

NORQUEST COLLEGE FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER

SPRING/SUMMER 2009



Your Canadian spirit

The spirit of philanthropy is one of the things that makes Canada great. This past Canada Day was the first for many new Canadian students at NorQuest and we had an opportunity to celebrate with all of them.

Your support to programs and services for all students at NorQuest College over the past year is one way of showing your devotion to Canada. These gifts help individual students achieve their dreams, realize opportunities and enjoy better living standards and safe futures for their children.

Through your donations, students are able to gain access to language skills to help with settlement situations such as how to find a place to live, a job, child care, and what to do in emergency situations. Donations to bridging programs such as the Youth in Transition and Bridge to Business Careers keep students on track and help prepare them for the next steps in their lives.

Often new Canadian students are under extreme pressure to find work



New Canadian Students at NorQuest College

in order to provide for their families. Sometimes it is tempting to leave school to take on full-time employment at a low wage. Your support through bursaries and financial awards has helped many newcomers stay in class. By completing their training, they are better able to participate meaningfully in Canadian life, using all their skills and talents our country needs in order to be prosperous.

Success for newcomers is measured by their ability to participate fully in the social, economic and political spheres of Canada. This participation brings success to Canada as well. In recognition of the importance of the contributions of newcomers, NorQuest expanded its language and intercultural education to the

workplace to help newcomers reach their full potential. The Centre for Excellence in Intercultural education was launched to the community in April this year. The Centre was created through the vision and expertise of dedicated NorQuest staff, but it was made possible by the philanthropy of our community.

Thanks to you, the journey from learning English to full participation in Canadian life is made much easier for NorQuest students in the classroom, in the community and in the workplace. Thanks to you for your Canadian spirit that makes our country great.



*Canada Day Celebration,
Westmount Campus*

TELUS and Carma get interactive

Embarking on a new life in a new country without knowing the language is not easy. Although you might quickly pick up basics like “thank you” and “excuse me,” what happens if you get sick and need to go to the doctor? What about when you get a speeding ticket or need to open a bank account? Situations like these may seem like trivial encounters but they can be overwhelming and frightening experiences for someone who doesn’t speak English.

With the help of amazing donors, TELUS Community Foundation and Carma Developers, NorQuest is addressing this barrier for new Canadians. Thanks to the financial support of these two companies, NorQuest has just launched Interactive English Volume I, an innovative reading and listening resource for English as a Second Language (ESL) and literacy learners. Using everyday, real-life situations to teach English, Interactive English helps students improve their reading, writing, vocabulary and listening skills. NorQuest is proud of this project that would not have been possible without the belief and support of both TELUS and Carma.



TELUS visits Learning Support Services at NorQuest College

Janice Moore, NorQuest College; Steven LePoole, NorQuest College Board of Governors; Dr. Bob Westbury, TELUS; Christian Montoya, NorQuest student; Dale Mulek, TELUS; Dr. Wayne Shillington, President & CEO NorQuest College; Karen Faulkner, Executive Director, NorQuest College Foundation & Community Relations

CARMA DEVELOPERS: Giving back through empowerment

At NorQuest we believe in empowering students to be independent, fully engaged members of our community. The Interactive English project is just one resource we have developed to do this. We hope it will lead to success for new Canadians.

“Success is measured in many ways. For Carma, being truly successful means giving back to the communities where we work,” says Louise Gibson, chair of charitable donations at Carma.

It is this belief that led Carma to pledge \$50,000 in 2005 to NorQuest,



directing all of these funds to the Interactive English project.

“We saw an opportunity to help the students at NorQuest in an innovative and resourceful way. We saw a chance to empower them and give them the tools they need to get started,” says Gibson.

TEE OFF WITH US

SEPTEMBER 3, 2009

in support of the
NorQuest College Centre for
Excellence in Education for
Continuing Care

To read about this year’s tournament or to participate as a golfer or sponsor, please visit www.norquest.ca under the “What’s New” caption.



TELUS COMMUNITY FOUNDATION: A company that “Gives where it lives”



TELUS is a long-time supporter of NorQuest College. From purchasing laptop computers for business students to sponsoring the annual TELUS Call Home project that gives new immigrant students the opportunity to call their families during the Christmas season, TELUS has helped build the foundations of the College.

“Building foundations for success is a compelling vision. It conjures a society wherein each and every citizen has the opportunity to participate fully in the benefits and responsibilities inherent in a democratic system,” says Dr. Bob Westbury, chair, TELUS Community Board.

With a total gift amount of close to \$90,000 to NorQuest College (including gifts made through a company gift matching program), TELUS has shown itself as a company

that gives back. With last year’s donation of \$20,000 directed to the Interactive English project, and this year’s donation of \$20,000 directed towards assistive technology for students with disabilities, it is obvious that investing in innovation is an important priority.

As Dr. Westbury explains, “TELUS is a hi-tech company always investing, always pushing the known limits. Thus, when a request to help learners help themselves comes forward, the response is predictable, TELUS will be there to support and encourage. The Interactive English project fits the criterion perfectly; using technology to improve the lives of citizens, and fulfills our promise, ‘We give where we live’.”

Thank you TELUS and Carma for all you have done for our students.

Together for Tomorrow 2009 support NorQuest students

In these challenging economic times, there have been many demands placed upon our personal resources, and for this, I want to sincerely thank all of you who have supported our latest campaign, Together for Tomorrow 2009. With your support, many of you have placed yourself in the lives of students and imagined what it must be like for them in these tough times.

Support to this campaign is literally bread and butter for students. Lack of funds is the biggest reason students come to make that disheartening choice to drop out of school; financial support is often all the encouragement they need to stay the course and get through whatever needs getting through.

Funds to support students with emergency assistance, bursaries and the student emergency food bank are rapidly depleting because of a 20 per cent increase in enrolment. In addition, students are finding it more and more difficult to make ends meet due to cost of living increases and few part-time jobs.

At this early stage of the campaign we have raised \$15,000 of our \$100,000 goal for the Together for Tomorrow 2009 pooled leadership gift that will support

students in the greatest need at NorQuest College. There is still a long way to go before our November breakfast announcement of the leadership gift.

For those we have contacted, please consider this pooled gift of support. For those who have not been contacted, I would also like to ask you to please consider contributing to this pooled gift of support. If you have any questions about the campaign, do not hesitate to contact me or the Foundation office at 780-644-5915.

I have no doubt that together we can realize the enormous potential of NorQuest students by supporting this campaign.

You can also make your donation online at www.norquest.ca.



*Andrew Megson
Springwood Developments
NorQuest College Foundation
Board Chair*

NorQuest College Foundation Donor Recognition

NorQuest College and the NorQuest College Foundation gratefully acknowledge the following donors, as well as those who wish to remain anonymous. These donors have contributed to the success of our students with combined gifts of \$1,000 or more between January 1, 2009 and June 30, 2009.

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The NorQuest College Foundation Newsletter is produced by the NorQuest College Community Relations department. If you would like to receive the electronic version of the newsletter, submit an idea for an article, have any questions or comments pertaining to the newsletter, or would like to be removed from the mailing list, please contact the newsletter editor.

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