed and delivered online with Aboriginal Sport & Wellness Council of Ontario (ASWCO)*

#### Leadership Development

*Developed and delivered with Nipissing First Nation*

#### Entrepreneurship Training

*Developed in partnership with Sagamok Anishnawbek*

#### Professional Office Skills

*Developed with the Congress of Aboriginal People and delivered in partnership with several communities*

### OTHER RECENT PROGRAMS

#### Aboriginal Women in the Trades

*Developed in collaboration with the Local Poverty Reduction Fund*

#### Truck and Coach Pre-Apprenticeship Program

*Developed in partnership with Wikwemikong Unceded Territory*

#### Pathways to Employment – Mining

*Developed in partnership with Wikwemikong Unceded Territory*

#### Professional Office Skills Training Program

*Developed in partnership with Kenjegin Teg Educational Institute*

#### Building Construction

*Developed in partnership with Apitawin program and Thomas Archibald Sr. Training Institute in Cochrane*



## INDIGENOUS EDUCATION PARTNERS

Canadore is proud to partner with Aboriginal Institutes and Aboriginal Nations to offer programs providing opportunities for students to start and complete education credentials in culturally appropriate and safe learning environments, close to home. The two programs highlighted here demonstrate the diversity of choice available to students.

**First Peoples' Aviation Technology – Flight** is the only accredited Indigenous post-secondary program of its kind in Canada. The First Nations Technical Institute (FNTI) Aviation Diploma program is offered in partnership with Canadore College. Training includes hands-on flight experience and takes place at the Tyendingaga Aerodome, a one-of-a-kind facility. The facility also includes a gym, hangars, classrooms and a student residence.

**Early Childhood Education - Anishinaabemowin Diploma Program** is a unique culturally-infused early childhood program and Canadore's most recent collaboration with Kenjégwen-Teg Education Institute (KTEI) in M'Chigeeng First Nation and with Seven Generations Education Institute in Fort Frances. Designed to address the critically declining rates of Anishinaabemowin speakers in Anishinaabe communities, the program prepares proficient Ojibwe language speakers for employment as early childhood educators in Ojibwe immersion settings.



**FIRST NATIONS TECHNICAL INSTITUTE (FNTI)** is an Indigenous owned and controlled post-secondary institute, created in 1985 through innovative and dynamic partnerships between the Tyendinaga Mohawk Council, FNTI Board of Directors, Indian & Northern Affairs Canada and the Ontario Ministry of Education & Training. Canadore and the FNTI have been in partnership for more than a decade and the scope, depth and breadth of the relationship has expanded dramatically. The organizations share, plan and learn together, bringing best practices and new approaches to student learning to the forefront of education.



**SEVEN GENERATIONS EDUCATION INSTITUTE** and Canadore College have a mutual partnership agreement that combines their expertise to offer programs rich in quality with strong ties to culture and community. Currently a number of community-based, post-secondary programs are being delivered by Seven Generations Education Institute. Planning is currently under way to continue to explore new areas for collaboration.



**ONTARIO NATIVE EDUCATION COUNSELLING ASSOCIATION (ONECA)** and Canadore College have mutually agreed upon a model to increase learning pathways for Indigenous students. The partnership has an articulation agreement between the ONECA Native Counsellor Training Program (NCTP) and Canadore College's Indigenous Wellness and Addictions Prevention Program. This agreement provides NCTP graduates with the option of continuing into post-secondary studies at Canadore while recognizing their past academic accomplishments. This model reduces the amount of time and financial resources required to complete the diploma.



