

## **Teacher Education Programs**

Jurisdiction: Saskatchewan

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Level: Post-Secondary

Theme: Teacher Training Programs

### Description of Practice:

Saskatchewan has a long tradition of excellence in First Nations and Métis Teacher Education Programs, commonly referred to as the “TEPS”. TEPS are offered through the Indian Teacher Education Program (ITEP), the Northern Teacher Education Program (NORTEP), the Saskatchewan Urban Native Teacher Education Program (SUNTEP), and the First Nations University of Canada program (formerly the Saskatchewan Indian Federated College). Undergraduate and graduate degrees are available in a wide range of specializations, most with a close link to Anti-Racist Education, Cross Cultural Education, First Nations/Indian Education and Native/Indian Studies. Target participants are First Nations and Métis peoples with or without a Grade 12 academic certificate. University Entrance Programs are available to those teacher trainees who initially do not meet the necessary entrance requirements, such as Grade 12 graduation. The TEP graduates currently provide service and demonstrate leadership across all levels of the education system including: teacher associates, community school coordinators, teachers, school-based administration, consultants, and teacher educators.

### Background:

The main motivating factor in the development of TEPS is the shared desire to improve the educational achievement and success rates for First Nations and Métis students; and secondly, to increase understanding and promote respect towards Aboriginal peoples and communities. Research indicates that the presence of a “significant adult” is the single most important success indicator for Aboriginal students in achieving Grade 12 graduation. More than role-models, TEP graduates serve to reflect the ethnic community in which we live and learn. Equity of benefit and opportunity is a shared goal in the province. Employment Equity initiatives ensured TEP graduates the best opportunity possible to put newfound skills to work in the classroom.

### Development:

A variety of governance structures are hallmarks of the TEP programs. In all cases, a strong commitment to community-based learning is emphasized. SUNTEP is operated under the auspices of the Gabriel Dumont Institute and has locations in Regina, Saskatoon and Prince Albert. SUNTEP funding comes from Saskatchewan Learning for operations, course costs and student tuition. ITEP is funded by Indian and Northern

Affairs Canada and is located on the University of Saskatchewan (Saskatoon) campus. NORTEP is an off-campus Bachelor of Education program that offers its degrees from both the University of Saskatchewan and the University of Regina. NORTEP is operated by an incorporated Board of Directors from representatives from the three northern school divisions and the two First Nation Tribal Councils in northern Saskatchewan.

Evidence:

The TEP graduates enjoy a high employment rate and have the choice of working in either the provincial or First Nation education system. Various research studies have demonstrated the positive impact of TEP graduates at the classroom, school and school division level.

Adaptability:

TEP practices are adaptable to the needs and context of other jurisdictions. Partnership development, stakeholder involvement and relationship building are critical aspects of all TEP programs.

Further Information:

First Nations and Métis Education  
Saskatchewan Learning  
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