

**NIPISSING UNIVERSITY**

**BOARD OF GOVERNORS MEETING**

**OPEN SESSION**

September 17, 2020

The Open Session of the regular Board of Governors meeting was held on Thursday, September 17, 2020, at 5:30 p.m. via Zoom Remote Conferencing.

**Members Present:** Marianne Berube, Board Chair  
Karen Barnes  
Patti Carr  
Paul Cook  
Fran Couchie  
Mitchell Crown  
Hilary Earl  
Donna Forget  
Ryan Hehn  
Stuart Kidd  
Judy Koziol  
Denyse Lafrance Horning  
Joanne Laplante  
Ward Loveday  
Hannah Mackie  
Gillian McCann  
Bobby Ray  
Judy Smith  
Dave Smits  
Cheryl Sutton  
Stephen Tedesco  
Rick Vanderlee

**Regrets:** Kathy Wilcox

**Invited Guests:** Arja Vainio-Mattila  
Casey Phillips  
Pat Maher  
Jim McAuliffe  
Pavlina Radia  
John Nadeau  
Cristin Christopher  
Debra Iafrate  
Renee Hacquard  
Cheryl Zimba  
Christine Dowdall (University Secretary)

**Observers:** Mykayla King  
Shannon MacCarthy  
Lindsey Voisin  
Darren Turcotte  
Tyson Stewart

**Recording Secretary:** Abby Blaszczyk (Executive Assistant, President's Office)

### 1. Call to Order/Land Acknowledgment

The meeting was called to order at 5:33 p.m. The Board Chair offered a traditional land acknowledgement.

### 2. Declaration of Conflict of Interest

The Board Chair called for conflicts of interest concerning any of the agenda items. No such declarations were made.

### 3. Use of Recording and/or Broadcasting Devices

The Board Chair reminded everyone that only pre-approved methods of recording and/or broadcasting devices may be used during the meeting. Disseminating any information during the meeting is prohibited.

### 4. Adoption of Open Session Consent Agenda

Prior to presenting the consent agenda for adoption, the Board Chair explained that the main purpose of a consent agenda is to assist in time management. However, in an effort to ensure Board members are better informed about the work of the Board, the practice of having the committee chairs brief the full Board on the work of their respective committees is being reinstated as a standing item on the regular agenda. In addition, the open agenda and supporting documentation will be posted on the University website in advance of each Board meeting going forward.

The following items were included on the consent agenda:

- i. Adoption of the June 4, 2020, Minutes (Open Session);
- ii. Adoption of the July 16, 2020, Minutes (Open Session);
- iii. For Information Only
  - (a) Reports from Other Committees/Bodies
    1. Alumni Advisory Board
    2. Nipissing University Indigenous Council on Education (NUICE)

Resolution 2020-09-01:      ***That the items included on the September 17, 2020, consent agenda for the Open Session of the Board of Governors meeting be adopted as circulated.***

*Moved by Stuart Kidd; seconded by Dave Smits.  
Carried.*

### 5. Adoption of the Regular Agenda

Resolution 2020-09-02:      ***That the Board of Governors adopt the September 17, 2020, Open Session regular agenda as circulated.***

*Moved by Dave Smits; seconded by Fran Couchie.  
Carried.*

## 6. Chair's Remarks

The Board Chair welcomed members of the Board to a new academic year and introduced the new members for 2020-2021: Judy Koziol, Patti Carr, Dave Smits, Gillian McCann and Ward Loveday. She spoke to the success of the Board Orientation and the Joint Board/Senate Orientation that took place on September 12, 2020, and reiterated the roles and responsibilities of a governor. The Chair noted that the Board will welcome a guest speaker at the November meeting who will provide training on board governance.

## 7. Presentation of the Draft Audited Financial Statements

The Assistant Vice-President, Finance and Infrastructure reported that Laurie Bissonette from KPMG conducted a detailed review of the audited financial statements at the September 14, 2020, meeting of the Audit & Finance Committee. Noting that KPMG provided a clean opinion on the financial statements, the AVP provided a high-level review for the full Board. Following the review, the following resolution was put forward:

Resolution 2020-09-03:     ***That the Board of Governors accept the recommendation of the Audit and Finance Committee to approve the Consolidated Audited Financial Statements for the year ended April 30, 2020, as presented.***

*Moved by Karen Barnes; seconded by Stuart Kidd.  
Carried.*

## 8. Chancellor's Remarks

The Chancellor expressed his gratitude for the opportunity to serve Nipissing University for another term. He is looking forward to the coming year and assisting the University in their efforts to engage with the community in the challenging times of a world-wide pandemic.

## 9. President's Remarks

The President (Interim) acknowledged the tremendous effort of all faculty and staff during the transition to the fall term. She spoke to a number of recent activities, including the welcoming of over 400 students to residence and several upcoming meetings with the Ministry of Colleges and Universities.

- Goals and Priorities

As discussed at the recent Executive Committee meeting on September 10, 2020, and in consultation with the Board Chair, the President (Interim) spoke to her goals for the 2020/21 academic year. She will focus on the following priorities throughout the next year:

- Financial sustainability throughout (and post) the COVID-19 pandemic;
- Improved internal communication;
- Data-based decision making; and
- Building on Nipissing's relationships with Canadore College and the North Bay community.

Several questions were addressed, including what is being done in terms of student retention. The Assistant Vice-President, Students highlighted a number of supports including the NU Gateway program that connect students who are unable to attend campus with upper year mentors to ensure a Nipissing experience. Additionally, there are ongoing outreach campaigns to upper year students, as well as call campaigns to directly engage students and address any concerns.

## 10. Vice-Presidents' Remarks

**The Provost and Vice-President, Academic & Research (PVPAR)** was pleased to announce the completion of a successful audit with the Quality Assurance Council for program development. The Provost reviewed the admissions (first-year students) where acceptances currently sit at 1,695, which is down approximately 10% from last year; however, headcount numbers are slightly ahead when compared to last year's numbers. It was noted that recruitment efforts will continue virtually throughout the academic year.

The PVPAR highlighted a number of supports in place to assist in the shift to an online environment, including a number of workshops for faculty and the hiring of online learning partners who will act as peer supports for students experiencing technical difficulties. She also addressed the Winter 2021 term and the potential to offer some courses on campus, noting that such a decision will be guided by Public Health advice.

Finally, the PVPAR spoke to the revisions made to the Terms of Reference for the Research Ethics Board, and the following resolution was brought forward:

Resolution 2020-09-04:      ***That the Board of Governors accept the recommendation of the Provost and Vice-President, Academic and Research, to approve the revisions to the Nipissing University Terms of Reference for the Research Ethics Board as presented.***

*Moved by Donna Forget; seconded by Fran Couchie.  
Carried.*

A question was raised regarding the timeline for communication to students with respect to the winter term. The Provost noted that an update is expected by early next week.

**The Assistant Vice-President, Students (AVPS)** spoke to the success of the extended move-in of students to the residence complexes and noted that Founders House will remain vacant for use as a potential quarantine space for international students, should the borders open. The AVPS also announced the move to Stage 1 for the Athletics Centre, which includes the reopening of the turf field.

## 11. Board Committee Reports

- **Audit & Finance Committee**

The Chair noted that the minutes from the September 14, 2020, committee meeting were sent separate from the regular agenda due to the timing of the meeting. She noted that in addition to the KPMG presentation of the audited financial statements, the financials for 2020/2021 were reviewed in detail.

- **Executive Committee**

The Chair noted that a discussion was held at the September 10, 2020, meeting of the Executive Committee regarding the current strategic plan which is set to expire in 2020. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as the ongoing search for a new President & Vice-Chancellor, the Executive Committee is recommending a delay in the creation of the University's new strategic plan. The following resolution was brought forward:

Resolution 2020-09-05: ***That the Board of Governors accept the recommendation of the Executive Committee to extend the current Strategic Plan to 2022.***

*Moved by Hilary Earl; seconded by Fran Couchie.  
Carried.*

## **12. Board Representatives on Other Committees/Bodies**

### Nipissing University Student Union

The NUSU President spoke to a survey distributed to Nipissing University students. The purpose of the survey was to identify the concerns of their members regarding the University's decision to move all courses online this fall and to share the findings with staff and faculty. Top concerns included appropriate communication from the administration and faculty and ensuring a reliable internet connection. A discussion followed, and a number of Board members expressed interest in receiving a brief summary of the survey results. This will be distributed to all members via email from the University Secretary.

### Academic Senate

The Academic Senate held its first regular meeting of the academic year. Bobby Ray, one of the two Board representatives on the Senate this year, noted a discussion took place regarding student opinion surveys in the current online environment.

## **13. Correspondence**

Dr. Amanda Burk, a Nipissing University Associate Professor, submitted a letter addressed to the Board expressing her concern over what she described as a lack of transparency with Nipissing's Board of Governors. It was noted that a number of initiatives are underway, or have been completed, to address the concerns within the correspondence.

A second letter was received from the Caucus of Racialized People. The letter explained that the group came together to discuss issues relating to inclusivity at Nipissing University. The President expressed her thanks to the caucus for submitting the correspondence and noted she looks forward to an external evaluation of Nipissing University's Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) practices.

## **14. Question Period**

Several questions were addressed, including the Board's practice with regard to recorded votes where meetings are held in a virtual environment. As it hasn't been an issue in the past, there is no official

process in place. The President's Office will look into options, including the capabilities of the Zoom platform with regard to this.

It was noted that a list of the President's activities was not appended to the June 2020 minutes as indicated in the minute document; accordingly, the June minutes will be recirculated with the appended items included.

**15. Other Business**

No other business was discussed.

**16. Adjournment**

The next full Committee Day is scheduled for Monday, October 19, 2020.

The next meeting of the Board is Thursday, November 12, 2020.

Resolution 2020-09-06:     ***That the Open Session of the Board of Governors' regular meeting now adjourn.***

*Moved by Donna Forget; seconded by Dave Smits.  
Carried.*

Open session adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

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President & Vice-Chancellor/Secretary of the Board

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Board Chair

## NIPISSING UNIVERSITY BOARD OF GOVERNORS MEETING

### OPEN SESSION

September 17, 2020

5:30 p.m. – Zoom Remote Conferencing

### AGENDA

Zoom Connection for Virtual Attendance: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82407162131>  
Passcode: 675029

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#### 1. Call to Order/Land Acknowledgement

*“As we begin this meeting, I would like to acknowledge that we are in the territory of the Robinson-Huron Treaty of 1850 and that the land on which we gather is the Nipissing First Nation Traditional Territory and the traditional territory of the Anishinabek.*

*We respect and are grateful to hold this meeting on these lands with all our relatives.”*

#### 2. Declaration of Conflict of Interest

#### 3. Use of Recording and/or Broadcasting Devices

*“Only pre-approved methods of recording and/or broadcasting devices (such as today's Zoom connection) may be used. Disseminating any information during the meeting is prohibited.*

#### 4. Consent Agenda

- i. Adoption of the June 4, 2020, Minutes (Open Session);
- ii. Adoption of the July 16, 2020, Minutes (Open Session);
- iii. For Information Only
  - (a) Reports from Other Committees/Bodies
    1. Alumni Advisory Board
    2. Nipissing University Indigenous Council on Education (NUICE)

Resolution: *That the items included on the September 17, 2020, consent agenda for the Open Session of the Board of Governors meeting be adopted as circulated.*

#### 5. Adoption of Regular Agenda

Resolution: *That the Board of Governors adopt the September 17, 2020, Open Session regular agenda as circulated.*

#### 6. Chair's Remarks

#### 7. Presentation of Draft Audited Financial Statements – Laurie Bissonette, KPMG

Resolution: *That the Board of Governors accept the recommendation of the Audit and Finance Committee to approve the Consolidated Audited Financial Statements for the year ended April 30, 2020, as presented.*

(NOTE: Motion to be confirmed following the Audit & Finance Committee meeting on September 14, 2020.)

