

Message From the Executive Director

Lorne Keeper
Manitoba First Nations Education Resource Centre

On behalf of the MFNERC Board of Directors and staff, it is with great pride that I present *First Nations Perspectives: The Journal of the Manitoba First Nations Education Resource Centre*. This first edition contains outstanding articles which reflect the diverse issues, experiences and perspectives associated with First Nations education. It is my hope that you will look forward to this annual publication, produced to coincide with our *Lighting the Fire* conference, hosted in May of each year.

Now in its tenth year of operation, the Manitoba First Nations Education Resource Centre recognizes and celebrates the positive developments made in First Nations operated schools with whom we work in partnership. These developments have been the result of a collective effort made by our First Nation communities; the Elders, community members, and educators have all worked in unison to advance the cause of education for First Nations students everywhere.

In the 21st century, those of us involved with First Nations education continue to strive for solutions to the problems associated with our field; solutions that reflect our values, customs and beliefs which further strengthen and enable our right to plan, restore and practice traditional pedagogy and learning systems. Within *First Nations Perspectives: The Journal of the Manitoba First Nations Education Resource Centre*, you will find a number of articles that will challenge and enlighten your understanding of who we are as First Nations people and our goals in the area of education. Enjoy!

Ekosi.