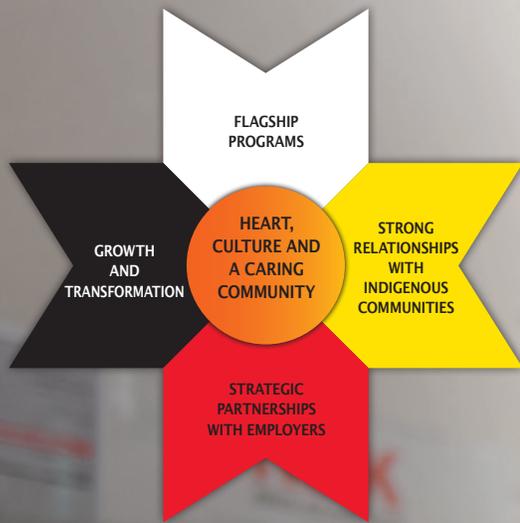
**THE ANISHINABEK EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTE (AEI)** and Canadore College maintain a partnership agreement to promote program opportunities and excellence for Anishinabek learners. The partnership ensures quality programming and high service standards; improves accessibility and retention; contributes to Anishinabek advancement towards self-governance, economic development and self-sufficiency in a manner that is responsive to employment and training needs; explores and encourages opportunities to share facilities, resources, curricula and new programs; and provides graduates with a diploma jointly issued by the AEI and Canadore College.



**KENJGEWIN TEG EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTE (KTEI)** is located on Mnidoo Mnising (Manitoulin Island, Ont) and is one of eight members within the Aboriginal Institutes Consortium in Ontario providing community-based access and culturally relevant learning in post-secondary education. The KTEI and Canadore relationship is built on shared values, honest collaboration and innovation. The organizations have teamed up on many training programs from skills-based certificates to diplomas to the creation of brand new programs taught in the Ojibwe language. Currently, KTEI and Canadore are collaborating to enhance the relationship further by defining sets of principles, values and approaches to education that will guide long-term relationship development while providing an example of respect and reciprocity to the education system.



The **NBISIING SECONDARY SCHOOL** mission is to assist each and every student in achieving their academic goals in a dignified, caring environment with consideration for and emphasis on the culture and heritage of their native community.



## Strategic Partnerships with Employers

From Cultural Awareness Training to Hard Hat Hunter to TVO's *Hard Rock Medical* ... the possibilities are endless

Rooted in truth and reconciliation, Canadore College partners with employers and industry to ensure seamless transitions from school to meaningful work experiences.

Like many other northern communities, the Indigenous population in North Bay continues to grow. While the average Indigenous population in cities remains steady at approximately 2.2%, the numbers in North Bay and many other northern communities are closer to 10% or higher.

We know many of our graduates are going to work in a wide range of settings so we work with employers to ensure cultural competency and to provide one-of-a-kind hands-on learning opportunities for students.

At Canadore, we know a student's journey doesn't end at graduation! We work hard to provide opportunities and connections to employers that will bring students closer to exciting new careers.

## INDUSTRY-DRIVEN PARTNERSHIPS

**HARD HAT HUNTER**, a social media channel dedicated to the trades, directly links students, employers and contractors to each other. Students create profiles highlighting their training, skills and experience, add photos of completed projects and upload everything for prospective employers to see. Hard Hat Hunter directly addresses the skills shortage by linking trained workers with work opportunities, domestically and internationally. Hard Hat approached Canadore to be its educational partner and Canadore immediately saw the benefit to its students. Today, Canadore is Hard Hat's founding post-secondary education partner and is working on expansion and collaboration plans with the organization.

Founded in North Bay, Hard Hat Hunter brings trades organizations, potential employees and industry professionals together to create a broad and strong skilled trades social media community. At roughly 500,000 members at two years of age, the focus of the relationship is on growth, value added to the users and profile building of broad and exciting trades-based sectors.

### Meet **EDGAR GOULAIS** President, Hard Hat Hunter and proud Canadore College Alumnus

*"Hard Hat Hunter is working to fight the skills shortage by encouraging participation in the skilled trades and construction sectors while providing members, including students, apprentices, workers, and business owners, with resources and networking opportunities to further advance their industry positions."*



**TVO'S HARD ROCK MEDICAL** found itself the perfect educational partner in Canadore College and moved its production to North Bay. "This is the first time that a TV series has been embedded into Canadore's Digital Cinematography curriculum, giving students a great learning opportunity," says Yura Monestime, Interim Associate Dean of Media, Design and Dramatic Arts at Canadore College. "Working with Hard Rock Medical allows us to continuously create different experiential outcomes for our students and at the end of the day prepare them for the work force."

