MEDIA ADVISORY

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Students Lead Powerful New Art Installation at First Nations University of Canada

Regina, SK – On November 4th, the First Nations University of Canada (FNUniv) unveiled a powerful, student-designed art installation that brought the university's story to life through Indigenous creativity and voice.

Titled *The Making of mino-bimaadiziwin at FNUniv: Our Story Through Our Students' Art*, the project wove together visual art, poetry, music, and dance to depict FNUniv's history, cultural legacy, and aspirations for future generations. The centerpiece mural, *Yesterday, Tomorrow, and Today* (*pihcīnāko, wāpank šikwa nōnkom*), was accompanied by the original song *ê-kâwipimâtahk*, a jingle dance, and student-written poems *Homecoming* and *Heart Realm*—each inspired by stories shared by Elders and the collective journey of SIFC/FNUniv.

Supported by the Mastercard Foundation's EleV Program, the initiative reflected FNUniv's enduring commitment to Indigenous-led, student-centered education and culturally grounded learning. Student and alumni artists collaborated to create the works, which were later digitized into a large-scale vinyl mural on the Regina Campus, with future installations planned for the Saskatoon, Northern, and nēwoskan campuses.

"If there was to be a depiction of FNUniv's story, we knew it had to come from our students," said President Dr. Jacqueline Ottmann. "They are the living voice of this university. Through this project, they created a legacy that honours our past, celebrates our present, and inspires the next seven generations."

The EleV + FNUniv Mural Project showcased how Indigenous art and education intersect to strengthen identity, belonging, and community. By centering student voices, the initiative embodied FNUniv's belief that learning and healing can occur through creative expression—and that art is a vessel for reconciliation.

Event Highlights

- Welcoming remarks by President Dr. Jacqueline Ottmann and Maria Campbell
- Performance of *ê-kâwipimâtahk* by Brayden Benjoe, Amelia Friday, Darian Achikate, and youth performers

- Screening of *The Making of mino-bimaadiziwin at FNUniv* short film
- Poetry readings by Trystan McNabb (*Homecoming*) and McKenzie Sayer (*Heart Realm*)
- Jingle dance performance by Amelia Friday with traditional song
- Presentations by visual artists Larissa Kitchemonia, Brianna LaPlante, Chasity Starr, and Katie Walter
- Video message from the Mastercard Foundation
- Unveiling of the *Yesterday, Tomorrow, and Today* mural

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About the First Nations University of Canada

Established in 1976, the First Nations University of Canada is the country's only national First Nations-owned post-secondary institution. FNUniv serves Indigenous and non-Indigenous students through programs grounded in Indigenous knowledge, languages, and traditions. Learn more at www.fnuniv.ca.

About the Mastercard Foundation

The Mastercard Foundation works with visionary partners to advance education and financial inclusion, enabling young people in Africa and Indigenous youth in Canada to access dignified and fulfilling work. Its EleV Program partners with Indigenous communities and institutions to support 100,000 Indigenous youth in Canada to complete their education and transition to meaningful work aligned with their traditions, values, and aspirations.

Established in 2006 through the generosity of Mastercard when it became a public company, the Foundation operates independently, guided by its Board of Directors and leadership team.

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