

Research Proposal
for
the Development of a Course on the
Historical Background
of Canadian Aboriginal Peoples
and relevant issues.

Date: September 12, 2007
By: Dr. Foster
For: Dr. Foster
In: NS210

Abstract:

Aboriginal peoples and their issues are important to all Canadians. This proposal asks for support for the development and offering of a university level course which will provide opportunities for today's students (tomorrow's professionals) to learn about the Canadian historical background which has impacted all Canadians but especially Aboriginal peoples. It is argued that knowledge of this history will better equip students to take part in resolving these issues in the years ahead. In short, support for this proposal will help make Canada a better place for all Canadians.

Rationale:

The Aboriginal population of Canada is burgeoning and Aboriginal issues are often at the forefront of Canada's political agenda. So it is that today's students should have the opportunity to deepen their understanding of Aboriginal peoples and the issues relating to them. This proposal asks for support for the development and offering of a university level course dealing with the Canadian historical background relevant to Aboriginal peoples and their issues. With this support, it is proposed to develop and offer a thirteen week course entitled Native Issues & Insights I. This course will focus on an overview of Canadian history that is relevant to Aboriginal issues. While there are many opportunities, both at the high school and post-secondary level, for students to examine and discuss current Aboriginal issues, what is too often missing is the historical background to these issues. Support of this proposal would remedy that situation and provide both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal students with the opportunity to acquire a deeper understanding of how Canadian history has shaped, and continues to shape, the place of Aboriginal peoples in Canadian society.

Tentative Thesis:

The development and offering of a course focusing on the historical background of Canadian Aboriginal issues will provide positive and necessary learning opportunities to students who will live and work in Canadian society.

Methodology:

A detailed survey of Canadian history will be conducted. Individuals, issues and events germane to the experience of Aboriginal peoples will be identified. A text book will be selected to provide a framework for students. Supplemental lectures will be developed to both explain the issues covered in the textbook and to add to that material in ways that will expand the learning opportunities.

Once the course resources have been secured and developed; the course will be offered on Mondays at Lakeland College, from 3:30 to 6:30 PM, weekly. A number of assignments will be developed to both enhance student learning and measure the extent of each student's progress in achieving an identified set of learning objectives for the course. To enhance the usefulness of these learning opportunities in the "real world",

each student will be required to make a presentation to the class on the historical background of some particular issue, event or individual relevant to an understanding of Aboriginal people in Canada.

Personal Qualifications:

This course will be developed and presented by Dr. F. Foster. Dr. Foster has an extensive background in Canadian history, including a Masters and Doctoral degree in Canadian History and North American Colonial History. He has taught Canadian history in several post secondary institutions in Canada for over 25 years. Lakeland College values the experience and expertise of Dr. Foster.

Costs:

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| Course development | 36 hours @ \$24/hr = \$ 864.00 |
| Course presentation | 45 hours @ \$24/hr = \$1080.00 |
| Class preparation and marking | 90 hours @ \$24.00 = \$2160.00 |
| Mileage | 14 x \$100 = \$ 1400.00 |
| Course materials, office supplies, etc. | = \$ 1600.00 |
| TOTAL | = \$ 7,104.00 |