

## **ABORIGINAL FRAMEWORK POLICY**

**EFFECTIVE DATE**                      **APPROVED:**                      January 18, 2005

**RESPONSIBILITY FOR IMPLEMENTATION**                      Service and Academic Units

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### **PREAMBLE**

This policy is to consolidate and expand Grande Prairie Regional College services, community partnerships, and programs for and with Aboriginal peoples. Grande Prairie Regional College will make local adaptations appropriate to Northern Alberta realities and the Grande Prairie Regional College environment. It is, further, consistent with the Government of Alberta's Aboriginal Policy Framework.

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### **POLICY STATEMENT**

Grande Prairie Regional College is uniquely situated in Northwestern Alberta and offers a broad range of education and training opportunities including trades, career, upgrading, and degree completion. As a comprehensive institution in a region with a substantial First Nations and Métis population, GPRC has a particular role in serving the diverse educational needs of this student base.

The vision of Grande Prairie Regional College in Aboriginal learner, community, and program development is to do its best to accommodate and serve the diverse needs of Aboriginal learners in Northwestern Alberta consistent with principles of:

- Comprehensiveness
- Participation and Inclusion
- Community input
- Respect for diverse traditions and ways of knowing
- Relevance

This means particular attention must be paid to the following:

- a) Support for Aboriginal learners.
- b) Policy and practices amenable to the recruitment and retention of Aboriginal learners, staff, and faculty.
- c) Professional development for faculty, support staff, administration and students.
- d) Programming choices targeted toward the needs of Aboriginal learners.
- e) Aboriginal community liaison and feedback regarding the performance of GPRC in meeting student and community needs.
- f) Follow-up support and the monitoring of success of graduates.
- g) Curriculum and program development relevant to the unique conditions and needs of the North.