**Indigenous Youth Gathering:**

On August 23rd, 2017 Mark Gray and Bishkaa Ambassador Letticia Amyotte attended a youth gathering/panel discussion at the Canadian Canoe Museum. This gathering was organized and hosted by Maryam Monsef’s Office with both Minister Monsef and the Deputy Minister Gina Wilson in attendance.

More specifically this was a gathering of youth from Curve Lake First Nation and Katimavik and included invited guests from a variety of professions within Peterborough.

Those gathered listened to the youth panel talk about barriers and challenges that they face in accessing education and career mobility.

Those challenges included:

-loss of their language

-loss of connection to the land

-having to leave their home community

-western ways of education

-childhood trauma

-intergenerational trauma

-access to Elder teachings

Those invited were asked to articulate anything that their workplace was working on that related to the topic. I chose to identify our work stemming from the signing of the 7 principles of the IEP. Letticia Amyotte (our Aboriginal Student Ambassador) spoke to our Bishkaa orientation and peer mentoring program.

My sense, toward the end of the gathering, was that Fleming is doing very well in addressing many of the barriers identified. Areas to explore may include more programming within Aboriginal Communities; like what we did with Forestry at Delaware and the Solar Panel project with Alderville First Nation. I also believe the importance of language and Elder connections should continue to grow at Fleming.

**Bishkaa Update:**

We advertised online and through our July Welcome Week the Bishkaa Peer Mentoring Program however did not secure enough confirmed applicants to host a pre-start up orientation weekend of activities.

Since the students arrival on last week enthusiasm for a peer mentoring program is growing and we are in the process of hiring student ambassador/peer mentor both at Frost and Sutherland.

**New Staffing:**

We have a full time placement student working out of the department this fall/winter. Amanda Rogers has been welcomed to the department and will provide research support, Elder support and support to the Bishkaa programming throughout the semester

Kylie Fox has been successful in the position of Assistant Aboriginal Services Manager and will be transitioning into this new role at the college. Kylie’s focus will be Outreach and Engagement with a specific goal of improving our student recruitment efforts. Kylie will work with Carrie Truman the Manager of College Recruitment and develop and articulate an Aboriginal Student Recruitment Strategy. Fleming College will embark on several of the Aboriginal Post-Secondary Information Program (APSIP) this fall.