With support from Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation (NOHFC) focusing on mentorship and training, Canadore students offer broadcast support and gain experience shooting a real show on a professional set.

Along with hiring skilled northern technicians, 75 students from the College's Digital Cinema Program, Television Program and Theatre Arts Program are receiving an unparalleled educational experience from the director's chair and cinematography, right through to on-set crew and acting!

*"I cannot say enough good things about the people running the program at Canadore. There are really good programs in Toronto at Ryerson and here in Ottawa with the Algonquin program, but there is something special going on in North Bay. The people who are there really care about what they're doing and there is money because of the NOHFC and an industry. We had so much talent there, and it raised the game of the show."*

*Excerpt from online interview with  
Hard Rock Medical co-creator Derek Diorio*



## CULTURAL AWARENESS TRAINING

**WALK A MILE** is a cultural awareness training workshop that addresses issues and topics such as treaties, racism, violence against women, and finding a way forward together. Featuring films made by award-winning film makers Michelle Derosier and Dave Clement, a professor in Canadore's Digital Cinematography Program, the training addresses misinformation and myths and encourages informed community discussions and respectful relationship building. Our trained facilitators create a safe learning environment and guide discussion, supporting all participants to gain an awareness of historical Indigenous and community issues and their current and ongoing impact.

Talk to us today about bringing our cultural awareness training to your organization.

*"Many Ontario Northland employees work on the Polar Bear Express train and serve the Indigenous communities along the coast, including Moosonee and Moose Factory. Cultural Awareness training was something we wanted to introduce and when we learned about the Walk a Mile training program, it appealed to us right away because it was a 4-hour training session, allowing us to continue our 24/7 services with minimal disruption. The training was very well received. Our employees left the session with a much greater understanding of the history of the residential school system, treaties, racism, violence against women and the way forward together. Many came forward to say they have never been taught about the history of our Aboriginal communities in Canada."*

### TRACY MACPHEE

Director Passenger Operations  
Ontario Northland



## SUPPORTING INNOVATION

**ICAMP - Innovation Centre for Advanced Manufacturing and Production** is housed at Canadore College's Commerce Course.

**ICAMP** offers research and development support to communities in mining and mineral exploration, agriculture, forestry, aerospace, transportation, sporting goods, recreational vehicles and household goods markets – and so much more!

To date, we've worked with over 200 companies, completed over 400 projects and created 107 new jobs.

Our 1235 square meters laboratory and in-house shop includes machining, welding, carpentry, composites fabrication and material testing facilities. We also come to you!

**Do you have an idea or project you would like to develop? Talk to us today about how we can work together to grow your idea.**



FLAGSHIP PROGRAMS

GROWTH AND TRANSFORMATION

HEART, CULTURE AND A CARING COMMUNITY

STRONG RELATIONSHIPS WITH INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES

STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS WITH EMPLOYERS

## Heart, Culture and a Caring Community

**Grandmother-in-Residence, Lorraine Liberty-Whiteduck** is an Ojibwe Grandmother and cultural carrier and water advocate from Nipissing First Nation.

Lorraine's journey towards spirituality and community involvement started shortly after her youngest moved away from home. Wanting to stay active, she found purpose and inspiration through the North Bay Indian Friendship Centre. "It really touched my heart the first time I heard a drum, a shaker, or when I sat in a pipe ceremony ... I started to be attracted to it."

Lorraine attended cultural programming and felt encouraged to seek out Indigenous spirituality. The more she attended, the more she became involved. For the next two decades, Lorraine traveled to different communities and on the powwow trail studying the roles and responsibilities of women.

"I started to understand my responsibility as an aunty, as a grandmother, responsibility in the ceremonies and with young girls. My first gift was an eagle feather."

