In March 2014, the Centre des Premières Nations Nikanite (CPNN) of Université du Québec à Chicoutimi (UQAC), in collaboration 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.
In this second volume of the Journal, the Scientific Committee was substantially pursuing the same purpose as in the publication of Volume 1, namely the dissemination, in a style accessible for the benefit of practitioners, stakeholders, researchers and university students, of research results and practice narratives shared at the event as well as the progress of knowledge and experiences concerning school success and perseverance among First Peoples of Quebec.

As you will see in the texts, the subject selection is broad! They range from literacy camps to cultural security at the post-secondary level, from the talking circle in the formal education system to consultation in urban areas, from second language approach and native culture to the development of an asynchronous university course.

You will also find interesting novelties in Volume 2 of the Journal. It particularly includes extracts from texts of young persevering Secondary 4e and Secondary 5e students from the First Peoples who, in spring 2016, submitted their names for a school perseverance scholarship. These are true stories that illustrate the many challenges these young people face, inspiring stories deserving a prominent place in this Journal.

You will also find some very interesting interviews by Patricia-Anne Blanchet with teachers, managers or stakeholders working with Aboriginal communities. This was a way for the Committee to recognize their contribution to the advancement of knowledge and to ensure that their work, research or initiatives can benefit the many rather than the few.

Finally, on the third edition of the Convention on Perseverance and Academic Achievement for First Peoples to be held on October 10 - 12, 2017, the CPNN team, supported by its partners, including the MEES, has chosen to innovate and hold the Convention in Québec City, in an ideal place for events of this scale, the Hilton Quebec, to make it more accessible and accommodate more teachers, researchers, managers, professionals, practitioners, and students. It is the perspective of a meeting between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people that this third edition will take place, so that all feel concerned by perseverance and academic success of young First Peoples. This nationwide event will once again provide an opportunity for various stakeholders in the education working with students and Aboriginal students to share, exchange, and learn.

We hope that reading this Journal will inspire you and will help to support young First Peoples in their academic career!