



News Release

Love on the line: students connect with free calls home for the holidays Fifth annual TELUS Call Home Project connects English language training students at NorQuest College with family and friends overseas

December 14, 2009

EDMONTON – Twenty-nine English language-training students from NorQuest College visited the TELUS call centre for an opportunity to phone family members anywhere in the world, free of charge, for the holidays. The TELUS Call Home Project originated in Edmonton and is now a nation-wide initiative to connect English language-training students with family and friends around the world.

“TELUS supports NorQuest students with annual funding for special learning assistance technology,” said NorQuest Foundation Executive Director Karen Faulkner. “The Call Home Project is one more way that TELUS is making a difference in the lives of our students who are new to Canada.”

Participating students are in Canada to make a better life for themselves and for their families. A phone call home can raise spirits during the holiday season and help to cope with the distance. Many of these students however don't have the financial means to make a long distance phone call. Some students stayed connected for close to an hour and called such locations as Venezuela, Colombia, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Vietnam, Somalia, Sudan, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Congo, Syria and Tajikistan.

“This is what our commitment to the community and the spirit of the season is all about,” said TELUS Director of Corporate Communications Jim Johannsson. “TELUS Call Home, in partnership with NorQuest, is a project straight from the heart. It brings us together to help students bridge the distance between them and their loved ones without worrying about the cost at an emotional time of year.”

Call Home reflects TELUS' commitment to 'give where we live' by investing in programs that make a positive and lasting difference in the community. The Call Home Project started in 2005 when NorQuest College supporters, Darwin and Betty Park, raised \$6,500 in community donations to purchase calling cards for language-training students at NorQuest College. TELUS matched the donation to distribute \$13,000 in calling cards to 400 students.

NorQuest College is Edmonton's community college with campuses in Edmonton, Wetaskiwin and Stony Plain, community learning centres in seven other Alberta communities and online distance learning in more than 200 communities in Canada. NorQuest delivers post-secondary diplomas and certificates in a variety of health, human services, business and industry career programs. NorQuest has expertise in adult literacy, academic upgrading, English as a Second Language (ESL), Aboriginal education, and learner supports for students with disabilities.

As the largest community college in Alberta, NorQuest serves around 10,000 full and part-time students each year, and is designated by the Alberta government as the regional steward responsible for the Edmonton region from Camrose to Jasper and Drayton Valley to Whitecourt. For more information, visit www.norquest.ca.

-30-

For media inquiries, please contact:

Diana Lake
NorQuest College Communications
Direct: (780) 644-5814 Cell: (780) 953-0364
Diana.lake@norquest.ca

Chris Gerritsen
TELUS Media Relations
(403) 808-9591
Chris.gerritsen@telus.com