In the early 90s Lorraine asked Canadore if she could assist in the Indigenous Wellness and Addictions program. She soon became an advocate for the women who needed support through the program, both emotionally and spiritually. Since that time, Lorraine has been instrumental in developing many of the programs and supports now seen at Canadore and is pushing for more land-based learning within the mainstream curriculum. Lorraine believes most Indigenous students learn better when they are out on the land.

As Grandmother-in-Residence, Lorraine shares traditional teachings of a wide range to support strong spiritual growth for all students and faculty alike. Water teachings, women's hand drum teachings, full moon ceremonies, life stage teachings, vision quest and berry fast, medicines and fasting are just a few of her responsibilities.



Every year, Canadore hosts a Powwow, round dances and many other gatherings. The gatherings are opportunities for students to connect with their families and other students and celebrate diverse languages and cultural practices – often over really good food. With our large Cree population, smoked goose is regularly on the menu!

This past year students and their families joined Lorraine, Grandmother-in-Residence, for sewing and beading weekly. Some participated in 'Big Drum' Making, water teachings, or just hung out with peers in the student lounge.

Canadore also has a Tipi, and many other cultural spaces available for students. We know that for many, culture ignites and fuels the learning spirit.



## FACULTY AND STAFF

**Meet YURA MONESTIME**  
Associate Dean of Media, Design  
and Dramatic Arts

*“Canadore Cares. We don’t care on a yearly basis, or even a monthly basis, we care on a daily basis. We know learning takes a back seat when you don’t have enough money for food or rent.”*

**OUR STUDENTS TELL US THAT YURA MONESTIME AND MANY OTHERS AT CANADORE COLLEGE GO “ABOVE AND BEYOND” EVERY DAY.**

**YURA MONESTIME** has been a part of the Canadore family for 12 years and is currently the Associate Dean of Media, Design and Dramatic Arts.

Yura’s passion for film started young, capturing precious memories on an 8mm camera. Over the years, Yura has helped develop the Digital Cinematography Program and supported students making documentaries that have changed lives and our surrounding communities for the better. “If someone can change the way you believe in things, I believe the program has done its job.”

For Yura, the film program is desperately needed in northern Ontario because, quite simply, culture matters. “We need people to tell stories who live and breathe in our backyard,” says Yura. “It’s always good to reflect back on your history and use that information to move forward.”

No matter what obstacles students may face, Canadore goes above and beyond to make sure the learning environment is comfortable and supportive for each student. “Canadore cares” says Yura. “We don’t care on a yearly basis, or even a monthly basis, we care on a daily basis. We know learning takes a back seat when you don’t have enough money for food or rent.” Seeing students graduate and accomplish major milestones in life fuels Yura’s passion year after year.

## CANADORE VOLUNTEERS

The Canadore Volunteers program encourages the entire Canadore College community, from students to employees and business partners, to engage in meaningful community service. Along with the personal rewards and benefits of volunteering, employee and student volunteers gain skills and experience. For students, this is documented in a co-curricular record and recognized at convocation; employees are recognized at their annual excellence awards ceremony.

### Meet **JESSICA CHARETTE** Canadore Employee and Volunteer

*“Just because you have to leave your home community doesn’t mean you won’t be a part of a community here. Take a leap, it will be worth it.”*



**JESSICA CHARETTE** works in Communications at Canadore College. Born and raised in North Bay, and having recently learned of her Algonquin First Nations ancestry, Jessica has been carrying her passion for positive change to the James Bay coast.

Through Canadore Volunteers, Jessica is a National Mentor with the James Bay Girls-At-Bat program run by Jays Care, the charitable arm of the Toronto Blue Jays. With empowering female First Nations youth as the goal, mentors support them to design, deliver and participate in recreational programming in their home communities. Partnered with Feathers of Hope, an initiative of the Provincial Advocate for Children and Youth

supporting Indigenous youth leadership and advocacy, all of the activities are geared towards building self-esteem, promoting healthy relationships and moving forward from trauma in a good way.

“You hear some of the challenges that some communities are facing and it’s very overwhelming to see it with your own eyes and feel the effects of it.”

