

## **Dene Teacher Education Program in La Loche**

---

The Ministries of Advanced Education and Education are providing for First Nations University of Canada to offer a new Dene Teacher Education Program (DTEP). The program is being delivered in La Loche through the Northern Lights School Division and Clearwater River Dene Nation.

The new program is being offered to one group of 30 students over four years. Students will graduate with a Bachelor of Education degree from the University of Regina.

The purpose of the program is to attract and educate new university students from the local area who will become teachers for the local students.

Students receiving this teacher education will also learn to instruct their students in the Dene language as part of the K-12 curriculum.

Learning a traditional language in school will help preserve culture and is seen as a factor in student retention and pride in the community. The program will result in jobs for local people, retention of students, and an increased sense of optimism and community for local students who can choose to learn in their traditional language.

The program began in July 2016, after a Memorandum of Agreement was signed between the First Nations University of Canada, the University of Regina, Clearwater River Dene Nation and Northern Lights School Division.

The overall program costs over four years are \$480,000. The province is providing 50 per cent of the funding, with the school division and First Nation covering the remaining costs.