

## President's message – July 2014

Yesterday, Canada celebrated its 147th birthday. As many of you will know, yesterday also marked a milestone for the University of Regina. It was on July 1, 1974, that *The University of Regina Act* was passed and our University became an independent degree-granting institution. So, you could say that yesterday was both Canada Day AND University of Regina Independence Day!

In the 40 years since the University of Regina became an independent institution, countless faculty members, students, staff, alumni and friends have contributed to the growth of the University. Today, our University is a dynamic, diverse, comprehensive institution that we can all be proud to call our own – something that was evident to many people who participated in Regina's Canada Day festivities.

Each year, Canada Day is an occasion when we get together as Canadians and celebrate our great nation. For those of us in Regina and area, celebrating Canada Day most often means congregating in Wascana Park for a fun-filled day that begins with family activities and music, and culminates in a spectacular fireworks display.

Joining in on the fun in Wascana Park yesterday and letting everyone know about our 40 years of independence were some of our staff, international students and Alumni Association members. Despite the soggy grounds, a good time was had by everyone who dropped by the University tent in front of the Legislative Building to enjoy some games for the kids and some University of Regina giveaways.

Without question, yesterday's festivities certainly made for an enjoyable day.

While July 1 was an exciting day, toward the end of the month there will be a full week of excitement as the University campus becomes one of the focal points for the 2014 edition of the North American Indigenous Games (NAIG), which are being held in Regina from July 20-27. NAIG is a multi-sport and cultural event that celebrates North America's cultural diversity. The event showcases unity, sport, culture, youth, volunteerism and teamwork between First Nations, Métis and non-Indigenous communities.

NAIG will feature 4,000 athletes representing 22 regions across Canada and the United States, with some participants coming from as far away as Florida. University of Regina residences will house some 1,800 athletes, coaches and officials during the games, and our campus will also be the home of the basketball, volleyball, soccer, and wrestling competitions.

The area in front of First Nations University of Canada will be home of the Games' Cultural Village throughout the week. The Cultural Village will showcase traditional and contemporary Indigenous entertainers and will also feature a Tipi village, Indigenous food booths, gaming demonstrations, Elders' programming and much more. It is also the site of the Games' closing ceremonies.

The week promises to be enjoyable and entertaining, and I encourage everyone to take in some of the events with family and friends. There is no cost for any of the sporting or cultural events, and you'll be showing great support for these young athletes and performers.

Or, if you want to get more involved, I would ask that you consider volunteering for this very worthwhile event. For more information about the schedule of events, or to register as a volunteer, go to the Games' website at: <http://regina2014naig.com>.

The theme of this year's North American Indigenous Games is "raising the bar." I know that, in typical University of Regina fashion, each of you will contribute to "raising the bar" at NAIG this year. Thank you for doing your part to make the Games a success – whether it's by volunteering, by attending events, or by simply helping visitors around campus or offering them a smile and a "hello."

Enjoy the Games, and enjoy your July.

Sincerely,

Dr. Vianne Timmons  
President and Vice-Chancellor