



News Release

August 12, 2008

Métis Nation of Alberta creates \$375,000 endowment fund at NorQuest College; largest endowment in College's history

EDMONTON – The Métis Nation of Alberta Métis Education Foundation announced today a donation of \$375,000 toward the creation of the Métis Student Awards endowment fund at NorQuest College. The gift will also generate an additional \$375,000 in matching funds from the Alberta Government Access to the Future Fund bringing the total value of the Métis Student Awards endowment to \$750,000.

Starting in September, the Métis Student Awards will provide eligible Métis students attending NorQuest College with financial assistance in the form of undergraduate bursaries and awards ranging from \$1,500 to \$3,000. Priority will be given to students enrolled in NorQuest's Aboriginal University Transition Program. The partnership will also develop an Essential Skills Initiative for Métis clients as part of the Métis Nation of Alberta's Labour Market Development program.

"The partnership with the Métis Nation of Alberta will make it easier for Métis students to access our various skills training and career programs," said NorQuest College President and CEO Dr. Wayne Shillington. "The endowment fund will help to ensure Métis students take those important steps toward achieving their educational and career goals."

"This endowment fund opens opportunities to education for Métis people," said Métis Nation of Alberta President Audrey Poitras. "It is important for students to complete their programs with as little debt as possible and the Métis Student Awards will help achieve this. I want to thank NorQuest College for partnering with the MNA."

Sixteen per cent of the student population at NorQuest College is Aboriginal, nearly one quarter of which are Métis.

NorQuest College serves around 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 (ESL), intercultural education, Aboriginal education, academic upgrading, and learner supports for students with disabilities. For more information, visit www.norquest.ca.

The Métis Nation of Alberta Métis Education Foundation was created to encourage and assist Métis students in financial need to achieve their highest academic potential. The Métis Education Foundation's NorQuest College endowment is the second partnership for the Métis Nation of Alberta. The Métis Nation of Alberta is a non-profit organization that exists to advocate on behalf of, and meet the needs and aspirations of Métis people in Alberta. For more information on the awards or how to apply, visit www.albertametis.ca

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For more information on this release please contact:

Martin Schuldhuis
Manager, Communications and Public Relations
NorQuest College
Office: 780-644-5924
Cell: 780-722-9919
martin.schuldhuis@norquest.ca

Charity Sokolan
Communications
Métis Nation of Alberta
Office: 780-455-2200
Cell: 780-490-8188
cborg@metis.org