

Description

This La Ronge based program provides the opportunity for residents from over 45 northern communities to complete a B.Ed degree while remaining close to their families and home. The program is offered in partnership with the College of Education, University of Saskatchewan and the University of Regina. It is designed for northern residents, preferably with fluency in an Aboriginal language (Cree or Dene). NORTEP program began in 1977 and is widely recognized as one of the most successful First Nations and Métis education programs in Canada.

Why was the program put in place?

- Prior to 1977, 97% of all school staff in the north were English-speaking teachers from the south, while 75% of the students were First Nations and Métis, many with Cree or Dene as their first language.
- Teacher turnover was high leading to instability and lack of continuity in school programs.
- Aboriginal values, languages and concepts were not present in the schools and students had few Aboriginal role models within the education system.

Who has been served?

Aspiring Teachers

NORTEP applicant must be northern residents – i.e., they must have lived in northern Saskatchewan for at least ten years or half their life.

NORTEP has given me an opportunity to further my education and fulfill my goal of being an educator... NORTEP is our own little community made up of other various communities, coming together as one. I am so fortunate and grateful to be attending this program in my home community of La Ronge. I am proud to say that I am a role model to my family, community and future students.

- Sarah Studer, NORTEP Student

Children and Families of the North

- NORTEP has graduated 411 students who were northern residents
- The number of NORTEP graduates who teach in Northern Lights School Division has increased from 3% to about 27%.
- Teacher turnover in Northern Lights School Division has decreased from 75% to 20%.
- NORTEP graduates have a tremendous impact on northern Saskatchewan communities and schools and especially Aboriginal students in both First Nation and Metis communities. Many have gone on to graduate studies and have taken on leadership roles in schools, communities and other sectors.

At NORTEP-NORPAC, northern Elders, trappers, fishermen, and traditional land users play a vital role as resource people in our classrooms. Despite massive social changes, they carry place-based knowledge and wisdom from previous generations. They are gifted in diverse ways. We want our students to learn the very best that modern education has to offer. We also want them to learn about their cultures and most importantly to celebrate who they are and to share their community knowledge with others.

Dr. Herman Michell,
President CEO



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<http://nortep-norpac.webs.com/>

Aboriginal Framework