James Bay Girls-At-Bat and Canadore have also teamed up to create scholarships for young women aging out of the programming and hoping to begin post-secondary education.



**Meet ATHENA BELFITT**  
Graduate, Community and  
Justice Services Program

*“Indigenous people are needed at Canadore. We need to make Indigenous success in education a norm here and everywhere.”*

## CASA SUPPORTS A STRONG INDIGENOUS STUDENT COMMUNITY

By ATHENA BELFITT

On behalf of everyone involved with the Canadore Aboriginal Student Association (CASA), we are here for Indigenous students—to welcome you, to have fun, and to support your learning in every way.

I was born in North Bay and my background is Mattawa North Bay Algonquin. But I grew up in sub-par conditions, bouncing around in care and struggling to find my culture. From this negative came a tremendous drive to see how I could help others in similar situations. I have just graduated from the Community and Justice Services Program.

When I started at Canadore two years ago, I knew right away that it would be a supportive and nurturing place for me because I could see our people’s art and faces and words everywhere—on the walls, at events, in the programs, in my classes. Our presence was already established and it gave me a level of comfort that I don’t believe other schools have reached yet.

As I began looking for opportunities, I came across the First People’s Centre and CASA. Because of my history, I was nervous about making mistakes and not knowing enough. My cultural roots come from only my mother and I was unsure if I would be “allowed.”

Turns out the rules were in my head and I got to learn it is what is in my heart that matters. In no time at all, I was meeting with Elders, making new friends with people from my culture and organizing a powwow. But there is another reason to come to Canadore College: Indigenous people are needed here. We need to make Indigenous success in education a norm here and everywhere. We’ve got to break the cycle for our generation moving forward. No matter how scary it is. Not just for ourselves, but for our land and for our people. Everyone needs us to take our place back and give the world what we have to offer.

We need you at Canadore and we will be here for you when you arrive.

# WHAT DO WE DO AT CASA?

By STEVEN RICKARD

We do a number of things to ensure that our Indigenous students are given a voice and are well taken care of throughout their time at Canadore. Working in CASA helps us to develop teamwork and leadership abilities. We work together closely to help our students to have that strong sense of community. We fundraise and plan many events for Indigenous and non-Indigenous students, like the pow wow, which happens soon after the school year begins, and again in February, and students from all three campuses are involved. Being a part of Canadore Student Council and volunteering with CASA helped me a lot to be more involved with not only the college, but the students as well. All I can say is that I definitely enjoyed working with some of the brightest and most creative minds in both groups.



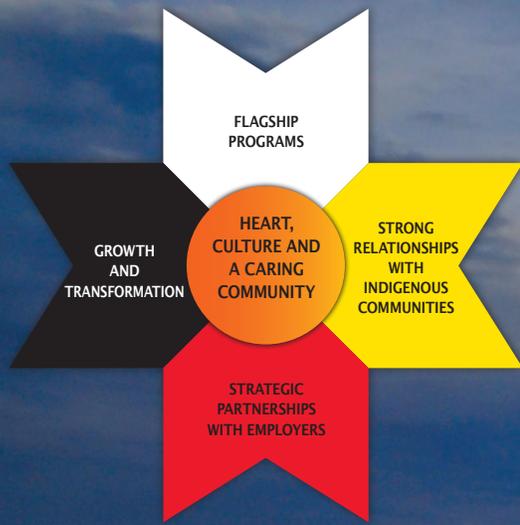
CASA - Canadore Aboriginal Student Association

## Meet STEVEN RICKARD

2<sup>nd</sup> Year, Community and Justice Services Program

Steven is Cree from Taykwa Tagamou Nation and in his second year in the Community and Justice Services program. He is the second in his family to pursue the program at Canadore, his mother being the first. This year, Steven was the first Canadore student to complete a placement with the North Bay Police Service and he also received a student achievement award from Canadore College. Steven sees himself coming back for one final year as a Canadore Student.





