New opportunities for Métis students through endowment at MacEwan University

Edmonton- Métis students at MacEwan University have more opportunities to receive student awards through an on-going partnership and generous endowment now totaling $2.5 million from the Métis Nation of Alberta and its affiliates, the Rupertsland Institute and the Métis Nation Education Foundation.

The Métis Scholar Award, established in 2008, is Rupertsland Institute’s first major investment in the realm of post-secondary education. The partnership has seen over 200 awards distributed to Métis students at MacEwan and has created a standard that is used by the Institute in its partnerships with other post-secondary institutions in Alberta.

“MacEwan University is a model institution,” said Lorne Gladu, CEO of Rupertsland Institute. “The impact these awards have on Métis students is phenomenal. Making a further commitment to the endowment was a wise investment to further enhance skill development and employment opportunities for Métis students.”

In honour of the support from the Métis Nation to date, MacEwan University will name the third floor rotunda of the library the “Rupertsland Reading Room.” The university is pleased to be able to celebrate Rupertsland Institute’s recent donation towards their endowment during Métis Week.

“We have many Métis students studying in various programs of the university who benefit from the support of these awards which have aided them in completing their studies and starting their careers,” said David Atkinson, president, MacEwan University. “Reciprocity is an important concept in Indigenous communities and these students are now in a position to bring their expertise to our community which, in turn, allows the circle of giving to continue.”

The Rupertsland Institute was established in 2010 as an affiliate of the Métis Nation of Alberta. The original $1 million gift contributed by the Métis Nation of Alberta in 2008 was matched by MacEwan through Government of Alberta funding, resulting in a $2 million endowment. Recently, the Rupertsland Institute contributed an additional $500,000 bringing the value of the endowment to $2.5 million. The Rupertsland Institute manages and delivers programs that enable Métis individuals to pursue an education, enhance their skill levels to find productive occupations and employment.

Founded in 1971, MacEwan University inspires its students with a powerful combination of academic excellence and personal learning experiences. Offering more than 65 programs including undergraduate degrees, applied degrees, diplomas, certificates, continuing education and corporate training, the university provides a transformative education in a creative, collaborative and supportive learning environment where creativity and innovation thrive. Located in Edmonton, Alberta Canada, MacEwan University offers a unique student experience that opens up diverse pathways for achievement and growth.

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