

# Information Release



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## **KTEI AND WILFRID LAURIER UNIVERSITY FORM NEW PARTNERSHIP TO OFFER MASTERS OF SOCIAL WORK PROGRAM FALL 2014**

[M'Chigeeng, – January 12, 2014] – “We are extremely excited to have our very FIRST graduate level program offered by KTEI be with Wilfrid Laurier University’s Aboriginal Field of Studies Masters of Social Work (MSW) program - a program which is nationally renowned for its cultural inclusiveness and Indigenous pedagogy. I am so excited for this tremendous opportunity!”, said Stephanie Roy, KTEI Executive Director. “This is a once in a lifetime opportunity to especially support our current social work professionals working for our First Nation communities on Mnidoo Mnising using Indigenous and holistic ways of knowing and learning; and, it definitely aligns with KTEI’s beliefs and goals in student learning – this MSW program offers all of what we believe in as an Anishinabek place of learning”.

Since February 2013, KTEI staff Tricia Beaudin, Adult Education Officer and Beverley Roy, Director of Business and Training, have been meeting with Laurier’s Faculty of Social Work to secure this once in a lifetime opportunity on Manitoulin Island. This part-time Master of Social Work program in partnership with Kenjgewin Teg Educational Institute is set to begin in September 2014, and is a program rooted in a holistic Indigenous world view and contemporary social work practice. This unique program includes the use of Indigenous Elders, a traditional circle process, and Indigenous ceremonies. The program begins with Cultural Camps, with the goal of fully immersing students in Aboriginal holistic healing practices and is where students begin to engage in Indigenous healing practices and demonstrate a capacity to practice within this worldview and epistemology. The curriculum, expectations regarding assignments, student development and performance, and activity is exactly the same as the full-time on-campus program. Classes are taught using a combination of Circle processes, dialogue, presentations, video and audio aids - and of course will integrate Mnidoo Mnising’s valuable resource knowledge of Anishinabek Elders of this territory.



In preparation for the newly secured Fall 2014 start date, a student information session has been scheduled for January 21, 2014 at KTEI. There will be two sessions: one in the afternoon at 1 PM and later in the evening again at 5PM. A recruitment representative from Laurier’s MSW Indigenous Field of Study plus two local Islanders and alumni of the MSW program Craig Abottsaway and Dan Garcia will also be on hand to give students first-hand insight of what the program is like and what to expect for the next two years. (It is worth special note that both Craig and Dan regularly travelled from Manitoulin to the WLU – Faculty of Social Work Kitchener, ON campus for their classes on a weekly and monthly basis for

two years – before such opportunities and new partnerships with KTEI were in place!). Employers who may have several employees interested in the program are also encouraged to come out as well, to find out more how the program is intended to balance and deliver a programs that supports both working students and their employers.

This informal session is a great opportunity for interested students to ask both specific and general is questions about the application process and admission requirements. “For new graduate students out there who are not familiar with application and admission requirements at this level of study, I strongly encourage you to come out to this session on the 21<sup>st</sup> – because there is certainly much work ahead in terms of getting all the necessary admission paperwork in to the University by April 1 in order to be considered and have your application reviewed”, said Tricia Beaudin. As is the case with most graduate level programs, students of this program must seriously take the time now to diligently and eloquently prepare their personal statements, secure their academic references, seek employer support (employed professionals), and many other logistical and academic requirements as part of the admissions process.

For more information on the MSW program hosted by KTEI, call Tricia at 705.377.4342.

Background:

Kenjgewin Teg Educational Institute is governed by a Board of Directors consisting of eight First Nation community representatives in the Manitoulin-North shore area and is centrally located on Manitoulin Island – Mnidoo Mnising (M’Chigeeng First Nation) in Northern Ontario. KTEI provides community based-approaches to education, training and business support services and opportunities. In the Ojibwe language, “Kenjgewin Teg” means ‘a place of knowledge’.

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