# Growth and Transformation

At Canadore, we often use the word “transformation,” but what does it really mean? It means that we are constantly reflecting on where we are and looking for new and better ways of doing things.

It also means we are listening to Indigenous communities and partners about their challenges, their innovative solutions and their visions for the future.

The overall process is grounded in relationships and our growing research capacity. To be innovative, we know we need the skills to gather and use knowledge in a good way.



## THE VILLAGE – A NEW LEARNING, TEACHING AND GATHERING SPACE REFLECTING CULTURE AND EXPERIENTIAL AND LAND-BASED LEARNING

One of the strongest messages we hear is that Indigenous spaces and cultural practices are integral to learning and success among Indigenous students and their families. We are excited to let you know: we are listening.

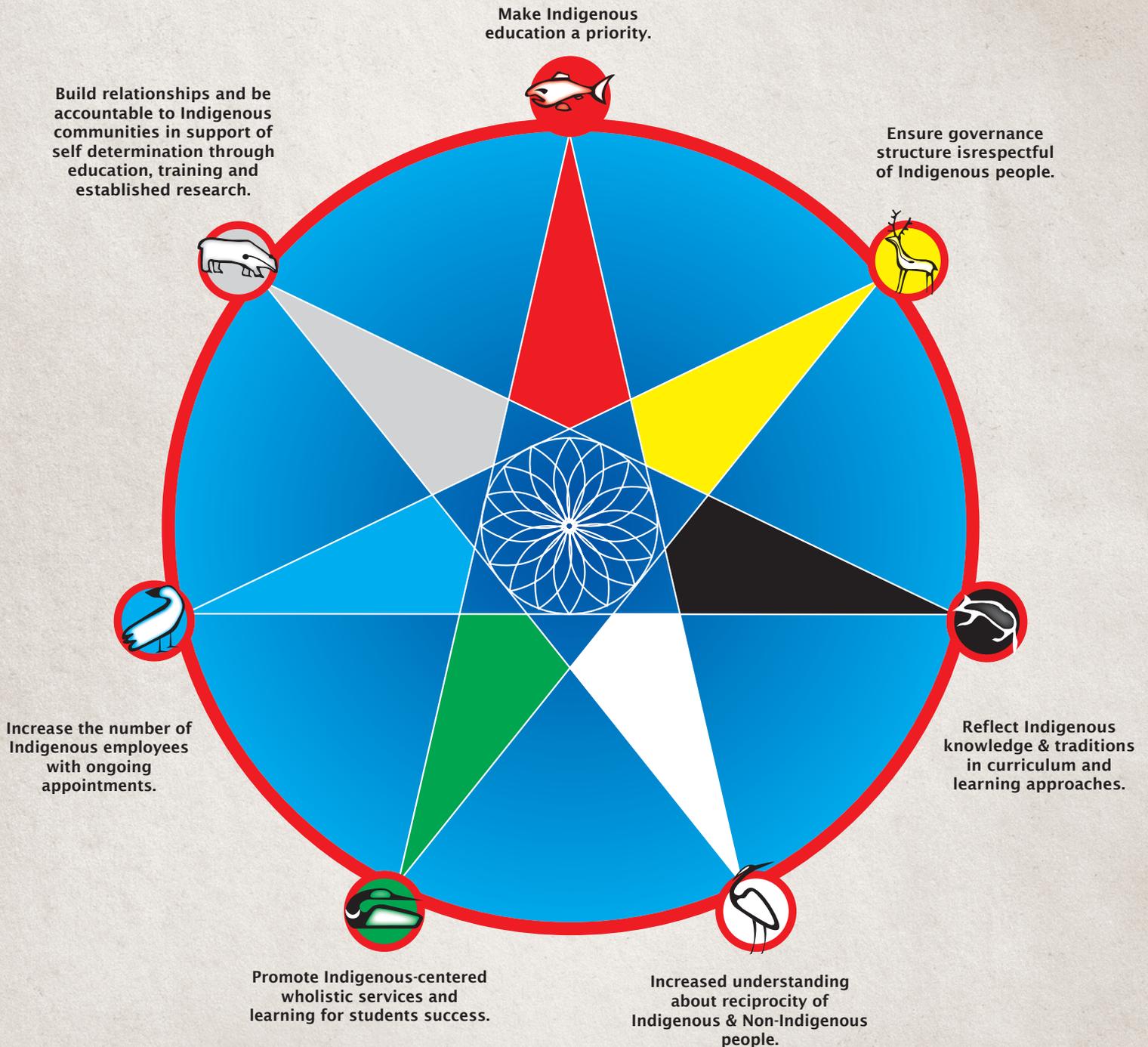
The new space is designed to celebrate traditional Indigenous knowledges and practices with culturally-appropriate spaces, services and supports promoting inclusiveness, understanding and the spirit of coming together. It also bridges Indigenous and Western practices.

