

CATEP - COPSE

Jurisdiction: Manitoba

Contact: Susan Deane

Level: Post Secondary

Theme: Teacher Training Programs

Description of Practice:

Community-based Aboriginal Teacher Education Program (CATEP) is a recently added component of the Bachelor of Education ACCESS program offered through the University of Winnipeg (UW) in Manitoba. The program is base- funded by the Province through the Council on Post Secondary Education.

CATEP is an alternative education program specifically designed for Aboriginal educational assistants who are currently employed with Winnipeg school divisions. This program is a mix of part and full time studies and will take up to six and a half years to complete. (The regular teacher education program is five years full-time). Classes are held on Saturdays and one evening a week from September to April. Students will continue to maintain their employment during this time. In May, June, and July, participants will engage in full-time studies and be financially supported through employment insurance benefits. Practicum requirements of the program will be fulfilled within the school divisions.

On graduating, individuals will have the opportunities to seek employment as school teachers in a system that they are familiar with. This will be a step up from being a teacher assistant to a teacher.

Background:

The concept for such a program arose from discussions between the Seven Oaks School Division, Winnipeg School Division, and the former Deputy of Manitoba Advanced Education and Training. Both the Seven Oaks School Division and Winnipeg are working to increase their complement of Aboriginal teachers. A high priority for Government is improving educational opportunities and labour market outcomes for Aboriginal people. This program begins to meet both these priorities.

The UW was first approached in 2003-04, by government to develop a program that offered the teacher education degree to Aboriginal educational assistants working in the two school divisions. The intent was to provide an opportunity for these individuals to pursue an education degree while still remaining employed.

Representatives from the school divisions, the community, and the government worked closely with the UW to design the program. It took two years for the program to become a reality starting from articulating the concept to launching the fully funded program. There are sixteen Aboriginal teacher assistants from two school divisions that are currently enrolled in the program.

Development:

The program is being delivered in partnership with the participating school divisions (Seven Oaks and Winnipeg). These school divisions recruited potential students and

committed to providing employment for cohort participants during and after completing their studies. They have agreed to accommodate payroll deductions for tuition should that be required, and they will also provide professional development supports for the students. The divisions will also host student teaching placements.

Evidence:

The program has only just begun (September 2005) to comment on evidence.

Adaptability:

Considering the design of the program it is likely that this model could be adapted and utilized in other program areas.

Further information:

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