**8. Chancellor's Remarks**

**9. President's Remarks**

- Goals and Priorities

**10. Vice-President's Remarks**

- Provost and Vice President, Academic & Research

Resolution: *That the Board of Governors accepts the recommendation of the Provost and Vice-President, Academic & Research, to approve the revisions to the Nipissing University Terms of Reference for the Research Ethics Board as presented.*

- Assistant Vice-President, Finance & Infrastructure
- Assistant Vice-President, Students

**11. Board Committee Reports**

- Audit & Finance Committee – *Karen Barnes, Committee Chair*
- Executive Committee – *Marianne Berube, Committee Chair*

Resolution: *That the Board of Governors accepts the recommendation of the Executive Committee to extend Nipissing University's current Strategic Plan to 2022.*

**12. Board Representatives on Other Committees/Bodies**

- Nipissing University Student Union
- Academic Senate

**13. Correspondence**

**14. Question Period**

**15. Other Business**

**16. Adjournment**

Resolution: *That the Open Session of the Board of Governors' regular meeting now adjourn.*

Time: \_\_\_\_\_



NIPISSING UNIVERSITY BOARD OF GOVERNORS

UNIVERSITY GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE MEETING

OPEN SESSION

October 19, 2020

The Governance Committee met on Monday, October 19, 2020, at 9:00 a.m. via Zoom remote video conferencing.

Members present: Stuart Kidd, Committee Chair  
Marianne Berube  
Fran Couchie  
Ryan Hehn  
Hannah Mackie  
Judy Smith  
Cheryl Sutton  
Rick Vanderlee  
Mykayla King (Student Observer – non-voting)  
Arja Vainio-Mattila ( Provost – non-voting)  
Christine Dowdall (University Secretary – non-voting)

Regrets: Mitchell Crown  
Paul Cook

Guests: Casey Phillips, AVP Students  
Jenny Mackie, Director, Human Resources

Recording Secretary: Abby Blaszczyk (Executive Assistant, Office of the President)

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**1. Opening Remarks/Call for Conflicts of Interest**

The meeting was called to order at 9:04 a.m. The committee chair called for any conflicts of interest; no such declarations were made.

**2. Election of Committee Vice-Chair**

The role of the Committee Vice-Chair was reviewed. Fran Couchie agreed to assume the role for the current academic year.

**3. Review of Committee Terms of Reference**

The committee terms of reference as outlined in the Board Bylaws were reviewed. There were no concerns expressed with the current terms.

#### **4. Review of Annual Work Plan**

The draft annual work plan was reviewed. It was noted that the University Secretary tracks all Board policies, and she will flag any that require review and/or updates. Those policies will be added to the work plan as appropriate.

#### **5. Harassment and Discrimination Committee/Policy: Update**

In 2019, this topic was brought to the University Governance Committee as a result of a request from Senate to have the Board review the Harassment and Discrimination Policy and the terms of reference for the related committee. In light of legislative changes, the continued relevance of the policy and the committee were in question. At that time, the University Governance Committee tasked Human Resources with reviewing the issue and coming back to the committee with recommendations.

The Director, Human Resources spoke to the decision to combine this policy with the Respectful Workplace and Harassment Prevention Policy. Because the revised policy will include students, faculty and staff, the Assistant Vice-President, Students assisted by providing a number of comments and suggestions.

A discussion followed. Several suggestions were put forward, including strong language around equity/diversity/inclusion (EDI), clarity around language for students and easy access to the policy on the website. Additionally, a discussion took place regarding the importance of prevention of harassment and discrimination on campus.

The Director, Human Resources will present a draft policy for the committee's review at the December meeting.

#### **6. Joint Committee of the Board and Senate on Governance**

Marianne Berube, former member of the Joint Committee, explained that the Joint Committee of the Board and Senate on Governance made the following recommendation for the Board of Governor's consideration:

*The Joint Committee of the Board and Senate on Governance recommends the University Governance Committee of the Board of Governors review Section F of the Search/Appointment/ Reappointment of Senior Academic Administrative Officers (Policy #3.1.20212.B) to consider a shorter term for extension of the term of the President or Provost (i.e. less than five years) in order to encourage renewal and fill the position.*

A lengthy discussion followed. Suggestions put forward included ensuring clarity with the language and consistency in the length of term extensions for all senior academic administrative positions. It was also noted that the positions of President and Provost fundamentally differ from other positions. It was recommended that the policy be amended with language that shortens the length of any potential extension to the term of the President or the Provost from the current five years to a maximum of 18 months, along with language that outlines the parameters around such an extension. A draft will be brought back to the committee in December for final review.

## **7. Results from Board Evaluation Survey**

The results from the Board Evaluation Survey were included in the committee materials provided. The committee expressed disappointment in the lack of responses, and suggestions were provided on how to encourage participation. One such recommendation was to have one-on-one conversations between each member of the Board and the Board Chair. Best practices will be reviewed, and a summary of the 2019-20 results will be presented to the Board for discussion at the next meeting.

## **8. Board Recruitment – Status of LGIC Appointments**

At this point in time, Nipissing University has two vacant LGIC positions. The Province is in receipt of the names of two individuals who were given Board approval over the past few months, and the University Secretary continues to follow up regarding these vacancies.

## **9. Other Business**

No other business was discussed.

The meeting adjourned at 10:22 a.m.

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Recording Secretary

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Chair of University Governance Committee

NIPISSING UNIVERSITY BOARD OF GOVERNORS

**AUDIT & FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING**

**OPEN SESSION**

October 19, 2020

The Audit and Finance Committee met on Monday, October 19, 2020, at 10:30 a.m. via Zoom remote conferencing.

Members Present: Karen Barnes, Committee Chair  
Marianne Berube  
Patti Carr  
Hilary Earl  
Stuart Kidd  
Ward Loveday  
Dave Smits  
Cheryl Sutton  
Stephen Tedesco  
Hannah Mackie (Student Observer – non-voting)  
Arja Vainio-Mattila (Provost – non-voting)  
Christine Dowdall (University Secretary – non-voting)

Regrets: Paul Cook

Guests: Renée Hacquard  
Casey Phillips  
Debra Iafrate  
Heather Hersemeyer

Recording Secretary: Abby Blaszczyk (Executive Assistant, Governance & Scheduling)

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**1. Welcoming Remarks/Calls for Conflicts of Interest**

The meeting was called to order at 10:33 a.m. The committee chair called for any conflicts of interest; no such declarations were made.

**2. Consolidated Statement of Financial Position and Statement of Operations Review as of August 31**

The Assistant Vice-President, Finance & Infrastructure expressed her appreciation to the Finance team for completing the consolidated statements. She provided a high level review of both the statement of financial position and the statement of operations for the period ending August 31, 2020. She noted that expenses and revenue in the operating fund are in line with expectations. Significant variances in the budget include decreased tuition revenue due to international student enrolment being below budget, as well as a decrease in other revenue due to limited presence on campus.

### **3. Enrolment Update**

The Registrar provided an update on enrolment as at August 31, 2020. Enrolment is tracking nicely with strong numbers in programs like Graduate Studies, Biology, Psychology, Nursing and Education. There has been an increase in students studying part-time, likely at least in part as a result of COVID-19. The Fall term head count is up when compared to previous years, but so far, the Winter term numbers are down. The Registrar acknowledged that the University is expecting those numbers to improve somewhat by January.

### **4. Year-end Projections**

The Assistant Vice-President, Finance and Infrastructure reviewed the pre-COVID budget and spoke to the shortfalls in international tuition, domestic tuition and other revenues. As a result of the pandemic, the total anticipated shortfall is significant. Work is ongoing with budget holders in order to identify potential savings.

A question was raised regarding the potential for additional government funding. It is not expected that the provincial government will be providing additional funds in an across-the-sector response as a number of the larger, Southern universities have significant reserves to draw from. However, the Northern universities have been engaging their ministers in an effort to convey how COVID-19 is directly affecting the North, and we remain cautiously optimistic there will be some additional funding for our institution as a result.

A discussion followed concerning revenue generation. A number of suggestions were discussed, including micro credentials, approvals for new programming and encouraging continued education for community members.

### **5. Cybersecurity Update**

The Director, University Technology Services provided a high level presentation on cybersecurity at Nipissing University. Themes included risks (such as phishing and data breaches), the current virtual environment and security initiatives currently in place. She invited individual committee members to contact her should they have any questions.

### **6. Other Business**

There was no further business.

The meeting adjourned at 11:56 a.m.

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Recording Secretary

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Committee Chair

**BOARD REPORT**

As at 10/02/20

For the period ended 08/31/2020

	Actual YTD	Annual Budget	Variance \$ (Actual YTD - Annual Budget)	YTD Actual as a % of Annual Budget		Actual PYR	Annual Budget (Previous Year)	PYR Actual as a % of PYR Annual Budget	Variance \$ CY to PY	Variance % CY to PY	
<b>Revenue</b>											
Government Grants	\$ 10,707,059	\$ 35,655,369	\$ (24,948,310)	30%	1	\$ 10,900,609	\$ 37,301,609	29%	\$ (193,551)	-2%	1
Student Fees - Tuition	\$ 25,552,560	\$ 29,409,835	\$ (3,857,275)	87%	2	\$ 25,233,185	\$ 27,741,324	91%	\$ 319,374	1%	2
Student Fees - Other	\$ 2,326,864	\$ 2,805,862	\$ (478,998)	83%	3	\$ 2,137,604	\$ 2,355,450	91%	\$ 189,260	9%	3
Other	\$ 169,716	\$ 1,993,252	\$ (1,823,536)	9%	4	\$ 505,361	\$ 1,995,621	25%	\$ (335,645)	-66%	4
Investment Income	\$ 45,829	\$ 190,000	\$ (144,171)	24%	5	\$ 53,619	\$ 230,000	23%	\$ (7,790)	-15%	5
Donations	\$ -	\$ 100,000	\$ (100,000)	0%	6	\$ -	\$ 39,000	0%	\$ -	0%	
<b>Revenue Total</b>	<b>\$ 38,802,027</b>	<b>\$ 70,154,318</b>	<b>\$ (31,352,291)</b>	<b>55%</b>		<b>\$ 38,830,378</b>	<b>\$ 69,663,004</b>	<b>56%</b>	<b>\$ (28,352)</b>	<b>0%</b>	
<b>Expenses</b>											
Salaries and Benefits	\$ 16,057,224	\$ 55,400,290	\$ (39,343,066)	29%	1	\$ 16,942,554	\$ 54,801,488	31%	\$ (885,330)	-5%	6
Operating	\$ 2,974,609	\$ 9,611,933	\$ (6,637,324)	31%	7	\$ 3,415,043	\$ 10,200,309	33%	\$ (440,434)	-13%	7
Scholarships and Bursaries	\$ 1,216,564	\$ 3,788,400	\$ (2,571,836)	32%	1	\$ 1,099,841	\$ 3,808,400	29%	\$ 116,723	11%	8
Occupancy Costs	\$ 857,710	\$ 4,090,850	\$ (3,233,140)	21%	8	\$ 590,377	\$ 4,240,775	14%	\$ 267,333	45%	9
Principal and Interest on Long Term Debt	\$ 333,146	\$ 1,005,940	\$ (672,794)	33%	1	\$ 333,205	\$ 1,005,940	33%	\$ (59)	0%	
<b>Expenses Total</b>	<b>\$ 21,439,253</b>	<b>\$ 73,897,413</b>	<b>\$ (52,458,160)</b>	<b>29%</b>		<b>\$ 22,381,021</b>	<b>\$ 74,056,912</b>	<b>30%</b>	<b>\$ (941,768)</b>	<b>-4%</b>	
<b>Surplus (Deficit) Before Undernoted</b>	<b>\$ 17,362,773</b>	<b>\$ (3,743,095)</b>	<b>\$ 21,105,868</b>	<b>-464%</b>		<b>\$ 16,449,357</b>	<b>\$ (4,393,908)</b>	<b>-374%</b>	<b>\$ 913,416</b>	<b>6%</b>	
<b>Transfers</b>											
Transfers to (from) other funds	\$ -	\$ (1,730,000)	\$ 1,730,000	0%	9	\$ 10,508	\$ (1,892,903)	-1%	\$ (10,508)	-100%	
Transfers to (from) Internally Restricted	\$ 450,767	\$ 500,500	\$ (49,733)	90%	10	\$ 476,333	\$ 469,150	102%	\$ (25,566)	-5%	
<b>Transfers Total</b>	<b>\$ 450,767</b>	<b>\$ (1,229,500)</b>	<b>\$ 1,680,267</b>	<b>-37%</b>		<b>\$ 486,841</b>	<b>\$ (1,423,753)</b>	<b>-34%</b>	<b>\$ (36,074)</b>	<b>-7%</b>	
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 16,912,007</b>	<b>\$ (2,513,595)</b>	<b>\$ 19,425,602</b>	<b>-673%</b>		<b>\$ 15,962,516</b>	<b>\$ (2,970,155)</b>	<b>-537%</b>	<b>\$ 949,490</b>	<b>6%</b>	

**Variance explanations: Actual YTD compared to budget**

- 1) Variances are as expected due to timing
- 2) Tuition billing occurs in August, slightly below budget for domestic tuition, significant variance in international tuition.
- 3) Student Fees lower than budget due to lower enrolment than budgeted.
- 4) Other revenue includes revenue from 3rd parties (Cafeteria/bookstore commissions, summer camps, etc.). These are significantly impacted by the pandemic
- 5) Investment income lower than budgeted due to market fluctuations.
- 6) Transfer from Scholarship Fund to occur in October.
- 7) Some savings expected in this line due to Covid (ex: travel, meals & hospitality, supplies)
- 8) Some savings expected in utility costs
- 9) Transfers from other funds including ancillary and fundraising don't typically occur until later in the Fall.
- 10) Tracking as expected

**Variance explanations: Actual YTD compared to prior year**

- 1) Decrease due to Teacher Ed stabilization funding not received this year
- 2) FTE's are slightly higher than last year at this time, which translates to higher tuition revenue. Largest increase is in Education.
- 3) Higher ancillary fees for Career services, fees that used to be transferred to NUSU.
- 4) Significant reductions in other revenues due to limited traffic on campus. (ex: Bookstore & cafeteria commissions reduced, athletics revenues from summer camps and game days, etc.)
- 5) Due to market fluctuations
- 6) Decrease due to savings in PT salaries, due to classes being online
- 7) No travel, meals & hospitality expenses, less spending in other categories such as supplies.
- 8) Timing difference compared to prior year in Schulich transfers (\$131k).
- 9) Savings related to less renovation expenses incurred compared to prior year at this time (timing of expenses). Some savings expected in utilities.

