



UQAT: A Key Partner for First Nations and Inuit Peoples

Acting Together
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UQAT
UNIVERSITÉ DU QUÉBEC
EN ABITIBI-TÉMISCAMINGUE



About UQAT:



Nearly **1,000 degrees** awarded to Indigenous individuals



Over **3,000 people** trained in Indigenous realities in nearly sixty businesses and organizations



Student services with a holistic approach, i.e., centred on the individual and their physical, mental, spiritual, and emotional needs



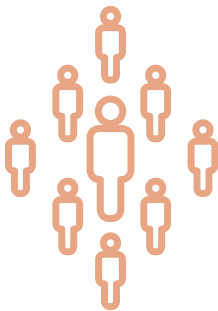
Multiple university platforms for development, such as **the School of Indigenous Studies** and the **Unit for Research, Training and Development in Education in Inuit and First Nation Contexts**



The university is known for its many research projects **for, by, and with** Indigenous people



The university is known for the depth of its professors' research



Inclusion of First Nations and Inuit peoples in the university's **governing bodies**



Joint work and partnership with many Indigenous organizations and communities





Credit: Romeo Sagamash | UQAT

UQAT, an Authority on Indigenous Issues!

Since it was created in 1983, UQAT has worked tirelessly with First Nations and Inuit peoples and fully embraced its role as an agent for change. It has strived to reconcile all the communities and has helped improve the skills and well-being of Indigenous peoples.

Through its governance, its willingness to stand as an example, and its partnership with Indigenous people, UQAT has given First Nations and Inuit peoples a decisive role in managing the university on its governing council, its human research ethics committee, and its First Peoples advisory committee. UQAT has become a major player in Quebec as a partner and active contributor to the development of training and research for, by, and with Indigenous people.

In addition to developing study programs that respect Indigenous perspectives, UQAT puts students at the core of its mission through its teaching methods and support services aimed at ensuring students' academic success. It has helped improve intercommunity relations through major research programs that provide unique insight into education, the environment, and social development. With its unique approach, UQAT is committed to remaining an authority on Indigenous issues in Quebec and across Canada.

UQAT and Indigenous Peoples: 2019–2024 Action Plan

An outcome of its *Chantier peuples autochtones*, the 2019–2024 Action Plan has enabled UQAT to go above and beyond what has already been achieved. The avenues for development set out in the action plan were prepared with the active participation of members of the university community and Indigenous communities and partners. This plan is a way to reaffirm UQAT's leadership in Indigenous realities—in teaching, research and creation, and services to communities.

UQAT, Serving First Peoples

First Peoples Service

The staff at the First Peoples Service (FPS) provides all Indigenous students at UQAT with personalized support. It has developed expertise that enables it to meet the specific needs of students, whether at school, in their personal lives, or with regard to cultural issues.

- **A personalized welcome in French and English** as well as academic coaching tailored to the needs of Indigenous students who, in many cases, are returning to school.
- **Attentive listening and sound advice** for students who are facing challenges (personal life, family, etc.).
- **Staff who are familiar** with the services provided by the City of Val-d'Or and who can help students access them: daycare centres, public transit, housing, health care, etc.
- **A team that supports** Indigenous students in remote locations when they are being trained in their communities.
- **Support for different initiatives** such as an Indigenous student activity committee that organizes activities that give students an opportunity to get together and talk about university and urban life, and as a women's group where people connect with each other and overcome isolation while making traditional crafts.



Credit: Christian Leduc | UQAT

“At UQAT I feel very respected. I really feel like I matter as a person and as an Anishnabe.”

— Maureen Papatie
Graduate of the bachelor's program in Preschool Education and Elementary Teaching and the certificate program in Indigenous Studies

School of Indigenous Studies

Created in 2016, the School of Indigenous Studies has worked to consolidate the partnership between Indigenous peoples and UQAT. It offers a range of study programs that have been developed over the years, including the Certificate in Indigenous Studies.

The School of Indigenous Studies takes an approach that is centred on interactions between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people, be they students or professors. This approach encourages mutual enrichment, joint effort, and healthy competition. The School also organizes a variety of activities, including Indigenous lunch-and-learn talks that are open to everyone.



Creation by Doris Bossum, a student in Indigenous Studies

An Active Presence Throughout Quebec

With its many campuses, centres, points of service, and distance and in-class educational offerings, UQAT is active all over Quebec. Quebec's Indigenous communities can get fast access to highly skilled staff and training programs that respect Indigenous perspectives.

One of UQAT's landmarks is the First Peoples' Building on the Val-d'Or campus. It is named in honour of UQAT's work with Indigenous communities in Quebec and offers them a place to socialize and study that is unique in eastern North America. Students are welcomed and introduced to campus life in a vibrant multicultural setting where they can share the long-established culture and values of the Algonquins, Cree, Inuit, and other residents of the Abitibi-Témiscamingue region.



