Abstract

The Faculty of Education at University College of the North partners with school divisions and education authorities in northern Manitoba, Manitoba Education, other post-secondary institutions and community partners in order to provide inclusive educational opportunities for the children and youth of Northern Manitoba. These partnerships support students in their quest to achieve Kiskenimiswin, a Cree word for positive identity without which it would be difficult, if not impossible, for them to experience Mino-Pimatisiwin or the good life. Through their collaboration, the Kenanow Bachelor of Education program and its partners are enhancing the capacity of prospective teachers, current teachers and administrators in the co-creation of inclusive schools. Through continuous dialogue and inquiry, these partners work together to create visions of preferred futures for their respective school community members. The stories of inclusive educational practices created by University College of the North and its partners are told by participants in those practices and through corresponding documentation. The stories of inclusive education recount experiences those members of school communities have had in helping to establish positive identities. Furthermore, there are narratives about school community members participating in schools and educational programs that have provided increased life possibilities including high school graduation, post-secondary education and employment. Increasingly, educators have been provided with opportunities to receive the preparation needed to function as effective teachers in inclusive educational environments.