

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**UNIVERSITY OF REGINA FACULTY ASSOCIATION FILES CERTIFICATION APPLICATION FOR SESSIONALS AT FIRST NATIONS UNIVERSITY OF CANADA**

(**April 8, 2016** - Saskatchewan) – The University of Regina Faculty Association (URFA) announced today it has filed a Certification Application with the Saskatchewan Labour Relations Board to seek workplace representation and collective bargaining rights for Sessional Instructors at the First Nations University of Canada (FNUniv).

“URFA is pleased with the significant support that has been received and expressed during this organizing campaign over the last four weeks,” URFA Chair Dennis Fitzpatrick said during a press conference held at the FNUniv Regina campus earlier today. “We are optimistic that this support will be sustained as these employees exercise their voting rights under the *Saskatchewan Employment Act* to have URFA as their exclusive representative for collective bargaining with the FNUniv.”

“We look forward to obtaining an Order from the Board which would grant URFA representation rights for these Sessional Instructors. Upon obtaining the Order from the Board, the next step is bargaining for a first collective agreement,” he added.

Approximately seventy-three (73) Sessional Instructors are currently employed at the FNUniv. These instructors play a significant role in providing instruction to FNUniv students throughout the province. Currently, they are among the remaining few communities of academic instructors in the province not represented by a union or professional association. As a result, they are paid significantly less than sessional instructors at the University of Regina; without access to health benefits; and, facing an increasing degree of employment insecurity. Representation through URFA would allow FNUniv’s Sessional Instructors to collectively determine the workplace issues important to them and negotiate fair and equitable working conditions.

FNUniv's current strategic plan calls on the entire community to strengthen and solidify its leadership role as a successful and sustainable model of Indigenous higher learning.

“On the eve of FNUniv's 40th anniversary, collective bargaining rights would provide a mechanism to ensure that the contribution Sessional Instructors make to the success of the university is recognized,” said Fitzpatrick. “Improved working conditions for Sessional Instructors will yield benefits for the university, students, and community.”

More information about the Sessional Instructor organizing campaign can be found at [www.fncampaign.org](http://www.fncampaign.org).

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