NIPISSING UNIVERSITY BOARD OF GOVERNORS

COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING

OPEN SESSION

October 19, 2020

The Community Relations Committee of the Board of Governors met on Monday, October 19, 2020 at 1:30 p.m. via Zoom.

**Members Present:** Patricia Carr, Committee Chair  
Marianne Berube  
Johanne Brousseau  
Fran Couchie  
Donna Forget  
Ryan Hehn  
Denyse Lafrance-Horning  
Hannah Mackie  
Bobby Ray  
Cheryl Sutton  
Kathy Wilcox  
Shannon MacCarthy (Student Observer – non-voting)  
Christine Dowdall (University Secretary – non-voting)

**Regrets:** Paul Cook  
Mitchell Crown  
Arja Vainio-Mattila (Provost – non-voting)

**Guests:** Cristin Christopher  
Casey Phillips  
Abby Blaszczyk

**Recording Secretary:** Maggie Daniel, Executive Assistant – Office of the President

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**1. Welcome/Call for Conflicts of Interest – Patti Carr, Committee Chair**

The meeting was called to order at 1:30 p.m. The Chair called for any conflicts of interest; no such conflicts were declared. The Committee Chair welcomed Johanne Brousseau, the mayoral representative on the Board of Governors, as the newest member of the committee.

**2. Election of Committee Vice-Chair**

As outlined in the committee terms of reference, a Vice-Chair is to be selected for the committee at the first meeting of the year. As a result, Kathy Wilcox agreed to assume the position.

### **3. Review of Committee Terms of Reference**

The Chair reviewed the terms of reference for the committee. She reminded everyone to make sure all of the meeting dates are in their calendars in order to ensure maximum attendance and participation by committee members.

### **4. Review of Annual Work Plan**

The Annual Work Plan was reviewed.

### **5. External Relations Report – *Cristin Christopher, Director, External Relations***

#### *NU Community Response to COVID-19*

The Director, External Relations, shared some of the ways that the University is supporting the region's response to, and recovery from, the COVID-19 pandemic. She shared with the committee a letter from the North Bay Regional Health Centre Foundation thanking Nipissing University for donating Founders House residence for frontline workers who required a safe place to stay.

The University has committed funding to several research projects organized by faculty members that address the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. It is anticipated that the research results will be shared with the wider community in the spring of 2021.

#### *NU News Update*

The Director, External Relations was pleased to announce that the "NU News" underwent significant updates over the summer that will make it easier for the University to share good news stories. The new website has sections dedicated to shining a spotlight on people who are doing great work across the University, as well as sections that focus on news, research, people, alumni, athletics, events and COVID-19. Additionally, the University has invested in a third-party technology that pulls stories related to the University from the broader media coverage. Committee members were encouraged to support NU News by clicking the *Subscribe to NU News* button on the web site.

### **6. Other Business**

A question was raised concerning the role that the Community Relations Committee plays in relation to the External Relations department and the University in general. A discussion followed. The President (Interim) offered to speak with the Executive Team to seek out their feedback regarding how and when the Community Relations Committee should be involved in providing guidance and support to the University on public matters.

There was a discussion on how the University can continue to improve upon its image and engagement within the North Bay community and beyond. The President stated that she is happy to attend local community meetings to speak about what the University is doing, and she invited committee members to connect her with their community networks where appropriate.



The meeting was adjourned at 2:15 p.m.

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Recording Secretary

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Chair of Community Relations Committee

NIPISSING UNIVERSITY BOARD OF GOVERNORS

**FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE MEETING**

**OPEN SESSION**

October 19, 2020

The Fundraising Committee met on October 19, 2020, at 2:30 p.m. via Zoom remote conferencing.

**Members present:** Bobby Ray, Committee Chair  
Marianne Berube  
Judy Koziol  
Joanne Laplante  
Ward Loveday  
Gillian McCann  
Stephen Tedesco  
Kathy Wilcox  
Cheryl Sutton  
Shannon MacCarthy (Student Observer – non-voting)  
Arja Vainio-Mattila (Provost – non-voting)  
Christine Dowdall (University Secretary – non-voting)

**Regrets:** Paul Cook  
Mitchell Crown

**Guests:** Abby Blazczyk  
Cristin Christopher  
Renee Hacquard  
Casey Phillips

Recording Secretary: Maggie Daniel, Executive Assistant, Office of the President

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**1. Opening Remarks/Call for Conflicts of Interest – Bobby Ray, Committee Chair**

The meeting was called to order at 2:32 p.m. The Committee Chair welcomed everyone to the first Fundraising Committee meeting of the new year and spoke about the growth of the University's philanthropic culture over the past year. Several items were highlighted, including record attendance at the Donor and Student Award Social, receipt of the fourth largest endowment in the University's history, and the successful execution of the unveiling of the Sparrow Family Experiential Learning Centre space.

**2. Election of Committee Vice-Chair**

As outlined in the committee terms of reference, a Vice-Chair is to be selected for the committee at the first meeting of the year. As a result, Kathy Wilcox agreed to assume the position.

### **3. Review of Committee Terms of Reference**

The Chair reviewed the committee terms of reference, highlighting how the Fundraising Committee supports the University in general and the Advancement Department in particular.

### **4. Review of Annual Work Plan**

The Annual Work Plan was reviewed. The annual appeal to Board Members, virtual fundraising, alumni relations and updates on the advancement campaign are some of the items the committee can expect to see this year.

### **5. Advancement Report – *Cristin Christopher, Director, External Relations***

#### *Advancement's Response to COVID-19*

The Director, External Relations, explained that the Advancement Team's response to the COVID-19 pandemic focused on ongoing preparation and planning and includes the incorporation of benchmarking into how the Advancement Department measures their fundraising goals.

The Advancement Team has been focused on storytelling and finding ways to bring donors and alumni closer to the University. Additionally, the team has been reaching out to individual donors to see how they are doing and to make sure they know Nipissing University is listening to them. The team has been doing a great job with stewarding relationships of key major donors and with community partners who have a vested interest in the University.

Other items highlighted in the Director's report included the cancellation this year of the annual Homecoming weekend. She also spoke to the virtual Alumni Awards event that will take place in late November and the virtual Donor and Student Award Social that will take place later this year. The organization of a Giving Tuesday appeal is underway. The event, which is scheduled to take place on December 1, 2020, will go along with the national day of giving. More information about the event will be forthcoming.

It was reported that as of September 17, 2020, the Student Emergency Fund had supported 384 students. This fund was established at the beginning of the pandemic to provide urgent financial assistance to students unable to cover immediate, essential expenses as a result of the crisis. Alumni have been the primary donors towards this initiative, followed by members of the Board of Governors and faculty. Several recipients have shared their personal stories, noting that the funds helped cover such things as income loss, housing insecurity, family support and urgent travel.

#### *Financial Summary*

The Year to Date (YTD) total of donations to the University is \$62,578.12, with a total of 299 donors. The average donation is just over \$209.

Other awards and donations were highlighted. This included the Shelby Dickey Memorial Award which was launched in April. The award is to be given annually to a female Nordic skier, and the first recipient of the award has been selected.

*Capital Campaign Update*

The President’s Capital Campaign Steering Committee has now been populated. The committee, which is separate from the Board’s Fundraising Committee, is made up of University executives, faculty and external partners. The new committee will support the Advancement team by helping open doors with key contacts.

**6. Other Business**

No other business.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:48 p.m.



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Recording Secretary

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Chair of Fundraising Committee

NIPISSING UNIVERSITY BOARD OF GOVERNORS

**PLANT & PROPERTY COMMITTEE MEETING**

**OPEN SESSION**

October 19, 2020

The Plant & Property Committee met on Monday, October 19, 2020, at 3:30 p.m. via Zoom Remote Conferencing.

Members present: Joanne Laplante, Chair  
Cheryl Sutton  
Hannah Mackie  
Judy Smith  
Judy Koziol  
Ryan Hehn  
Donna Forget  
Dave Smits  
Marianne Berube  
Shannon MacCarthy (non-voting)  
Arja Vainio-Mattila (non-voting)  
Christine Dowdall, University Secretary (non-voting)

Regrets: Paul Cook

Guests: David Drenth, Director, Facilities  
Casey Phillips, AVP Students  
Renee Hacquard, Director, Finance

Recording Secretary: Abby Blaszczyk, Executive Assistant, Office of the President

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**1. Opening Remarks/Call for Conflicts of Interest**

The Committee Chair called the meeting to order at 3:31 p.m. She called for conflicts of interest regarding any of the agenda items; no such declarations were made.

**2. Selection of Committee Vice-Chair**

Dave Smits agreed to serve as committee vice-chair for this academic year.

**3. Review of Committee Terms of Reference**

The committee terms of reference were reviewed.

**4. Review of Annual Work Plan**

The draft Annual Work Plan was reviewed. There were no recommendations for changes.

## 5. Capital & Construction Update

The Director of Facilities provided a capital and construction update. The presentation, which is appended to the PDF version of these minutes, included the following topics:

- **Student Centre**

The 32,000 square foot Student Centre is expected to be completed by the end of October.

- **Project List**

The Director reviewed the annual list of projects funded through various programs and budgets. Some of the highlights included items listed as “immediate”, such as the campus transformer replacement and related infrastructure, roofing replacement, and an immersive classroom.

- **FRP Funding**

Nipissing University has been allocated almost \$1.65 million in Facilities Renewal Program (FRP) funding for 2020-21. This is a significant funding increase over previous years. A list of eligible projects was provided, and the Director reviewed a number of campus projects that will be covered under the FRP.

Questions raised included whether or not the funding could be used toward improving access on campus and how the project list is determined. The Director confirmed that he will review elevator access on campus, and he noted that while some projects are added to the list on an urgent basis, many are planned renovations or time sensitive projects.

## 6. Operational Readiness Planning

The University, under the guidance of the Operational Readiness Committee, has safely welcomed approximately 150 employees back to campus. In addition, the Athletics Centre and Library are now open for student use. Employees and students visiting campus are required to complete a COVID-19 self-assessment before accessing any of the campus buildings.

## 7. Other Business

A concern was raised regarding the lack of sidewalks from the Student Centre northwards on College Drive. The Director of Facilities noted that he has already reached out to the City with regards to this issue, and he will follow up prior to the next committee meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 4:17 p.m.

