

# TALKING NORQUEST

## RELEVANT. RESPONSIVE. IN YOUR COMMUNITY.

### WHO IS NORQUEST?

- NorQuest is Alberta's largest community college offering a strong selection of post-secondary diploma and certificate programs that lead to in-demand careers.
  - Career studies include health, human services and business.
- In addition to career programs, NorQuest offers high-quality educational opportunities that help learners complete or further their studies.
  - Foundational learning opportunities include academic upgrading, adult literacy, employment readiness and English as a Second Language education.
- NorQuest's applied research findings help the communities we serve by addressing challenges in the workplace and gaps in teaching and learning.
  - Our centres for excellence integrate education and practical solutions to support innovation in the workplace and in the classroom.
- NorQuest's distance education technology provides accessible education in over 200 communities to learners at the times, locations and formats that best meet their needs.
  - NorQuest provides innovative solutions that address learner needs and support community sustainability.

### CURRENT CHALLENGES

- Secure funding from the Government of Alberta for the construction of the North Learning Centre is essential to meet future enrolment growth and workforce demands.
  - With another economic boom being widely forecasted, it would be fiscally prudent to proceed with the project before labour and material costs increase.

### SUPPORTING ALBERTA'S WORKFORCE

- NorQuest provides learning opportunities for all, including people underrepresented in the Alberta labour force.
  - The underrepresented include Aboriginal people, new immigrants and persons with disabilities.
  - NorQuest will further develop relationships with the Aboriginal community to facilitate unique learning opportunities for Aboriginal learners, enabling them to achieve their academic and career goals.
- NorQuest is a Canadian leader in health-care education:
  - NorQuest's Practical Nurse Diploma program is one of the largest in Canada.
  - NorQuest's Health Care Aide Certificate program is the largest in Canada.
  - Continued expansion of the Practical Nurse program directly addresses the Alberta government's target to double the number of licensed practical nurse graduates in Alberta, adding 1,000 graduates by 2012.

### NORQUEST'S ROLE AS REGIONAL STEWARD

- As regional steward, NorQuest collaborates with community partners to meet literacy, foundational and post-secondary learning needs.
  - These partnerships strengthen the Alberta knowledge economy, and address the economic, societal, and cultural needs for education regionally and provincially.

### RETURN ON INVESTMENT

- With 95% of our graduates finding employment or continuing their education, NorQuest contributes significantly to Alberta's growing economy.
- NorQuest operations and student spending contribute more than \$450 million annually to the regional economy. The provincial and municipal governments see a rate of return of 13% on their support of NorQuest College.

