



THE UNIVERSITY OF WINNIPEG

SAGKEENG FIRST NATION STUDENT BURSARY

Will be awarded annually to a Sagkeeng First Nation student

UW RELEASE – 2011/119

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – FRIDAY, JUNE 24, 2011

WINNIPEG, MB – Dr. Lloyd Axworthy and his wife Ms. Denise Ommanney announce the **Waapshki Pinaysee Inini White Thunderbird Man Bursary**, a \$2,000 annual award to a Sagkeeng First Nation full-time student pursuing undergraduate or graduate studies. If there are no eligible full-time students who apply, then a \$1,000 bursary will be available to a part-time student.

Dr. Lloyd Axworthy, President and Vice-Chancellor, University of Winnipeg, was inducted as an honorary member of Sagkeeng First Nation last July and given the Ojibwe name Waapshki Pinaysee Inini meaning White Thunderbird Man. The **Waapshki Pinaysee Inini White Thunderbird Man Bursary** is part of the Opportunity Fund, a University of Winnipeg initiative that helps ensure that economic circumstances are not a barrier to higher education and opportunities.

"Denise and I want to recognize the honour that was bestowed on me last summer and we felt that a bursary reflects the spirit and generosity that was shared with me by Sagkeeng First Nation," explained Dr. Lloyd Axworthy, President and Vice-Chancellor, University of Winnipeg.

"It has always been our hope that one day we would enter into a partnership built on a solid foundation of respect and integrity," said Chief Donovan Fontaine of Sagkeeng First Nation. "Dr Axworthy and The University of Winnipeg must be recognized and commended for their hard work and commitment in the development of such a partnership with the Sagkeeng First Nation. We firmly believe that education is paramount in the fulfillment of the our Nation's vision of self-determination and economic independence".

Sagkeeng First Nation is located 120 kilometers northeast of Winnipeg on the shore of Lake Winnipeg and is an Anishinaabe First Nation. Sagkeeng, which was once called Fort Alexander, and has a population of approximately 3,000 people.

UWinnipeg is consistently ranked in the Top-10 in the country on an annual basis by both *Maclean's Magazine* and *The Globe & Mail* newspaper. The University of Winnipeg is a leader in academic excellence, Indigenous education, environmental studies, business, and theatre & the arts. Find out more by visiting www.uwinnipeg.ca. Follow us on Twitter: <http://twitter.com/uwinnipeg> and on Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/University-of-Winnipeg-youofwcom-Where-You-Matter-Most/40526795732>.

MEDIA CONTACT

Naniece Ibrahim, Communications Officer, The University of Winnipeg

P: 204.988.7130, E: n.ibrahim@uwinnipeg.ca