# NIPISSING

U N I V E R S I T Y



**Plant and Property - October 2020**

# Plant and Property Committee Meeting

## Capital and Construction

1. Student Centre Construction
2. Project List
3. FRP Funding
4. Operational Readiness Planning





# Student Centre Construction

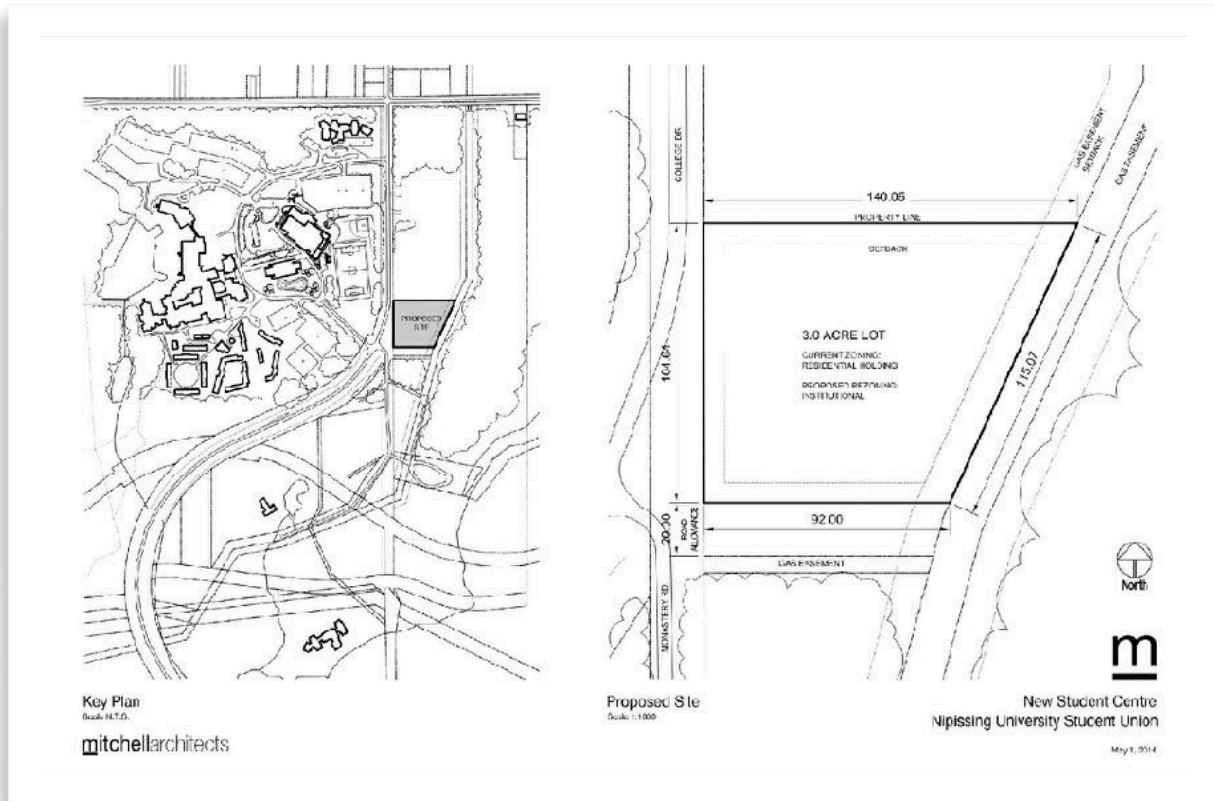
## NUSU Student Centre

### Project Description:

- Construction of a new 32,000 square foot building on the former Larocque farm property
- The project scope includes site development, parking, and construction of the new facility



# Student Centre Construction



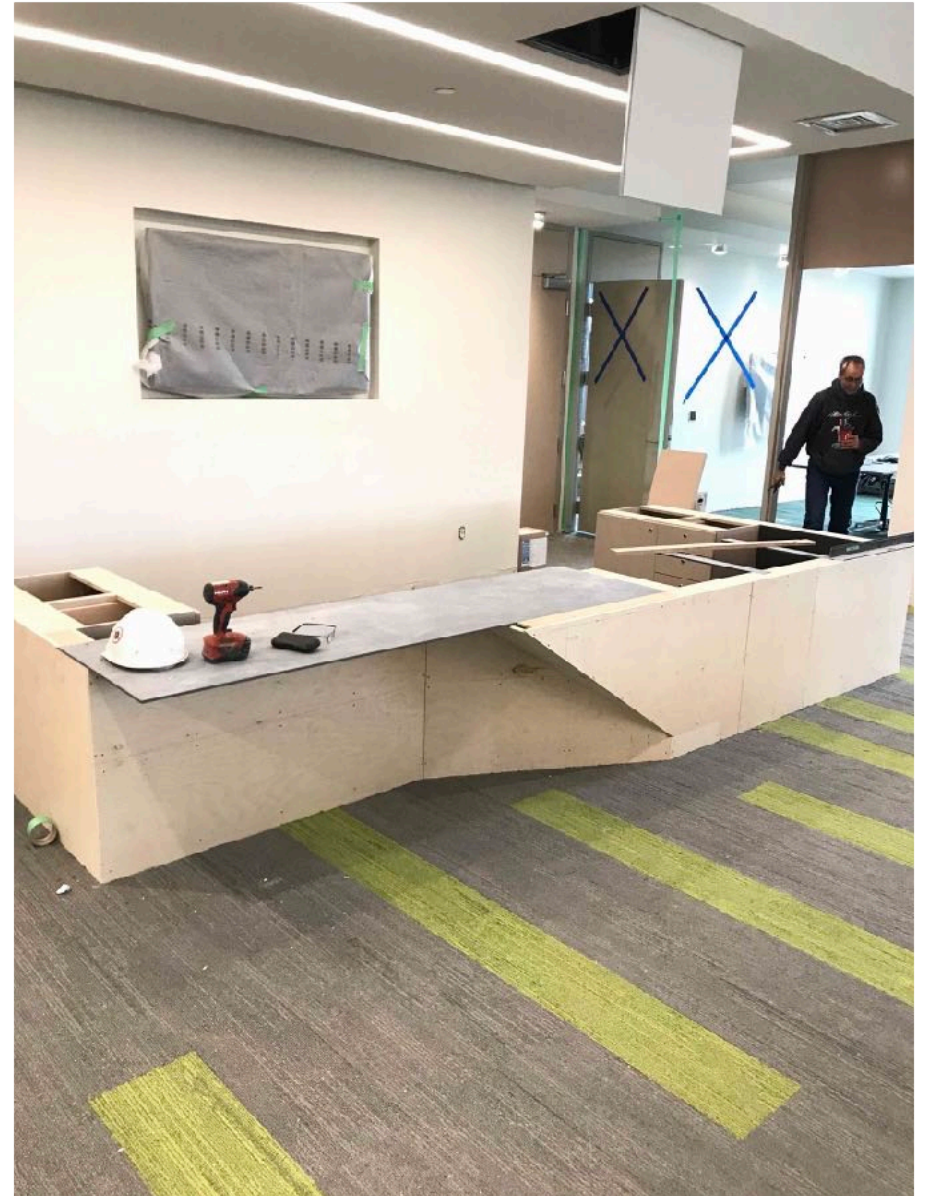
## Project Status Update

- Architect: Mitchell Jensen Architects
- Contractor: Kenalex Development LTD
- Funds: Construction contract awarded at \$13,780,620
- There are currently 57 change orders approved representing a 3.7% increase to the contract amount
- To date this is covered in the project contingency funds and cash allowances

