The Aboriginal Students’ Centre (ASC) is an inclusive gathering space for students to come before & after classes to study, use a computer, connect with other students or access services. The ASC is here to help promote the spiritual, physical, emotional & mental well being of Aboriginal students on campus!

Coming to university for the first time can be hard for Aboriginal students, the ASC organizes events that help build a sense of community on campus and help students succeed. At an institutional level, the ASC advocates for Aboriginal students on campus & the inclusion of Aboriginal culture within the university.

Students can access transition supports as well as learn about opportunities to get involved in campus life, develop their leadership skills or become a mentor to other Aboriginal students.

ASC Events include:
• ASC Student Welcome
• Monthly Pipe Ceremonies
• Elders’ Teachings
• Treaty Talks with the Office of the Treaty Commissioner
• Graduation Powwow
• Leadership development opportunities
• “Show & Tell” information sessions
• Student Lead sessions
• Sweat lodge Ceremonies
• Guest Speakers
• Community building events
• Soup and Bannock
• Academic Skills Workshop

ASC Staff & Ambassadors:

(From right to left)
Ellmere Duquette, Clerical Assistant; Kathleen Makela, Manager; Annie Battiste, Mentorship Coordinator; Lori Delorme, 1st Year Transition Coordinator; Bob Badger, Cultural Coordinator

(from right to left)
Alex Thomson, Tanis Worme, Shane Henry, Xavier Fisher, Lisa Langan

Aboriginal Framework
Aboriginal Achievement Week (AAW) at the University of Saskatchewan (U of S) seeks to promote an understanding of cultural awareness and academia at the U of S. Its purpose is two-fold: for non-Aboriginal people on campus, it’s an opportunity to better understand and be a part of the celebration of Aboriginal culture. For Aboriginal students, faculty and staff, it demonstrates that Aboriginal culture is valued within the University and their personal achievement is everyone’s achievement.

Aboriginal Achievement Week is a celebration for our community partners, both on- and off-campus, to showcase their extraordinary successes and accomplishments through different events. It is a time to reflect upon and value the cultural diversity of our community. The week’s celebration positively impacts our campus and brings awareness of cultural diversity that exists here at the University of Saskatchewan.

AAW Events include:

- Aboriginal Women in Leadership Panel
- Reconciliation Discussion with OTC
- Soup & Bannock
- Aboriginal Graduate Presentation & lunch
- Treaty 6 Flag Raising Ceremony
- Traditional Foods Cooking Class
- Significance of the Drum Workshop
- Lectures by prominent Aboriginal community members such Joseph Boyden, Ryan McMahon & Dr. Evan Adams
- Dispelling the Myths Panel Discussion
- Aboriginal Arts Festival
- Round Dance

and many more, for a detailed look at this years events please visit our website (see below).
For more than 20 years the University of Saskatchewan has hosted a powwow, originally in September, to welcome all new and returning students to campus. In 2010, the ASC shifted the timing of the Powwow to correspond with our Spring Convocation. With this change we are able to celebrate, in a culturally respectful manner, the academic achievements of Aboriginal graduates from both the University of Saskatchewan and high schools throughout the province.

All university & high-school graduating students who self-identify as Aboriginal (First Nation, Métis or Inuit) are invited to participate in the University of Saskatchewan Annual Graduation Powwow. If students register for this event their name is included in the official U of S Powwow Program. Each graduate student receives one complimentary Powwow Program to commemorate the event along with a gift during the Grand Entry.

Schedule for May 29th 2013

9am-  Registration / Check in
11 am-  Grand Entry - honouring Gr. 12 graduates
11 am-  Campus Expo
12pm-  Youth Competition
2 pm-  Memorial Youth Hand Drum Competition
4pm-  Registration
5 pm-  Grand Entry - honouring U of S graduates
6 pm-  Adult Competition
8 pm-  Memorial Adult Hand Drum Competition
9 pm-  Retiring of the Colours

The Powwow draws spectators, dancers and singers from across the province and beyond. It is an excellent example of how the U of S and community engage with the Aboriginal community in meaningful and positive ways. This year’s Graduation Powwow is set for May 29th, 2013 in the Bowl on the University of Saskatchewan campus.
On March 19th, 2012 the University of Saskatchewan launched Aboriginal Achievement Week with the signing of a strategic alliance with the Office of the Treaty Commissioner. The event signified the commitment of the two institutions to educate students, staff and faculty on the importance of the treaties and the responsibilities that flow from those treaties.

Based upon this strategic alliance, the Aboriginal Students’ Centre (ASC) and the Office of the Treaty Commissioner (OTC) have committed to develop, implement and report on a sustainable strategy to provide treaty education on campus.

As the University enters its Third Integrated Plan, the strategic alliance is seen by the Aboriginal Students’ Centre as a significant instrument to assist us in realizing our institutional commitment to celebrate and promote diversity/inclusiveness so that we have a truly respectful and supportive educational and workplace environment.

Strategic Alliance Successes:
- ASC hosted eight Speakers Bureau presentations on Treaties to the campus throughout the 2011/2012 academic year.
- ASC & OTC created a cultural tab within the ASC Student Handbook as well as resources for our website.
- ASC provided assistance in promoting “We Are All Treaty People” slogan within the university and successfully merged “We are Treaty People” Week with Aboriginal Achievement Week.
- Provided information and referrals to resources about OTC Treaty Education Kits and other valuable OTC resources.
- Collaborated on events to ensure OTC has a presence on campus such as community building events for students and staff.

This year we will be hosting a resigning of our partnership with the new Treaty Commissioner George Lafond. We will also be adding new partners and stakeholders to our partnership such as departments and colleges as well as students groups.