Housing the School of Indigenous Studies and Health, Human Care and Wellness, the Village will blend experiential learning and community connection. The residents of an adjacent retirement facility will have full access to the services offered by our health programs, such as dental and nursing, along with access to the School of Indigenous Studies. Retirees will also have access to the many cultural spaces and community celebrations.

*Canadore College is thankful to the dedicated Elders and Knowledge Keepers who continue to guide the development of the Indigenous learning spaces, to ensure they meet the cultural needs of Indigenous learners. The space will offer a sacred fire, cultural food and Indigenous medicine harvesting and preparation, cultural arts and opportunities to explore and celebrate Indigenous learners and their many histories, languages and customs.*

# CANADORE'S FIVE-YEAR STRATEGY FOR INDIGENOUS EDUCATION

After more than 30 years of delivering Indigenous education, Canadore College launched its five-year Indigenous education and services strategy in 2016 to prioritize its efforts. Developed by the College with extensive input from partners in education and Canadore's Indigenous Circle on Education, the plan focuses on the continued growth and development of Canadore's First Peoples' Centre.





## APPLIED INDIGENOUS RESEARCH PROJECTS

Our many applied and Indigenous research projects are led by an Elders Steering Committee and Indigenous researchers, grounding their work in Indigenous research practices.

### **Indigenous Quality Assurance Framework – A Northern Colleges Collaboration (\$419,000 funding awarded)**

This research project looks at what principles guide Indigenous programs and their evaluation in post-secondary education. How do we know when our programs are successful? The project is led by Ontario's Northern Colleges Collaborative Steering Committee and Elders Knowledge Keepers Council from six northern college communities. Stay tuned to learn about our findings, and our solutions, as we create our very own Indigenous Quality Assurance Framework.