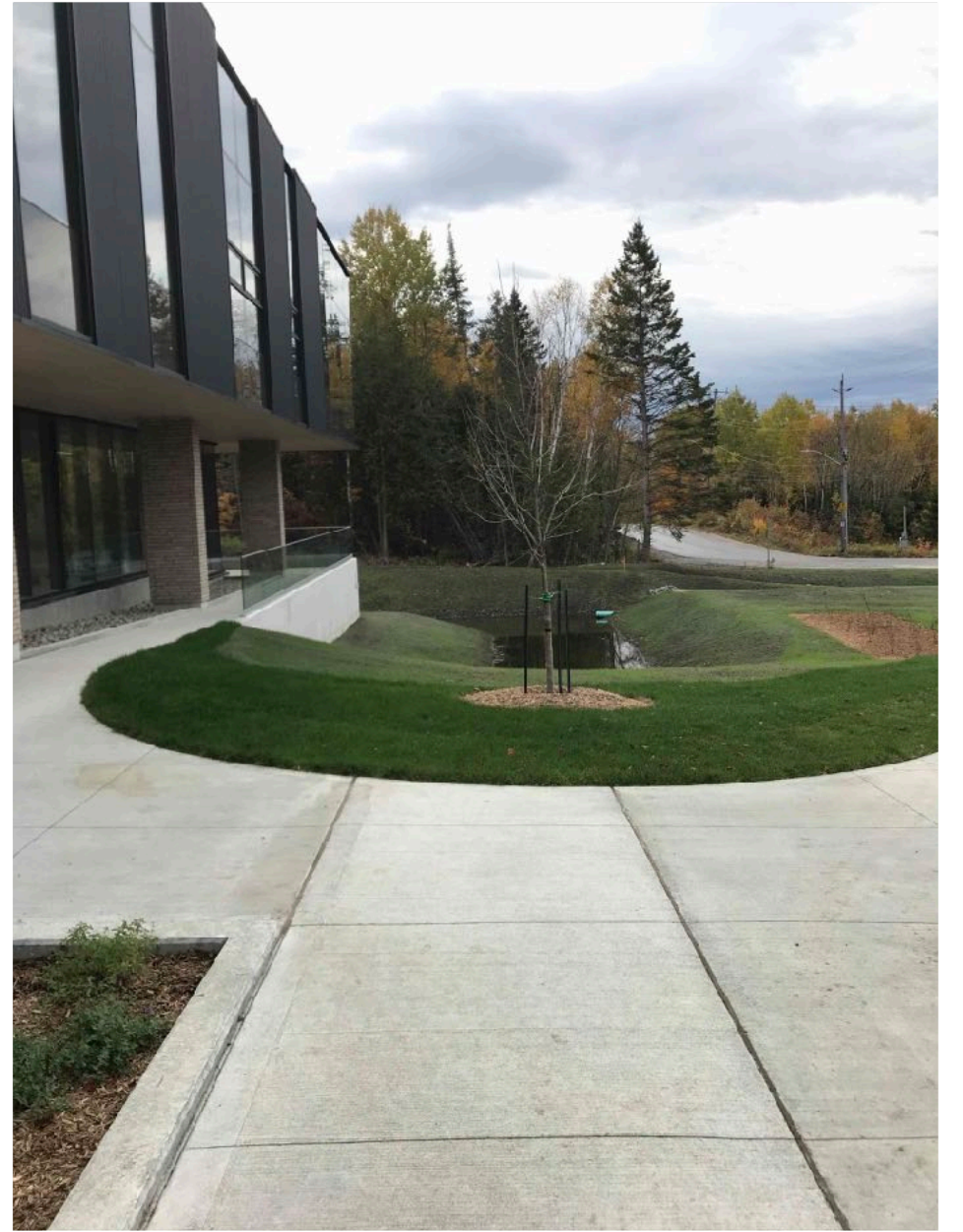


# Construction Status Update

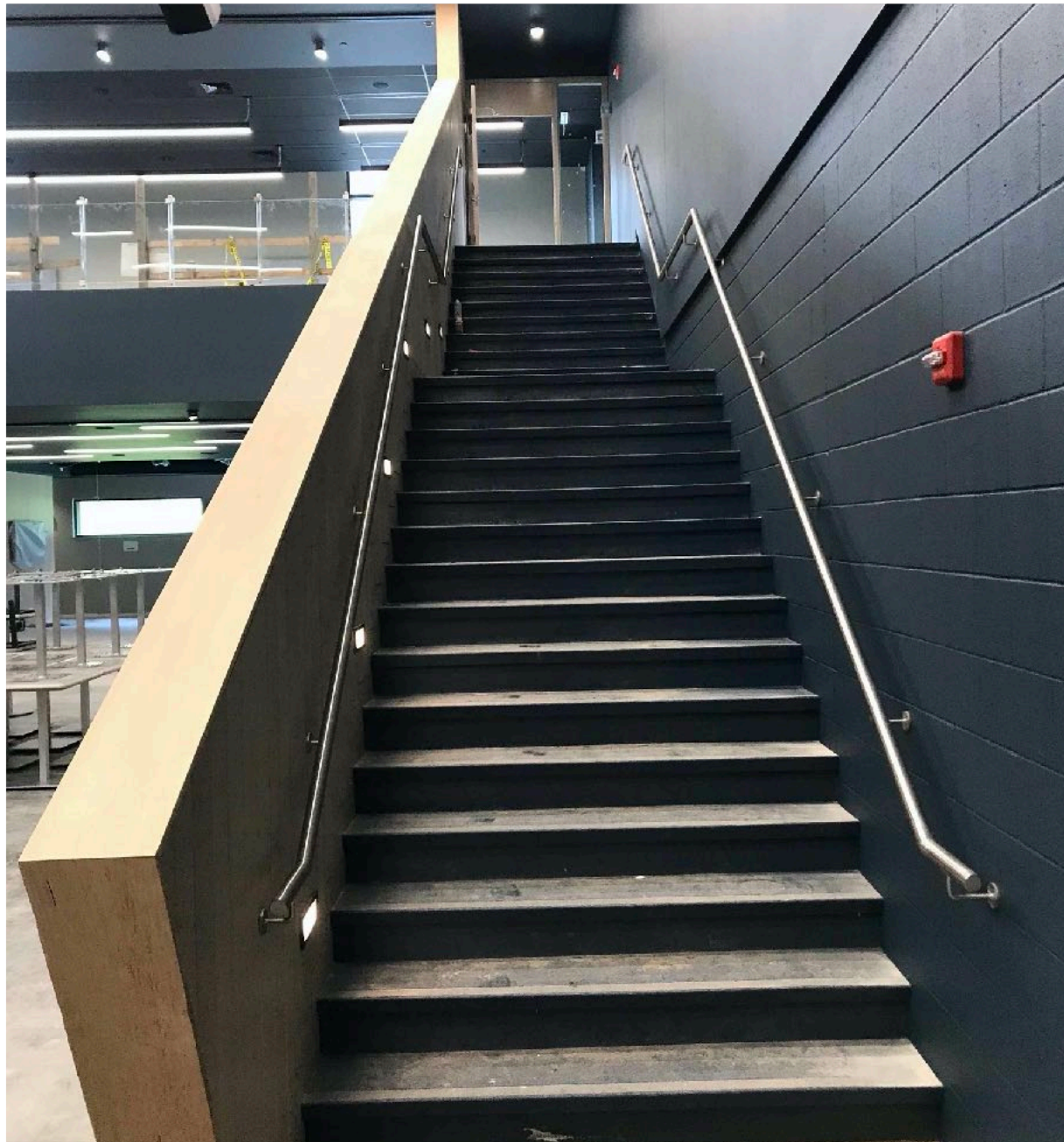
- Landscaping is near completion
- Wood door installations underway
- Millwork installation ongoing
- Carpet flooring installation in progress including washrooms and reception desk



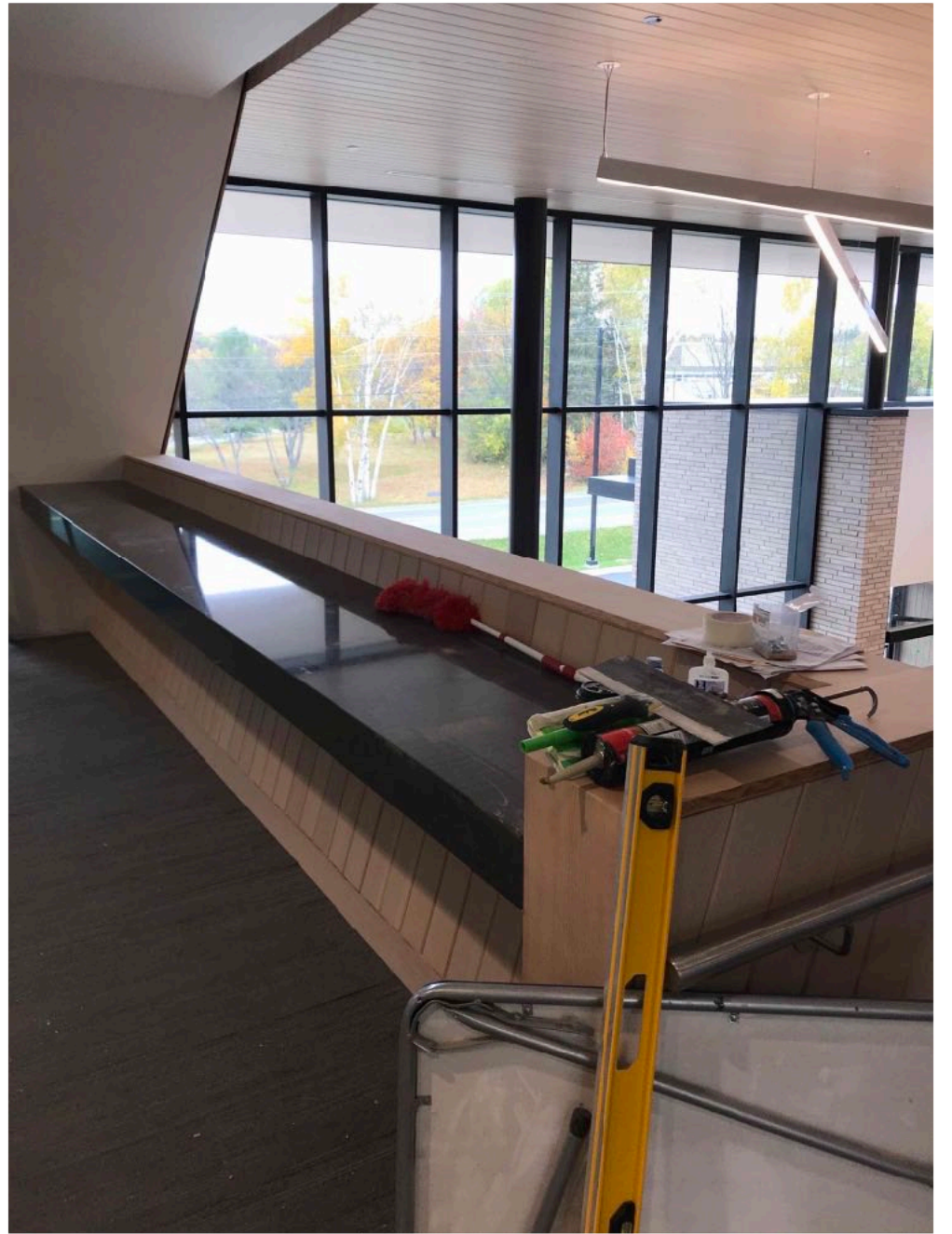
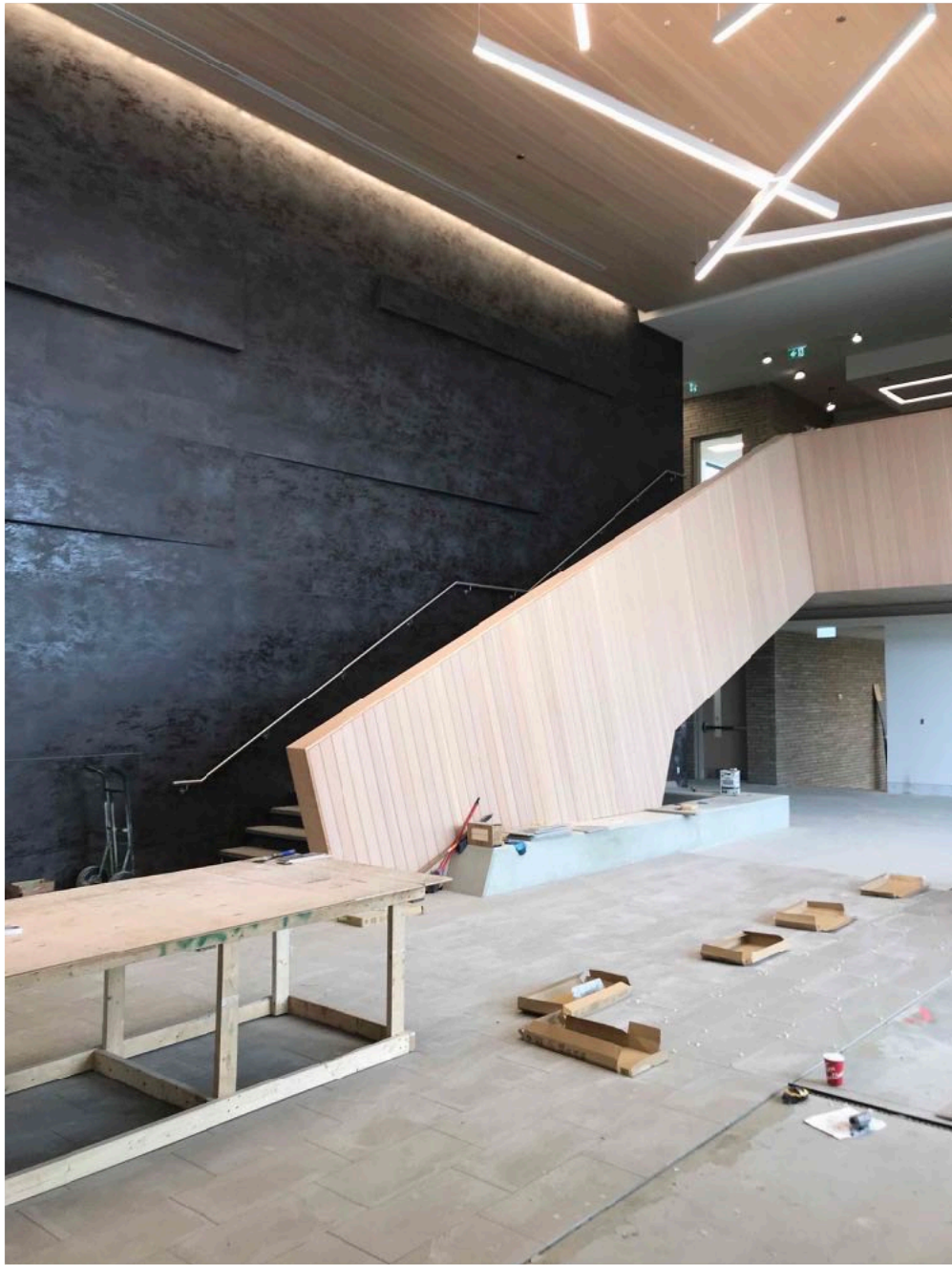




