URFA recognizes National Indigenous Peoples Day 2019

Today on National Indigenous Peoples Day, The University of Regina Faculty Association joins in honouring and celebrating the rich and diverse histories of First Nations, Inuit and Métis people across the province, country, and within our own Faculty Association at the University of Regina, Campion and Luther Colleges, and the First Nations University of Canada.

The achievements and contributions of indigenous peoples need to be recognized and celebrated. Today is a day to both appreciate and reflect upon what we can all do to continue to build a more inclusive society.

As employees of post-secondary institutions, we must recognize the vital role that we play in working to build a society that is more educated and informed on the history and culture of indigenous peoples in Canada, including the injustices committed against indigenous peoples both in the past and today. We must continue to work towards reconciliation, and ending the ongoing harm that failed government policies and systemic discrimination continue to have on Indigenous peoples across the country.

Earlier this month, the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls released its final report, entitled “Reclaiming Power and Place.” URFA calls on all levels of government to address the 231 calls to justice in the report. We also urge the University to address the call for post-secondary institutions to educate the public about Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, including teaching Indigenous history, law and practices from Indigenous perspectives, and education on the genocide of Indigenous peoples through laws, policies and colonial practices. As a union, URFA will also reflect on the role that we can play in addressing the calls to justice, including continuing our efforts towards healing and reconciliation, and representing the needs of our Indigenous members.

Today, we appreciate and acknowledge the history and diversity of Indigenous people, while recommitting to working towards justice and reconciliation.