

**TITLE:** DELIVERING A POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION PROGRAM TO A DISADVANTAGED POPULATION

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### **ABSTRACT**

Providing access to post-secondary education has always been a major issue especially when it pertains to disadvantaged populations. Many countries have undertaken to provide post-secondary education opportunities for one such population i.e. the Aboriginal population. In Canada, the participation rate in post-secondary education for this population has been well below the national average. This is demonstrated by the fact that the proportion of Aboriginal people in the 20 - 29 age group with a post-secondary degree or diploma was about one half of what it was for the non-Aboriginal population.

This presentation will focus on the initiatives which have been implemented in two provinces in Canada, to provide educational opportunities at the post-secondary level to the Aboriginal population, the majority of whom reside in rural and northern communities. In the province of Manitoba a community based model has been implemented and has been in operation for over twenty-five years. In the province of Alberta a similar model has been adopted and is currently being implemented. Central to both models is the element of partnership i.e. the collaborative effort of government (provincial), institution (university) and community (Aboriginal). Specific examples will be utilized to demonstrate how certain barriers are being addressed and what measure of success has been achieved. An attempt will also be made to highlight emerging community needs in education and the type of response being developed.