An Exceptional Trust-based Model for Development in Partnership with First Nations and Inuit Peoples

UQAT has developed a “university community” model of partnership. To keep it relevant and up-to-date, co-management committees are responsible for planning, administering, and assessing training activities in Indigenous programs.

This partnership and co-management model has made it possible to create a relationship of trust with partners and ensure that all actions are guided by the following principles:

- Recognizing all peoples' right to self-determination
- Recognizing the equality of different cultures and the interdependence of the Indigenous partners and the professors and lecturers involved in the process

For, by, and with Indigenous People Teaching

Study Programs

All of UQAT’s programs are available to Indigenous students. Some specific programs have been developed to meet the needs of First Nations and Inuit students. Teaching methods are designed to support Indigenous values and cultural safety.

Right now, several programs are available in French and English in various fields, including:



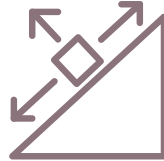
Credit: Mathieu Dupuis | UQAT



Indigenous Studies



Management



Education



Human and Social Development



Creation and New Media



Mines and Groundwater



Credit: Marie-Claude Robbert | UQAT

“We’ve been working in partnership with UQAT since 2008. Their highly motivated and motivating team is always cooperative and respectful of our values, adapting to all of our needs and requests. Their knowledge and expertise are important, and we truly appreciate their efforts and the pleasure of working with them.”

— Donna McBride
Algonquin Anishinabeg Nation Tribal Council

Continuing Education

The Continuing Education Service can tap into the expertise that UQAT has developed over the past 35 years. This service continues to offer Indigenous and non-Indigenous people acclaimed, path-breaking activities. These retraining courses are updated regularly to meet participants’ needs, be they public sessions or made-to-measure training courses for businesses and organizations across Quebec. The content of and learning activities in these courses are created with input from individuals of First Peoples heritage.



Research

UQAT is attentive to First Peoples' research needs and employs their preferred research methods and principles. UQAT establishes and maintains research partnerships with the communities in different areas, including education, the environment, and social development.

Many UQAT researchers belong to the Research and Knowledge Network Relating to Aboriginal Peoples (DIALOG) and the Interuniversity Centre for Aboriginal Studies and Research (CIÉRA).

Several of UQAT's research groups and facilities are interested in Indigenous realities:

- **Unit for Research, Training, and Development in Education in Inuit and First Nation Contexts (URFDEMIA)**
- **Research Development and Collaborative Action Team in Aboriginal Educational Contexts (ÉDRACCÉA)**
- **Research Group on Ground Water (GRES)**
- **NSERC-UQAT Industrial Research Chair on Biodiversity in Mining Contexts**
- **Participatory Mapping Laboratory**
- **Research Laboratory on Indigenous Women's Issues – Mikwatisiw**





Credit: Mathieu Dupuis | UQAT

UQAT: A Key Place for Welcoming, Meeting, and Discussing

UQAT organizes a range of conferences, seminars, and other events where researchers and renowned guest speakers mingle with elders and individuals who have been involved in changes to Indigenous communities. The aim is to help bring people together, and develop Indigenous expertise and knowledge.



Indigenous Lunch-and-Learn Talks

These talks are organized by the School of Indigenous Studies and are open to everyone. They help bring attendees into contact with each other and help them interact with the Indigenous community. Attendees also learn more about and get to appreciate the cultural diversity of First Nations peoples.

Quebec Aboriginal Science Fair

In 2018, UQAT was the first university to host the Quebec Aboriginal Science Fair, which was organized in partnership with the Quebec Aboriginal Science and Engineering Association (QASEA).

Seminars on Ethics and Research with Indigenous Peoples

These seminars are meant for Indigenous communities and organizations, for researchers, professors, and students, for research managers and practitioners, and for people interested in the ethics of research with Indigenous peoples. They are organized by UQAT in close cooperation with DIALOG, the Research and Knowledge Network Relating to Aboriginal Peoples.

Awareness Week for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination

Each year, UQAT gets involved in Awareness Week for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, an initiative of the Val-d'Or Native Friendship Centre. Several activities are organized for students and the community. It's a great opportunity to promote cultural differences. Everybody gets to know and understand each other better!



Credit: UQAT



Credit: Marie-Claude Robert | UQAT



Credit: Stéphanie Duchesne | UQAT



Credit: UQAT

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About the Design

This brochure features symbolic illustrations tied to a variety of themes, in terms of both Aboriginal symbols and education, including nature, speech bubbles that refer to oral tradition and knowledge transfer, hands that represent exchange and partnership, the shape of Quebec, the teepee, etc. These highly textured illustrations give warmth to the visuals, emphasizing that people come first at UQAT.

UQAT has chosen to spell the word Inuit without an 's' in the plural form because this word is already plural in Inuktitut.

Illustrations by Geneviève Bigué

Credit: UQAT