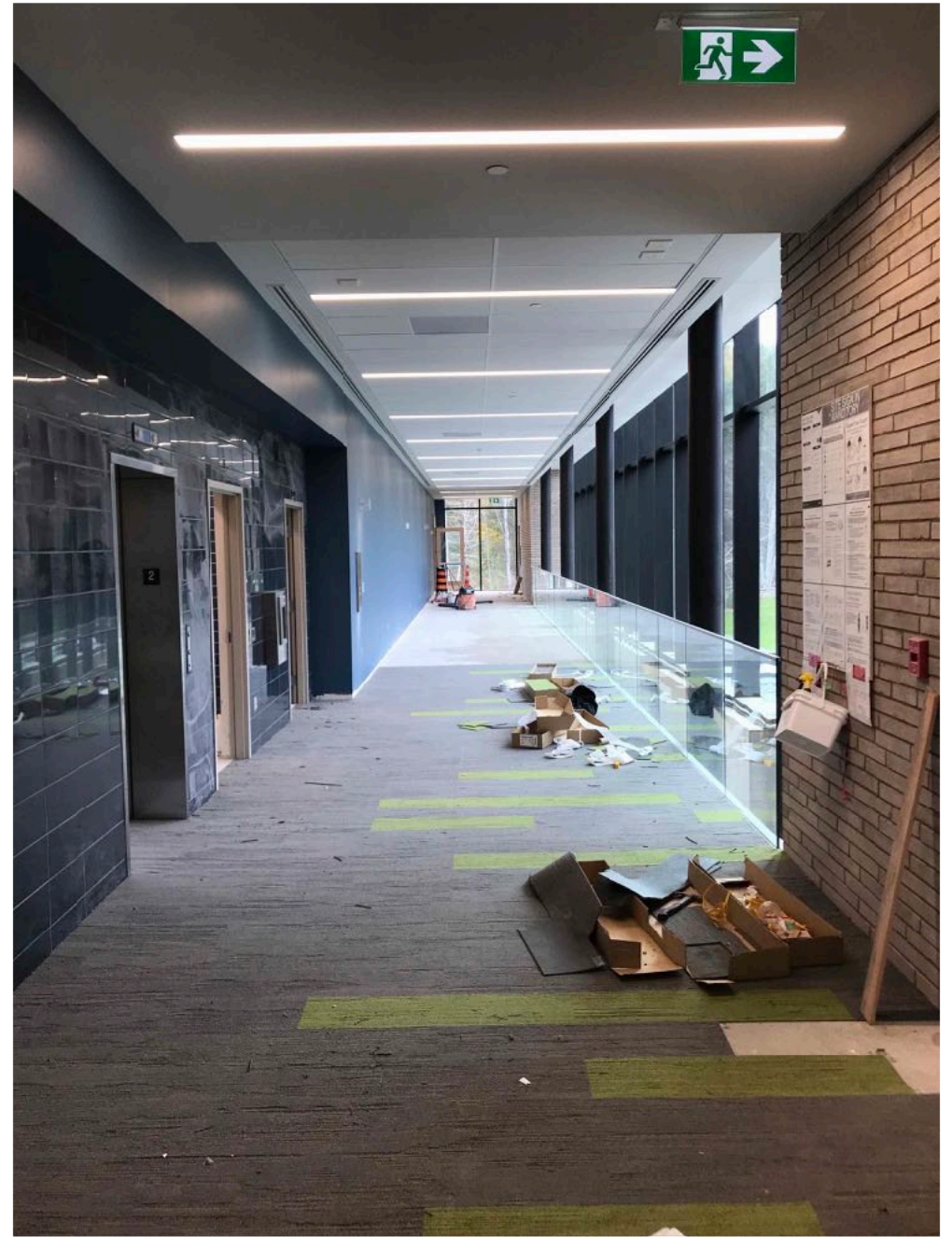














# Project List

## Planning and Funding

- Review annual list of projects funded through various programs and budgets

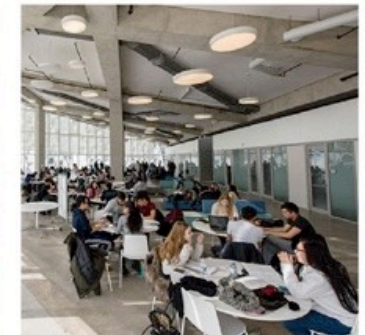
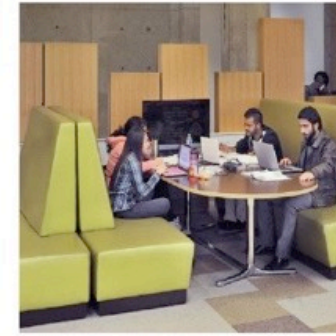
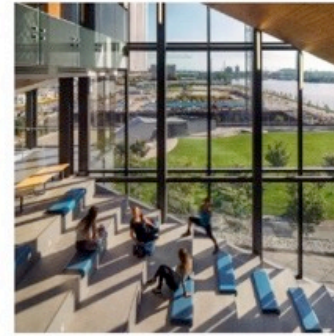
### Site Pictures



Completed Jack Unit



Completed Hydraulic Control Valve





**Facilities - Capital and Construction  
Future Plans**

	Budget Amount				Total	Asset	Status	Costs incurred to date	% complete	Over/under budget	Notes
	Capital	Funded (FRP or other)	Ancillary	Shared capital							
<b>IMMEDIATE</b>											
Covid-19 Projects	TBD				\$ -	Campus	TBD				Keeping tally of expenses incurred for Covid-19 related items
Transformer Replacement and Infrastructure		\$ 150,000			\$ 150,000	Campus	Ongoing	\$ -	90%		Waiting on insurance to determine coverage
A-Wing Roofing Replacement - PH1	\$ -	\$ 275,000			\$ 275,000	Education Centre	TBD				Last major section of roofing on TEC to be addressed - Phase option
Immersive Classroom Reno		\$ 100,000			\$ 100,000	Education Centre	Approved	\$ -			Design drawings complete and reviewed by A/V Consultant
A-Wing Elevator		\$ 56,177			\$ 56,177	Education Centre	Approved	\$ -	20%		Required for compliance with TSSA - tender awarded
TRC Roofing			\$ 45,000		\$ 45,000	Townhouse Rez	Approved	\$ 45,000	100%		Work Completed
Pond Rehabilitation		\$ 50,000			\$ 50,000	Education Centre	TBD				Phased approach to restoring pond infrastructure
Campus Paving		\$ 30,000			\$ 30,000	Campus	TBD				Required campus road repairs
A-Wing Washroom Upgrade	\$ 100,000				\$ 100,000	Education Centre	TBD				Update washroom to current standards - save energy and water
Nursing Sim Labs	\$ 250,000				\$ 250,000	Education Centre	TBD				Required for in-house program delivery
Athletics Repairs and Upgrades	\$ 112,000				\$ 112,000	Athletics	TBD				
Fire Protection Panel Upgrades	\$ 50,000				\$ 50,000	Education Centre	TBD				Required for compliance
Student Centre		\$ 15,200,000			\$ 15,200,000	Student Centre	Ongoing	\$ 10,463,000	70%		Construction progressing well - reference invoice update
<b>MEDIUM TERM (Must be addressed this year)</b>											
Academic Advising Reno (Grad Studies)	\$ 200,000				\$ 200,000	Education Centre	TBD				Service improvement for students
Advancement/Development Space Reno	\$ 300,000				\$ 300,000	F-Wing	TBD				Space efficiency and productivity upgrade
<b>LONG TERM (Could be deferred to next year)</b>											
Agora at Front Entrance	\$ 350,000				\$ 350,000	Education Centre	TBD				Sourced from Academic Space Plan Audit
SPP Space renovation	\$ 350,000				\$ 350,000	Michener Institute	TBD				Renovate classroom space for SPP Students with UHN
Outdoor Classroom Construction	\$ 650,000				\$ 650,000	Campus	TBD	\$ -			Being prepped for tender - project with estimator for budget cost
LED Outdoor Lighting	\$ 70,000	\$ 70,000			\$ 140,000	Campus	TBD				Replace end of life outdoor lighting fixtures with LED
HILL Compact Shelving Space Reno	\$ 50,000				\$ 50,000	Harris Learning Library	TBD				Remove compact shelving and restore space
Washroom Upgrades	\$ 100,000				\$ 100,000	Education Centre	TBD				Gender Neutral Renovation
Surtees Gym A Lighting retrofit	\$ 50,000				\$ 50,000	Athletics	TBD				Attractive payback on energy savings
Master Campus Plan	\$ 75,000				\$ 75,000	Campus	TBD				Long overdue
Parking Lot #2 Expansion	\$ 150,000				\$ 150,000	Campus	TBD				Parking addition for NU side of campus
Multi Faith Space Reno	\$ 50,000				\$ 50,000	Education Centre	TBD				Requirement for compliance
Access Control Doors				\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000	Education Centre	TBD				Annual
NU Front Entrance Overhaul	\$ 250,000				\$ 250,000	F-Wing	TBD				Improve 'first impression' and service for visitors
Safety & Accessibility Projects	\$ 50,000				\$ 50,000	All	TBD				Refer to Accessibility reports
Flooring - Suite Common Tiling			\$ 80,000		\$ 80,000	Founder's House	TBD				\$2850/unit
Flooring - Suites Carpeting			\$ 63,525		\$ 63,525	Founder's House	TBD				\$700/bedroom/living room
Window Replacement - Bedroom			\$ 12,000		\$ 12,000	Founder's House	TBD				Phase by floor - \$160/bedroom & \$115/awning
Window - Common to Building			TBD		\$ -	Founder's House	TBD				Need Assessment & Estimate
Building Envelope - Siding			TBD		\$ -	Founder's House	TBD				Need Assessment & Estimate
Furnace/AC Refurbishment			TBD		\$ -	Founder's House	TBD				Need Assessment & Estimate
Chartwells Tim Hortons Reno - Deferred to 21			\$ 250,000		\$ 250,000	Education Centre	Approved	\$ -			Compliance requirement for Chartwells Food Services

# FRP Funding

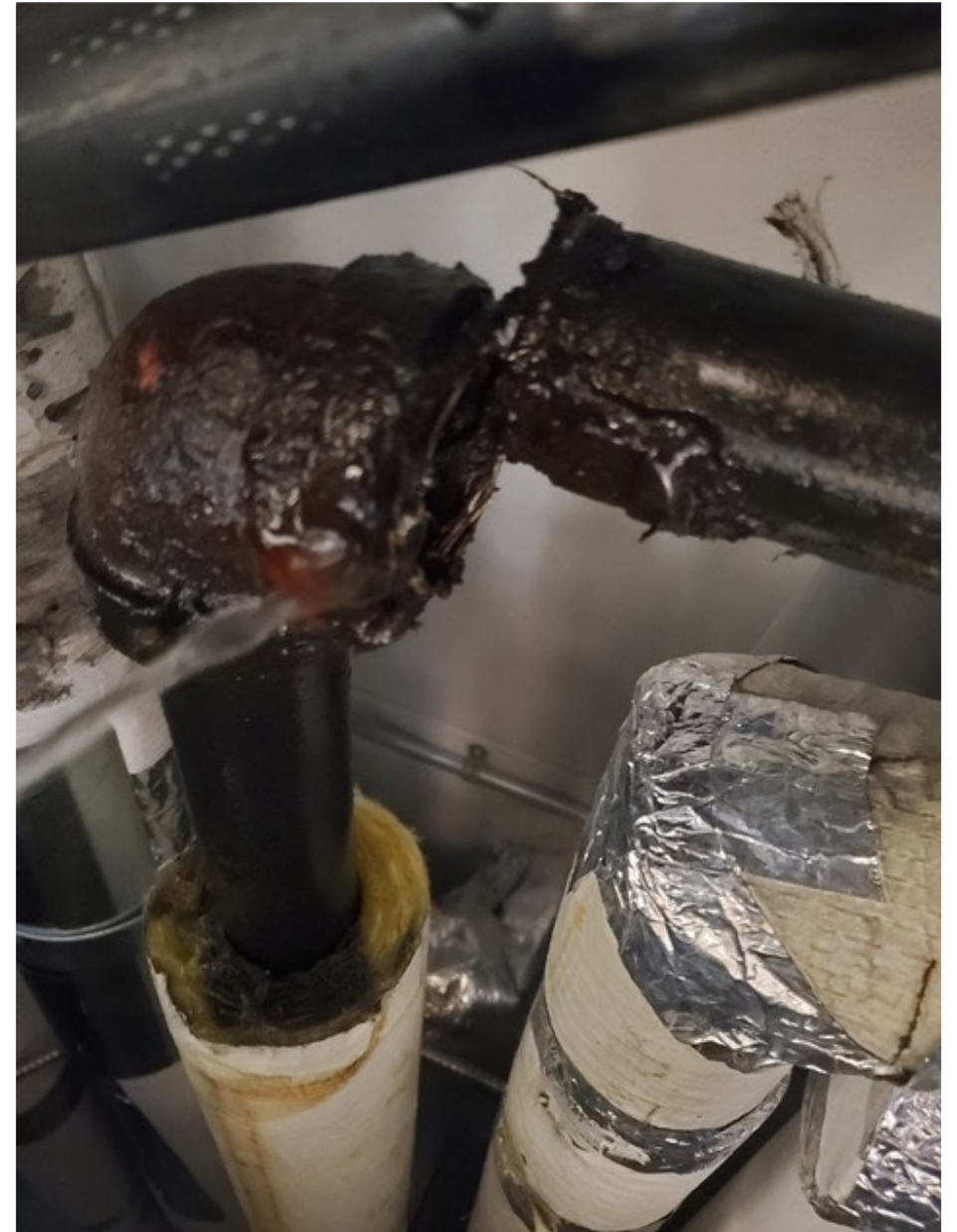
## Facility Renewal Program

- The purpose of the Facilities Renewal Program is to assist postsecondary education institutions with renewing and modernizing their campuses through the repair and renovation of existing facilities and campus infrastructure.
- Previously allocated just over \$400k in the previous few years
- 2020-21 Nipissing University has been allocated \$1,648,700
- Examples of eligible items include:
  - repairs made to the fabric and structure of buildings;
  - repairs to building service equipment and electrical or mechanical systems, and built-in general academic support equipment;
  - alterations and renovations to existing space to improve the condition and efficiency of teaching and research functions;
  - improvements to remove accessibility barriers to persons with disabilities



