



MEDIA RELEASE

## **Indigenous Post-Secondary Opportunities Expanding for Learners across Treaty 3 Territory**

*Seven Generations Education Institute to increase access to culturally grounded learning and career pathways for Indigenous youth*

Fort Frances, Ontario – September 21, 2026 – Seven Generations Education Institute (SGEI) is working with communities across Treaty 3 Territory to expand Indigenous post-secondary education for learners, with generational impact.

Through a new CAD \$50 million partnership with the Mastercard Foundation, SGEI will transform and expand education and training pathways connected to Anishinaabe language and worldview, enabling more Indigenous youth and learners to pursue their goals, build careers, and live a good life (mino bimaadiziwin).

Over the next 10 years, young people in the region will have access to new and expanded programs, resources, supports, and career opportunities in priority areas, including trades, healthcare, and more. Programming will continue to evolve to meet the aspirations and needs of Nations and learners in Treaty 3, delivering sustainable impact and opportunity today and for future generations.

This new phase of growth builds on the strengths of SGEI's current offerings, developed in partnership with First Nations and young people, that offer young people a world class education close to home.

More than 40 years ago, the Rainy Lake Ojibway Education Authority (RLOEA) received an unrestricted financial gift given in Anishinaabe tradition. It was offered with hope, trust, and good intent. This gift, along with the support of our community leaders, families, and elders, enabled RLOEA to develop and grow into what we are today at SGEI. The land, along with our fire, bundle, teachings, and language, fuels our journey and keeps us focused on hope, Anishinaabe worldview, community, lifelong learning and ensuring there will be better tomorrows.

*“Our communities have always been clear about what they want: language revitalization, and education that reflects who we are and prepares our people for the future,” said Brent Takenay, CEO of Seven Generations Education Institute. “This financial support from the Foundation strengthens our ability to respond to community, expand into emerging priority areas, and build sustained internal systems for our work.”*

The communities that SGEI serves will soon have access to more programs and benefit from the expansion of Anishinaabemowin language and cultural learning across the Institute. Learners will receive increased support to improve access to lifelong learning, including education and training pathways connected to community priorities, skilled employment, leadership, and career stability. SGEI will also continue to adapt to the changing needs of learners by enhancing technology integration across its services and programs.

*“Our First Nation’s children have a right to their culture, their traditions and songs. With this funding commitment, our responsibility is to steward this funding in ways that strengthen learners and respect our accountability to the community. We look forward and are ready for the work ahead,” said Naomi Field, Chair of the SGEI Board of Directors.*

*“When Indigenous youth have access to education that reflects their identities, cultures, and ambitions, the impact extends far beyond individual learners. SGEI provides Indigenous young people with opportunities that position them to shape their futures, drive economic development, and lead decision-making that contributes to wellbeing today and into the future,” said Jennifer Brennan, Senior Director, Canada Programs, Mastercard Foundation.*

As a registered charitable organization, SGEI views funding agreements, such as today’s announcement with the Mastercard Foundation, as a vital part of its broader effort to collaborate with organizations regionally and across Canada. SGEI is eager to continue building an innovative approach that makes education accessible locally, reduces barriers to participation, and creates more opportunities for skilled employment, leadership, and lifelong learning.

**About Seven Generations Education Institute**

Seven Generations Education Institute (SGEI) is an Indigenous-led educational organization that provides high school, post-secondary, training for employment and cultural programming to all Indigenous and non-Indigenous people in the Treaty Three area and beyond.