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January 19, 2015

STARS (Sustainability Tracking Assessment and Rating System)
Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education
1536 Wynkoop St., Suite 100, Denver CO 80202

Re: Letter of Affirmation for Gordon Oakes Red Bear Student Centre

To whom it may concern,

As an Aboriginal student at the University of Saskatchewan, I regard the construction of the Gordon Oakes Red Bear Student Centre as not only symbolic of my university's commitment to Aboriginal education, but also as a tangible measure toward building greater diversity and inclusion on campus.

At the U of S, we have one of the highest populations of Aboriginal students among Canada's post-secondary institutions. This has come about because the University of Saskatchewan has deliberately chosen to focus on Aboriginal education and the need to make Aboriginal students feel at home here. This focus of the University of Saskatchewan has been supported by the provision of:

- Gathering places for the development and support of the Aboriginal community;
- Groups and services that provide Aboriginal cultural and spiritual support;
- Programs to help new Aboriginal students transition to university;
- Academic programs that focus on Aboriginal content.

The Gordon Oakes Red Bear Centre will take this a step further by entrenching Aboriginal symbolism and sensibilities in the heart of our campus to reinforce and support the university's commitment to being culturally respectful and to honor the past and future of Canada's original people. The building will send a powerful message about our university as a place for everyone.

The Gordon Oakes Red Bear Student Centre will symbolize and support the University of Saskatchewan's commitment to diversity and equity.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Max FineDay'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Max FineDay, President
University of Saskatchewan Students' Union