# Athletics Building Water Piping Replacement

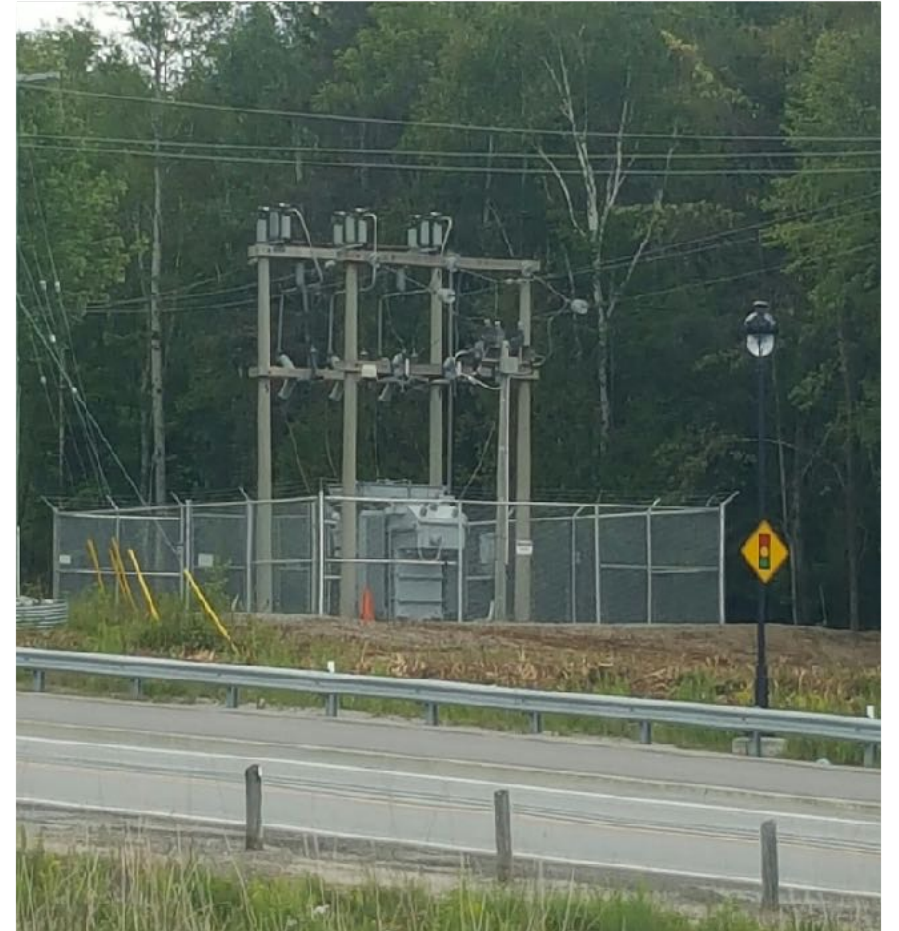
- Original building water line premature failure due to heavy corrosion
- Estimated cost ~ \$125,000
- Scope includes piping replacement and water damage repairs





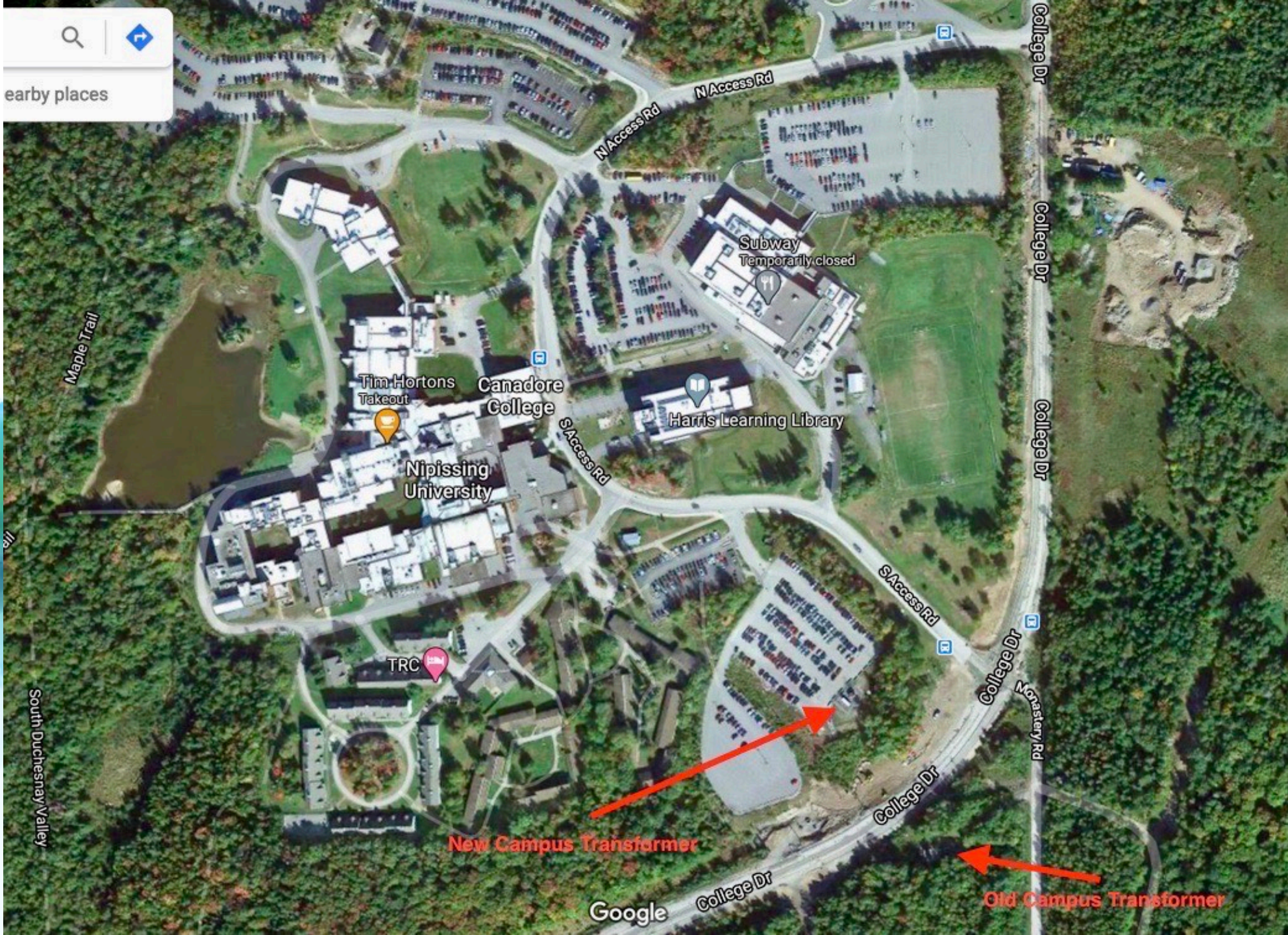
# Campus Transformer Replacement

- Main campus transformer failure this past summer
- Estimated cost ~ \$150,000
- Waiting for insurance determination to finalize budget commitment





nearby places



Maple Trail

Tim Hortons  
Takeout

Canadore  
College

Nipissing  
University

Subway  
Temporarily closed

Harris Learning Library

TRC

New Campus Transformer

Old Campus Transformer

South Duchesnay Valley

Google



# A-Wing Roofing Replacement

- Numerous leaks similar to F-Wing last year
- Estimated cost ~ \$275,000
- 2 remaining portions for future allocations







# Operational Readiness Planning

## Campus Access Phase Review

- Phase 0 - Restricted Campus Access
  - Essential duties only
- Phase 1 - Required Campus Access
  - Minimal permitted campus operations only
- Phase 2 - Limited Campus Access (CURRENT)
  - Optimal campus operations remaining in compliance with public health guidelines
- Phase 3 - Open Campus Access
  - All on-site services restored as required with access open to all visitors

## Phase 2 Status

- Approximately 150 employees accessing the campus on regular basis
- Thorough department walkthroughs with employees for feedback
- Library opened for service - very little activity initially
- Athletics opened in Stage 2 of a well developed internal operational plan
  - Some ice rink training following the city's protocols
- Research Recovery remains in Stage 2 as final Stage
  - Approximately 12 researchers back in labs.







## Board of Governors Alumni Report

### NU Café

- November is Career Month and we have many exciting events for students and alumni. In coordination with Courtney Picard, the new Career Services Coordinator, we will be offering weekly events geared to supporting students and alumni on their career journey. Whether it is putting a resume together or deciding what career path to take, we have something for everyone. Visit [www.tenthousandcoffees.com/schools/nipissingu](http://www.tenthousandcoffees.com/schools/nipissingu) to join the Career Month events.

### Alumni Awards

- We will be announcing and celebrating our alumni award winners the week of November 23<sup>rd</sup>. Please stay tuned to the NU News for the official announcement and our social media for engaging videos from each winner. We look forward to celebrating their accomplishments with you.

### Storytelling

- We are always looking for interesting alumni to highlight for our ongoing support of advancement and University fundraising efforts. If you notice an alumni doing great things or have a story to tell, please contact our office at [alumni@nipissingu.ca](mailto:alumni@nipissingu.ca). These stories will be featured to alumni for Giving Tuesday on Dec 1<sup>st</sup> and ongoing e-newsletters/social media.

**Nipissing University Indigenous Council on Education Report  
Submitted to Board of Governors  
November, 2020**

The Nipissing University Indigenous Council on Education met on September 29, 2020. The NUICE Terms of Reference were discussed at the meeting and edits were subsequently approved by the NUICE. Moving forward, the NUICE will meet no fewer than four times per year with most meetings annually via Zoom. The NUICE will meet again in November, 2020.

**Indigenous Student Success**

As collated by Institutional Planning for our report on the Indigenous Student Success Fund, 2019-2020, Indigenous student enrollment at Nipissing University for 2019-2020 was 433 students or 7% of total domestic enrolment (as measured by full-time headcount). Please note that Indigenous students accounted for 21% of Spring/Summer enrolment. Part-time Indigenous students accounted for 9.8% of domestic part-time enrolment. There were 74 self-identified Indigenous graduates in 2019-2020.

**Indigenous Student Success Fund**

We submitted our report to the Ministry of Colleges and Universities (MCU) for the Indigenous Student Success Fund on May 28, 2020. This report is reviewed and signed by the Chair of NUICE and the President prior to submission. The Indigenous Student Success Fund Report template is divided into four sections:

1. Enrolment and Graduation Data
2. Indigenous Education Council, Student Representation and Staffing Complements
3. Indigenous Student Services
4. Accomplishments

This year the MCU added a section to the report on Student Supports During COVID-19. An additional financial reporting template must also be completed annually.

We receive \$675,886 annually from the Indigenous Student Success Fund in support of Indigenous Student Success programs and services in the Office of Indigenous Initiatives and Schulich School of Education's Indigenous Education Programs. The Indigenous Education Branch, Ministry of Colleges and Universities has confirmed that allocations for the Indigenous Student Success Fund at the same level as last fiscal year will be released to universities and colleges for this fiscal year.

**Return to Campus**

Staff in the Office of Indigenous Initiatives are gradually returning to campus full time. These staff primarily provide direct student support. Students may schedule in-person appointments with OII staff. We are also offering remote meetings, virtual workshops and access to Elders, the Dibaadan Counsellor and Indigenous knowledge holders online.

**Summer Indigenous Institute**

The program was initially intended for on campus delivery and quickly converted for online delivery. Students were provided with Apple iPads in rugged cases and fitted with sim cards to mitigate internet connection issues. Students participated in two Indigenous studies courses, INDIG 1506 On the Land, From the Land: Indigenous Worldviews and INDIG 1507 Critical Learning Skills in Indigenous Contexts. The instructor combined daily synchronous or live class sessions with asynchronous tasks. Students were supported in and outside of their classes by four Mentor/Tutors who received comprehensive training and preparation to support transition to university studies and academics throughout the program using online platforms. The Mentor/Tutors offered daily drop-in tutoring sessions, academic workshops, cultural and

social activities. The students were also supported through a visiting Elder program as well as the Dibaadan Counsellor. Twenty-one students successfully completed the program. A video project focused on the sharing of Indigenous knowledge was initiated in the spring to complement the program and offer opportunity for Fall/Winter workshops with local Indigenous knowledge holders involved in the video project. The completed videos are expected to be delivered in November 2020. The research component of the program focused on student well-being (mind, body and spirit) and the development of success indicators that were measured before and at the end of the first cohort and then intermittently over the following two years through interviews. A draft report has been completed with the final report to be submitted before March 31, 2021. OII staff submitted a revised budget to the Ministry of Colleges and Universities given that the Summer Indigenous Institute moved online in 2020, which was approved.