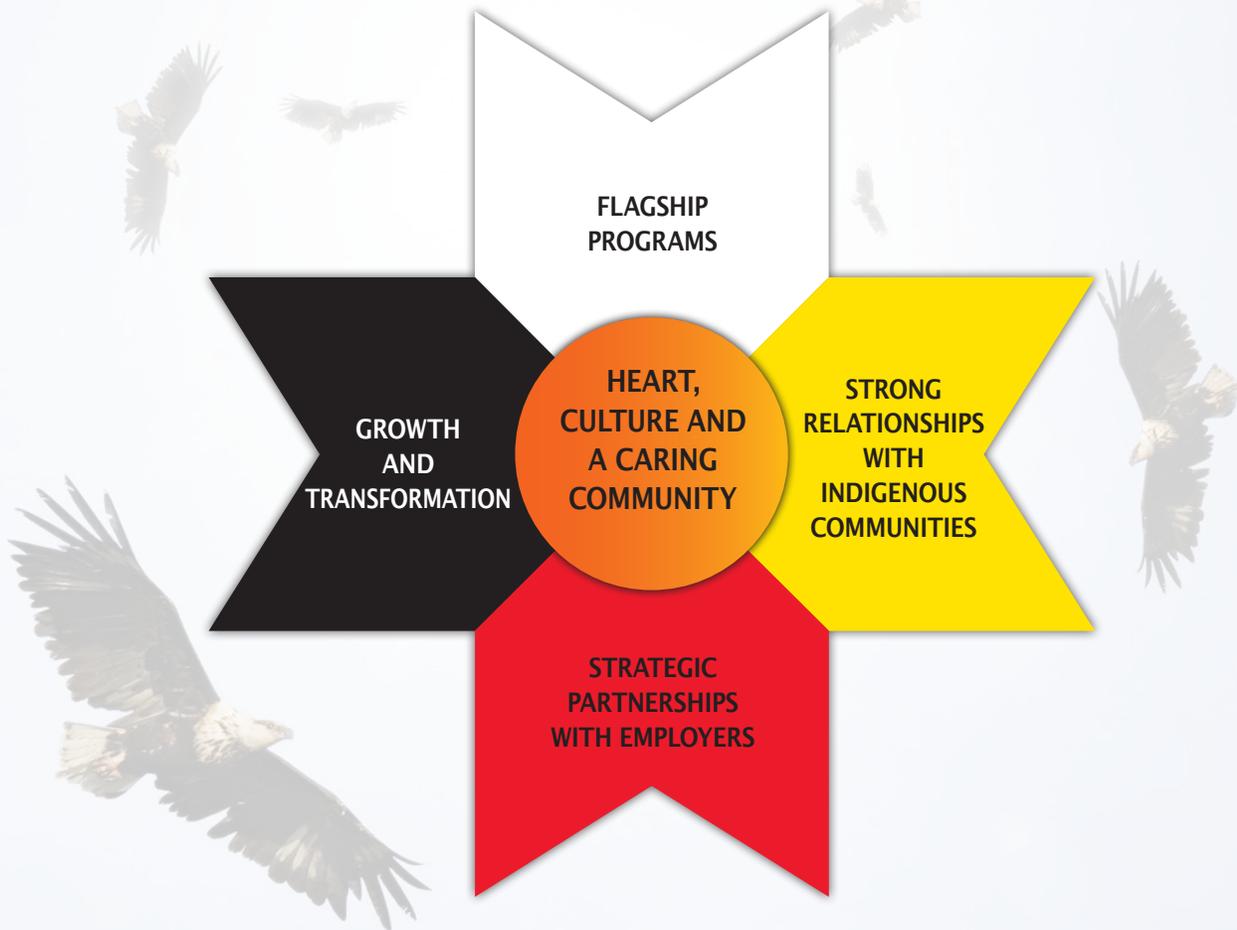
### **Promoting Indigenous Cultural Safety Along the Cancer Journey – Inter-Professional Cross-Cultural Competency Model (\$147,000 funding awarded)**

Funded by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR), the research will engage Indigenous Peoples, health practitioners, consumers and educators in an inter-professional education (IPE) approach to designing, developing, and evaluating an Indigenous inter-professional cultural safety training model (IICSTM).

Participants will be trained over the course of one year, through a variety of strategies, including engaging with local Elders and Knowledge Keepers regarding Indigenous concepts of health and wellness. Skill acquisition will be measured using culturally-based simulations offering practitioners opportunities to collaboratively address common barriers identified by Indigenous populations accessing cancer care, such as: lack of equal access to cancer screening and prevention programs; limited practitioner knowledge of Indigenous cultural healing and wellness practices; and communication challenges in hospital settings.

Targeting both process and content, the model will be applicable to other areas in healthcare and community-specific knowledge translation activities will be incorporated to appropriately disseminate this knowledge.

How will you ignite your  
*Learning Spirit*  
at Canadore?



Do you have an idea or dream you would like to pursue?

Is there a program you wish could be offered in your community?

Are you a business looking to partner?

Is there a need Canadore could help address?





How will you ignite your  
*Learning Spirit?*

**LORRAINE LIBERTY-WHITEDUCK**  
Grandmother-in-Residence  
Canadore College



**The First Peoples' Centre is here to help.**

Please come and visit. We like to see new faces and familiar faces.

Everyone is welcome.

Your journey happens here.

For additional copies or to learn more about the First Peoples' Centre and Canadore College, please contact:

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