



## MEDIA RELEASE

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**Wednesday, June 29, 2005**  
**For Immediate Release**

### ***First Peoples and Immigrants: The Making of Canada*** **Historica Teachers' Institute at UWinnipeg**

WINNIPEG— More than 40 teachers from across Canada will be going back to school next week for the Historica Teachers' Institute *First Peoples and Immigrants: The Making of Canada-Exploring the Teaching of Canadian History* July 4 - 9 at The University of Winnipeg. The Historica Foundation, headquartered in Toronto, announced the new partnership with UWinnipeg last December.

The University of Winnipeg contributed \$40,000 toward development of a special module that speaks to our country's Aboriginal heritage and culture. *First Peoples and Immigrants: The Making of Canada-Exploring the Teaching of Canadian History* combines the University's expertise in education and Aboriginal culture with Historica's focus on history.

"The University of Winnipeg is proud to be hosting the Historica Teachers' Institute, and in particular help advance the understanding and teaching of Aboriginal history and culture," said University of Winnipeg President Dr. Lloyd Axworthy.

Aboriginal people living in Winnipeg are the fastest growing segment of our population with 40 per cent of Winnipeg's Aboriginal residents living in the inner city.

"As an institution, we are evolving into a centre of excellence for the study of Aboriginal history and heritage," added Dr. Axworthy. "We are committed to partnering with Aboriginal groups, through projects like the Wii Chii Waa Ka Nak Learning Centre, to provide learning resources and opportunities for Manitoba's Aboriginal communities living in this neighbourhood and throughout the inner city."

At the national teachers' institute, secondary social studies and history teachers will participate in an impressive roster of stimulating activities designed to motivate and inspire. In turn, the educators will return to their classrooms with renewed enthusiasm for teaching history and creative ideas to share with their students.

Canada's Aboriginal history, culture, and heritage—a focus of the six-day institute—will be brought to life through:

- Hands-on workshops on recording oral histories
- All-day visit to the Métis community of St. Laurent, Manitoba
- Sessions with Aboriginal storyteller Louis Bird and Aboriginal elders
- "Bows and Arrows" craft workshop with Aboriginal elders
- Visit to the Aboriginal Centre of Winnipeg and historic walk down Main Street
- Workshop at the Manitoba Museum's Hudson's Bay Co. Gallery.

Western Canada's rich history will also be explored through:

- Visit to the Ukrainian Labour Temple in Canada
- Panel discussion on *Immigration in a New Land*
- Keynote address by University of Toronto Professor Franca Iacovetta on *Teaching Canadian History Through Immigrant Lives: Concepts and Strategies*
- Keynote address by Hon. Peter Bjornson, Minister of Education, Citizenship & Youth.

### **Media Welcome**

**This event is not open to the public. However, media planning to cover the Institute are welcome to visit any of the sessions (please see attached agenda.) Please notify the Communications Office when you would like to attend Historica. UWinnipeg History Professor Nolan Reilly and Historica's Phil Reece will be available for interviews.**

*The Historica Foundation engages Canadians in the stories that define our identity and the events that shape our country's future. Through programs and resources Historica connects Canadians to the unique history of our nation. For more information, please visit [www.histori.ca](http://www.histori.ca)*

*Located in the heart of downtown, The University of Winnipeg is a compact, diverse, multicultural academic community committed to access and excellence. Ranked by our graduates in Maclean's magazine University Graduate Survey (November 15, 2004) in the Top Ten of all Canadian universities when asked about their "Entire Educational Experience." UWinnipeg is home to more than 8,700 full- and part-time students.*

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For more information, please contact:

Ilana Simon, Communications Officer  
The University of Winnipeg  
T: 204.786.9930  
[i.simon@uwinnipeg.ca](mailto:i.simon@uwinnipeg.ca)

Or:

Annette Elvers, Communications Officer  
The University of Winnipeg  
T: 204.786.9939  
[a.elvers@uwinnipeg.ca](mailto:a.elvers@uwinnipeg.ca)