

## **MEDIA ADVISORY**

## For Immediate Release

## Sask Polytech hosts Saskatchewan Aboriginal storytelling events

Saskatchewan Polytechnic Celebrates Aboriginal Storytelling Month

**February 23, 2016** – February is Saskatchewan Aboriginal Storytelling Month and Saskatchewan Polytechnic is pleased to participate in this major cultural initiative. CBC Future 40 award winner and Neechie Gear role model, Brad Bellegarde a.k.a. InfoRed, is speaking to Sask Polytech students this Wednesday and Thursday.

"Saskatchewan Polytechnic is excited to bring Bellegarde to our Saskatoon and Prince Albert campuses," says Rian Misfeldt, academic director, Library and Testing Services. "Storytelling is an important part of First Nations and Métis culture. Sask Polytech students will have the opportunity to learn through Bellegarde's stories and performance."

Bellegarde is a proud Nakota/Cree member of the Little Black Bear First Nation. He is a musical artist currently studying journalism at the First Nations University of Canada. A true believer that education is the new buffalo, Brad uses his experience as an artist to engage youth of all ages through performances and workshops.

The main presenter for the month's celebrations is the Library Services for Saskatchewan Aboriginal Peoples. Sask Polytech storytelling events are coordinated by Library Services, Student Services and the Aboriginal Student Achievement Plan.

Event: Brad Bellegarde a.k.a. InfoRed speaks at Sask Polytech

Date: February 24, 2016 at 11:45 a.m.

Location: Saskatoon Campus, Idylwyld Dr.

E.A. Davies Building Auditorium

Date: February 25, 2016 at 10:00 a.m.

Location: Prince Albert Campus, 1100 15th St E

Technical Building Gymnasium

Saskatchewan Polytechnic is working to close the program completion gap between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal students by participating in events such as Saskatchewan Aboriginal Storytelling Month and providing services such as Elder access and transition programs. Additionally, each campus is home to an Aboriginal Activity Centre. Cultural events celebrating and recognizing Aboriginal heritage are open to the entire campus population.

Saskatchewan Polytechnic serves 27,000 distinct students through applied learning opportunities at campuses in Moose Jaw, Prince Albert, Regina and Saskatoon, and through extensive distance education opportunities. Programs serve every economic and public service sector. As a polytechnic, the organization provides the depth of learning appropriate to employer and student need, including certificate, diploma and degree programs, and apprenticeship training. Saskatchewan Polytechnic engages in applied research, drawing on faculty expertise to support innovation by employers, and providing students the opportunity to develop critical thinking skills.

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