

# Portage College Partnership Presentation 2022

# Portage College

Empowering learners to transform and make a difference  
Values collaboration, inclusion, success and accountability

connecting people with knowledge, skills and opportunities

## Our Strategy

Alberta 2030 Alignment -Our Goals

Regional Stewardship – 7 campuses

Work Integrated Learning

Economic Development and Labour  
Market

Truth and Reconciliation

Video promotion

Partnerships, Partnerships, Partnerships

## Collaboration Examples

Dual Credit – free courses

Green Certificate and micro-credentials

Class 5

Indigenous Ways of Knowing

Educational Assistant

Degree pathways

# OUR STUDENT DEMOGRAPHICS ARE UNIQUE

	PORTAGE COLLEGE	BENCHMARK*
Average age	28 years	26 years
Married	35%	25%
With children	43%	22%
Indigenous students (credit programs only)	44%	11%
Direct from high school	3%	28%
First generation post-secondary	28%	23%

\*All benchmark data is from University/College Application Study –  
Comprehensive College data. Released January 2021 by Apply Alberta.

# VOYAGING TOGETHER

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Portage College was originally formed as Alberta NewStart in 1968, a federal government initiative to research basic adult education. In 1970 the federal government ended funding for NewStart Programs in Canada. In response, a group of Indigenous leaders then staged a 26-day sit-in. The group was successful and funding was restored. Subsequently the funding was assumed by the Province of Alberta. It was then that the Indigenous leaders involved gave a new Cree name to the College: Pe-Ta-Pun, meaning New Dawn.

It is from this humble beginning that the College nurtured and has been blessed with Wahkohtowin, a spirit of collaboration and partnership with the First Nation and Métis people in our region. The Cree word Wahkohtowin reminds us of the Indigenous world view of the interconnected nature of relationships, communities and natural systems.

The College values have always included the elements of respect and inclusion, and our mission has always included an implied obligation to support and build relations with the first peoples in our region. More than 50% of our credit and noncredit students and 11% of our employees are First Nation, Métis or Inuit. We must continue and be more transparent about the work we do if we are to support reconciliation, improve relationships and empower our students.

# Calling on all members and friends of “Pe-Ta-Pun” - Waniskah

Wake up and discover the opportunities of our new dawns!

In 2017 the President's Indigenous Advisory Committee was formed. We realized that by working together we can amplify the voices of our Indigenous partners and celebrate the gifts their ways of knowing and culture bring to our College. The committee created a plan titled “Our Voyage of Togetherness” which includes advocacy throughout the College for incorporating the following efforts:

**AWARENESS AND  
TRUTH TELLING**

**DECOLONIZATION  
OF CURRICULUM  
AND SERVICES**

**APPRECIATION OF  
INDIGENOUS CULTURE  
AND LANGUAGE  
THROUGH  
PROGRAMMING, ARTS  
AND CEREMONY**

**PROVIDING  
PERSONALIZED  
SUPPORTS FOR  
STUDENTS**

**PARTNERING  
WITH INDIGENOUS  
ELDERS AND  
KNOWLEDGE KEEPERS,  
COMMUNITIES,  
INDUSTRIES AND  
AGENCIES**

**THANK YOU**

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