### **Indigenous Education Programs Update – September 2020**

On-Campus Indigenous Education Programs Summer Numbers:

- 22 Indigenous Teacher Education Program
- 23 Indigenous Classroom Assistant Diploma Program Year 1
- 5 Indigenous Classroom Assistant Diploma Program Year 2
- 4 Teacher of Indigenous Languages as a Second Language

- Despite some students experiencing initial technical/connection issues, our students transitioned to our online program in July 2020. With the successful completion of the summer component, our students are now taking their fall online course.
- Our Peer Support Leaders, who provided technical and academic support through the summer, will be continuing in this role over the fall and winter semester.

### **Off-Campus Indigenous Teacher Education Program-Bimose (Kenora)**

- With the closure of schools in the spring of 2020, the start of the 2nd year practicum requirements was delayed to the fall of 2020. However, with the anticipation of a second wave of Covid-19, as well as schools transitioning to online and/or remote teaching, the 2nd year practicum will begin in January 2021 (anticipated completion date of April 2021).
- Our current cohort of 15 students are completing their last 2 courses this fall (virtually).

### **Innu Education (Labrador)**

- Continuing to work with Innu Education to deliver 2 separate programs in each community along Labrador coast.
- Program will be delivered over 1 full calendar year, rather than as a 2-summer program.
- We anticipate a January 2021 start date, but exact details are still being finalized.

### **Kenjgewin Teg (Manitoulin Island)**

- An agreement was signed with Kenjgewin Teg in September 2020.
- A joint announcement was made.
- They are current marketing the program to be delivered on Manitoulin Island starting in January 2021.

### **Oshki-Pimache-o-win: The Wenjack Institute (Thunder Bay)**

- We anticipate welcoming back ICADP students to Thunder Bay in the summer of 2021.
- We will be working with Oshki-Pimache-o-win to renew our current agreement by spring 2021.

### **Enji giigdyang, Office of Indigenous Initiatives Events 2019-2020**

In addition to Darrel McLeod's talk on campus in fall 2019, Penny Couchie of Nipissing First Nation, Muriel Miguel from Kuna and Rappahannock Nations, and Sid Bobb from Salish Territory British

Columbia provided a talk for the Enji giigdoyang Speaker Series. They shared their professional experiences in Indigenous theatre over decades.

Indigenous Week 2020 took place Monday, February 24 to Friday, February 28, 2020 on campus. Indigenous Initiatives organized a number of workshops, talks and teachings by Elders, including a strawberry teaching with Carol Guppy, a traditional feast with Kirby Mianscum, and a wampum belt beading workshop with Brenda Lee.

Highlights of Indigenous Week included a screening of *Falls Around Her* on Tuesday, February 25th at the Capitol Centre. This event was co-presented by North Bay Film and Near North Mobile Media Lab. The screening was followed by a Q & A with filmmaker, Darlene Naponse, of Atikameksheng First Nation.

The keynote, “Team Ahkamiymok Adventures: Living an Amazing Life,” was given by Anthony Johnson and Dr. James Makokis on Friday, February 28th in the Nipissing Theatre. This event was co-presented by North Bay Indigenous Hub. While visiting North Bay, Anthony Johnson and Dr. James Makokis also provided workshops at the North Bay Indigenous Friendship Centre and the North Bay Indigenous Hub.

Anthony Johnson’s, Navajo Nation, story is one of hope, overcoming adversity, dealing with racism, activism, community engagement and success. His story allows people to have a stronger understanding of the challenges individuals from the LGBTQ2 and First Nation communities face and he provides practical solutions to treat others inclusively and with respect.

Dr. James Makokis, Saddle Lake Cree Nation, is one of Canada's leading experts related to Indigenous culture, traditions, values, and customs. Dr. Makokis also currently heads one of Canada's leading LGBTQ2 and Transgender focused medical practices and commits himself to saving lives through his progressive empathetic approach to medicine.

Anthony Johnson and Dr. James Makokis recently became the first Two-Spirit team to compete on the Amazing Race Canada and received national attention for their participation on the show, while bringing new awareness to gender, sexuality and First Nation issues.

## **Provost's Report to the Board of Governors – November 12, 2020**

Arja Vainio-Mattila, PVPAR

- Recruitment continues to move forward virtually. We have our Open House on November 8<sup>th</sup>.
- So far, applications for the next academic year are up from the same time last year (489 vs. 409).
- We continue to work on updating our Winter schedule (it will be done by Nov 9). Our goal is to minimize the impact on students; they will not need to re-register in courses for which they're already registered.
- An agreement was signed with Kenjgewin Teg in early September 2020 to offer joint delivery of the Indigenous Classroom Assistant Diploma Program (ICADP). Kenjgewin Teg is an Ontario Ministry recognized Indigenous post-secondary institute on Manitoulin Island.
- Dr. Cindy Peltier, Chair of Indigenous Education at Nipissing University, recently released a documentary film entitled *Peltier, C. & Lucas, S.D. (2020) Creative knowledge dissemination with Indigenous communities: The lived experience of Anishinaabe people with cancer and the use of Indigenous healing and western medicine to promote mno bimaadiziwin.*
- The Faculty of Arts and Science continued the Foundations Pathways pilot this year, integrating Indigenous ways of knowing and innovative pedagogies that include a focus on wellness.
- Grad studies students are still completing degree requirements and completing their programs within the context of COVID. Lab based students have been impacted by the pandemic, and we have made adjustments to accommodate students while still meeting the programs' learner outcomes.
- Research is progressing with a Canada Research Chair (CRC) hire in Climate and Environment. We will begin reviewing proposals for a 5<sup>th</sup> CRC position with a Health focus.
- The Online Learning Partners program, which provides student peer support for online learning, has been launched.
- The interim Student Opinion Survey for use during the pandemic has been tested and set up.
- The next Teaching Chairs have been selected. A public announcement will be coming soon.
- A Community of Practice on pedagogy was launched and well attended. This is an opportunity for faculty to share their concerns and their successes.
- The Harris Learning Library opened for student use on October 13. Operating hours are Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. While the building is closed on Saturday/Sunday, staff are in the library from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. to provide assistance and service by phone and email. Curbside pick-up is also available. Students are very happy to be back in the building. Library staff continue to support research, teaching and learning whether it is face to face or through online library instruction classes.
- International recruitment activities have kicked back in to high gear, and most recently, Nipissing participated in the following virtual recruitment fairs: EduCanada Mexico (21 October); EduCanada Latin America (20 October); EduCanada the Philippines (15-19 October); and EduCanada Indonesia (11 October). During these fairs, the NU booth was visited 445 times, and meetings were organized with agents learning about Nipissing for the first time.

## BOARD OF GOVERNORS REPORT ~ ASSISTANT VICE PRESIDENT, STUDENTS NOVEMBER 2020

Departments within Student Development & Services (SDS) continue to support students through the transition into online learning and the Fall 2020 term. Since Mid-September the various functional units have begun their return to campus and the introduction of face-to-face appointment opportunities for students while continuing to offer services through virtual or alternative methods.

The focus within SDS has been on supporting the individual needs of students while attempting to develop a sense of connection to the greater Nipissing University community through virtual means.

**STUDENT COUNSELLING SERVICES:** Student Counselling Services has been busy over the summer and into the fall developing a Model of Service called Pathways to Care. There are new streams of service available for students, so they do not need to only utilize the traditional individual therapy that is offered. There are two ways for students to access services; through a scheduled intake appointment, or through a drop-in appointment. Drop-in appointments are available throughout the day and are offered virtually on a secure platform called Wellness Online, or in-person. This flexibility allows students to obtain rapid access to services.

Some of these new service options include a virtual online library, peer support, and counselling e-support (online modules where a counsellor provides bi-weekly online coaching support). We are also offering two groups this semester: Growing Together and The Four Directions.

**STUDENT INTERVENTION SPECIALIST:** The Student Intervention Specialist (SIS) continues to receive and respond to student referrals through the Student Retention Alert (SRA) system as well as through direct referrals from other staff and departments. A number of students are struggling with the reality of the COVID situation as well as the transition to a virtual learning environment. Students can choose a meeting in-person under specific precautions or they can be supported through video calls, phone calls, or email exchanges. Referrals to additional services and supports continue to be made both within Nipissing University as well as in the community.

**INTERNATIONAL INITIATIVES:** 20WI Outgoing / Incoming Exchange - The Winter 2021 exchanges have been cancelled due to Government travel restrictions and our institutional international insurance provider, Guardme not issuing travel and health insurance. All Fall/Winter 2020/21 exchange students have been offered the ability to transfer their offers of exchange to Fall/Winter 2021/22.

20FW Admitted International Degree Students - On October 20, 2020 the Government released the list of DLI's with approved COVID-19 quarantine plans. At this time Nipissing is not on this list, along with the majority of other Canadian and more specifically Ontario institutions. The Government will only be updating the approved DLI list every two weeks. Currently we have been made aware that our quarantine plan and international readiness plan have received approval from the Ontario government and have been forwarded to the Federal government for approval.

**SEXUAL VIOLENCE PREVENTION & EDUCATION:** At the beginning of the pandemic SVPE services were available to students through a virtual platform. Services are now available to students in-person.

During this academic year 12 workshops have been hosted to date with 140 students attending in total so far. More workshops are scheduled for November and the Winter semester. Action plans have been developed for the Sexual Violence Task Force Report recommendations and are in progress.

**STUDENT LEARNING AND TRANSITIONS:** A new Career Services Coordinator started in mid-September to provide career development support for current students (undergraduate and graduate) and alumni, and to support the career development pieces of the NU Promise program. Careers Month (November) sessions are going to be available next week.



The Academic Success Program has been refreshed to reflect some course specific workshops based on the demand from Peer Tutoring and the Student Learning Coordinators using the Supplemental Instruction model.

An Extended Orientation was provided to students during the month of September to provide strategies for online learning and starting the semester. Virtual sessions included; How to Begin Your Semester; Tackling your Texting; Study Strategies; Technology Series: Part 1: Procrastinators Unite.

**STUDENT ACCESSIBILITY SERVICES:** This Fall, Student Accessibility Services emailed Letters of Accommodation to faculty for over 300 students with disabilities. While the online learning environment has removed some barriers for students with disabilities it has also created new barriers. SAS has been working closely with the Dean of Teaching and Learning Systems Technologists to address accessibility issues, support faculty with their duty to accommodate in an online environment, and implement new assistive software programs (e.g. Textaid) to support student learning and ensure equal access to courses in Blackboard.

**STUDENT SUCCESS, NU PROMISE & NU GATEWAY:** The newly launched NU Gateway program continues to support first year students through a cohort structure led by an upper year student employee. Gateway Community Leaders have been working collaboratively each week to provide opportunities and spaces for first year students to engage with their own cohort of approximately 35 students, as well as with cross community events to engage with students outside of their assigned cohort. The NU Gateway Community Leaders continue to provide social opportunities to enhance the student experience through virtual connections, while also providing referrals, resources, and information to support student success.

Student Retention Alert has been utilized by many faculty members who have identified academic concerns with students in their courses. Faculty continue to reach out to learn more about Student Retention Alert and whether or not their concern is something that should be submitted through the system or not. The increased adoption and utilization of the tool has allowed for timely outreach and intervention to support students with getting connected to support services available on campus and supporting their path to success.

The NU Promise program has seen more students register at this point in the year than in the previous two academic years. This is a significant positive when looking at the difficulties and challenges many areas are experiencing with regard to student engagement and participation. The program continues to serve as a support system to aid students in navigating University life in addition to the intended skill and competency development outcomes.

**ATHLETICS:** All teams have been following our return to train plan and all have successfully made it to stage 4 of our plan. We currently have approximately 200 student athletes in North Bay out of 237 training with their respective teams. The virtual Zumba and Yoga classes have had great attendance numbers and are being utilized by students. The Robert J Surtees Student Athletics Centre is currently in stage 2 (of 3) of its opening plan, which allows students, staff and faculty to utilize the facility during specific appointment times. On average we have had 91 students a day using the Athletics Centre.

**RESIDENCE LIFE:** Residence currently has 359 students in house and 259 applications pending for January as of October 29th. Numbers are anticipated to fluctuate based on on-campus course offerings for January. Many students selected to wait to attend in January based on their hopeful anticipation of a return to in-persons course offerings.

As well, many students attended in the fall with the belief or hope that January would represent a return to more in-person course options. Our Admissions focus will be on determining registrants for the second semester, making placements and plotting the timeline for move-ins and internal transitions for the upcoming winter break.

