

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Qalipu First Nation and Academy Canada Sign Memorandum of Understanding to Strengthen Education and Training Opportunities.

Elmastukwek, Ktaqmkuk (Corner Brook, NL) – Qalipu First Nation (QFN) and Academy Canada (AC) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) formalizing a collaborative partnership focused on education, training, and community and economic development opportunities.

The agreement establishes a framework for both organizations to work together to explore initiatives that support student success, workforce development, and increased access to education and training opportunities for Qalipu First Nation members.

Under the MOU, QFN and AC will collaborate on a range of potential areas, including opportunities for students to complete high school programming, access post-secondary education, and participate in professional development and customized training initiatives. The partnership also aims to support welcoming and inclusive learning environments, enhance awareness of available services, and identify new opportunities that benefit both organizations and the communities they serve.

The MOU reflects a shared commitment to respectful collaboration and recognizes Qalipu First Nation’s cultural and ethical protocols, including commitments related to Indigenous data sovereignty, engagement with Elders and Knowledge Holders, and land stewardship principles.

“Meaningful partnerships are built through respect, relationship-building, and a willingness to learn from one another,” said Chief Jenny Brake. “This MOU reflects a shared commitment to supporting education and opportunity while ensuring Indigenous knowledge, cultural values, and community perspectives remain an important part of the work moving forward.”

“Partnerships like this create opportunities to listen, learn, and work together in ways that strengthen both education and community development. We are proud to continue building that relationship with Qalipu First Nation,” said Lisa Lovelady, President & CEO, Academy Canada. “Academy Canada is committed to ensuring learners feel supported, welcomed, and empowered in their educational journey. This MOU reflects a shared vision of creating opportunities that help individuals and communities thrive.”



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About Qalipu Mi'kmaq First Nation:

Qalipu First Nation (QFN) is part of the Mi'kmaq Nation whose territory extends from Maine to Quebec, through the Maritime Provinces and into Ktaqmkuk (Newfoundland). This territory is also known as

Mi'kma'ki. QFN exists to achieve the advancement of its people and is at work within the province at 6 office locations. QFN is focused on the environment, health, education and training, tourism, small business support, culture, heritage and economic development. To learn more, visit qalipu.ca

About Academy Canada:

Academy Canada is the largest regulated career college in Newfoundland and Labrador with corporate offices in St. John's and Corner Brook, 15 campuses, and a team of 200 faculty and staff. It has offered a variety of career-ready training programs to 40,000 graduates across the province since 1985. The college currently offers 35 programs within the faculties of Animal Care and Nature, Business, Creative Studies, Health and Personal Care, Justice, and Trades. For more information about Academy Canada's programs and locations, visit www.academycanada.com.

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