

# JOURNAL OF PERSEVERANCE AND ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT FOR FIRST PEOPLES

## INTRODUCTION

In March 2014, the Centre des Premières Nations Nikanite (CPNN) of Université du Québec à Chicoutimi (UQAC), in collaboration with the Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MEES), launched the first edition of the Convention on Perseverance and Academic Achievement for First Peoples, designed to report on the advancement of knowledge and research in the field. More than 200 people attended the Convention in which several researchers, teachers, workers and managers presented special projects, research results and reflections resting on a rich and varied experience. Forty of them were subsequently published an article about the outline of their communication and these articles were gathered to form the core of the first volume of the Journal of Perseverance and Academic Achievement for First Peoples, published in January 2015.

The successful participation in this first edition of the conference reflected the great need for exchange and sharing of the various stakeholders in education in Aboriginal communities or working with students and Aboriginal students in urban areas. It was an opportunity for everyone to better target and better understand the issues affecting these young people, to learn about winning educational practices and evidence of research results, but also to share the amplitude of the challenges and questions that

remain. With the publication of Volume 1 of the Journal, the Scientific Committee therefore wished to reflect the richness, diversity and magnitude of the research and of the work accomplished daily in the various Quebec schools welcoming Aboriginal pupils and students concerned about their perseverance and academic success. The Journal is therefore addressed to anyone interested closely or at distance in Aboriginal education.

Motivated by this initial success, the CPNN team, in collaboration with its valued partners, including the Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MEES) and Rio Tinto, organized a second edition, which was held from October 14 to 16, 2015 at a convention centre in Saguenay. After outlining in a broad and comprehensive way the current state of research and practices in the field in the first edition of the Convention, the organizers this time are interested in innovations in our schools, especially teaching practices, support and collaborative practices. All educational issues could be addressed, but preference was given to what was field-tested, initiatives, research, and practices concretely developed in schools. More than 300 people attended one or many presentations at the Convention, after which the presenters were once again invited to submit an article summarizing their presentation.

