

August 27, 2009

## **NorQuest College health careers program heading south to train Jamaicans to become skilled practical nurses**

Program graduates will be eligible for employment in Canada

EDMONTON – Pre-University School in Jamaica is brokering the NorQuest College Practical Nurse Diploma program in an effort to train and educate Jamaican students to become licensed practical nurses eligible for employment in Canada. The unique partnership will offer face-to-face delivery of theory, lab and clinical components of NorQuest’s practical nurse program to approximately 200 students this year at two locations in Jamaica: Montego Bay and Kingston. NorQuest will provide the curriculum, consultative support, completion credentials and quality assurance to maintain high program standards.

At a special ceremony at NorQuest College on August 27, 2009, the Government of Jamaica and NorQuest College signed a Memorandum of Understanding to lay the foundation for this innovative partnership.

“This collaborative partnership is an exciting opportunity for NorQuest to offer its expertise, teaching excellence and quality skills-training to meet the needs of learners in Jamaica,” said NorQuest College President and CEO Dr. Wayne Shillington. “Our Practical Nurse Diploma program has a reputation of being one of the best in Canada and we’re thrilled to be involved in educating the next generation of front-line nurses in Jamaica.”

“Jamaica is very thankful for the work of the Jamaica Liaison Service, Marmicmon IMC, and NorQuest College for bringing together this opportunity where Jamaicans can be trained at a Canadian standard in Jamaica and become eligible for a license to work in Canada,” said Jamaica’s Minister of Labour and Social Security, the Hon. Parnel Charles. “This is in keeping with our government’s mandate. We are aware NorQuest has the largest practical nursing program in Canada and we are happy for the long-term benefits of this partnership.”

Jamaican students who graduate from the NorQuest program will be equipped with the same knowledge and employment skills as graduates of the program in Alberta.

As the largest community college in Alberta, NorQuest College serves approximately 10,000 students each year through full-time, part-time and regional programs in communities across Alberta. In addition to health care, allied health, human services, business and industry career programs, NorQuest offers expertise in adult literacy, English as a Second Language, intercultural education, aboriginal education, academic upgrading, and learner supports for students with disabilities. For more information, visit [www.norquest.ca](http://www.norquest.ca).

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