

# NORQUEST COLLEGE FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER

FALL 2008

## Charisse Campbell

*Overwhelmed by high school and family responsibilities, I dropped out in Grade 11. Before coming to NorQuest College, I worked in a few different jobs but I didn't have a career. I knew that I needed an education to get a higher paying job but I hesitated about returning to school because I had never been very successful.*

*When I enrolled in the Aboriginal Community Support Worker program at NorQuest, everything changed. Coming back to school was such a positive experience. I couldn't believe the support that was available to me. The most rewarding moment for me was walking across the stage at my first graduation.*

*I am now bridging into the Social Work Diploma program at NorQuest. In five years, I hope to be working as a full-time social worker. NorQuest helped me succeed by showing me that I have the potential to get good grades, continue my education and achieve my goal of getting a career.*

## Kelly Marie Tulloch

*Before coming to NorQuest College, my life lacked direction. When I finally came to the realization that I needed to change, NorQuest was there.*

*I quickly volunteered with the NorQuest Students' Council, became our class representative, and started group study sessions. My memories of NorQuest are very positive, in particular the incredible support I received from my teachers and peers. Everyone wanted me to succeed both at school and in life.*

*Today I am a Licensed Practical Nurse. I began my career working in community nursing, helping people on social assistance, people with drug addictions, and people who have suffered abuse. I am now confident and capable. I believe I can do anything because of my time spent at NorQuest College.*

## Empowering students through partnerships

Every student who walks through the doors of NorQuest College is determined to improve their life in some way and is seeking a higher education to help them reach the goals they have set for themselves. NorQuest College is like a personal training coach to every student, helping them focus their vision, flex their academic muscles, and cheer them on to reach their goals.

Students come with great determination to succeed and the College works with every student to overcome any obstacle that might stand in the way of achieving success.

"Coming back to school was such a positive experience. I couldn't believe the support that was available to me," says Charisse Campbell.

NorQuest College takes enormous pride in its partnerships with students, but it is the community partnerships that are the true ingredient to any successful relationship with students like Charisse.

A recent gift from Lindsay and Lewis Nakatsui granted eight graduates from the Practical Nurse Diploma for Internationally Educated Nurses program the opportunity to write the necessary licensing exam that would allow them to practise their profession in Canada. Without this financial support, students would be further delayed from practising the profession that they love and one that is so urgently needed in our community.

Partnerships with small business and large corporations allow students to gain valuable experience in real life settings through workplace practicum training. Many students continue on with these companies long after completing their programs and our graduates continue to be sought out by business and industry. Other organizations such as Canada Safeway donate staff time to benefit students. Approximately 30 Canada Safeway employees help English as a Second Language students in the classroom with reading and pronunciation.

NorQuest College is one small part of a team that helps lead students to their best performance in achieving the goals they set for their lives.

"I am now confident and capable," says Kelly, a recent graduate of NorQuest College. "I believe I can do anything because of my time spent at NorQuest College."

For every student like Kelly there is an amazing story of success made possible through strong partnerships between the student, the College and the community. Now empowered, graduates of NorQuest College can make great contributions to the fitness and well-being of our community.



Kelly Marie Tulloch  
Recent NorQuest graduate

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# Métis Nation of Alberta Partners with NorQuest

Recently, the Métis Nation of Alberta created a record breaking \$375,000 endowment fund for Métis Student Awards.

The Métis Nation of Alberta, or MNA as they are more commonly known, has existed as a representative body for the Métis people of Alberta for over 80 years. Now boasting more than 42,000 members from a total of 85,000 self-identified Métis in Alberta, the MNA is more than an advocate for Métis people; it is an organization that is seeking “to promote and facilitate the advancement of Métis people through the pursuit of self reliance, self determination and self management.” This is a mission that falls readily in line with the values of our College.

It was just a few short months ago that the NorQuest College Foundation met with officials from the MNA Labour Market Development (LMD) program, and immediately the connection seemed evident.

“Our goal is to achieve some level of parity between mainstream and Métis people in terms of access to education and employment opportunities,” said Lorne Gladue, Director of LMD. “In the past year we’ve established endowment funds at the University of Alberta and Grant MacEwan College, and NorQuest became another natural step into our grand scheme of investments and measures to encourage our people to move towards post-secondary studies.”

According to 2006 Statistics Canada information, only five per cent of Métis students chose to continue their education compared to 15 per cent among the non-Aboriginal population, and the MNA is looking to close this gap through its post-secondary investments.

It was the initial opportunity to meet that sparked the connection between the MNA and NorQuest College.

Once the \$375,000 endowment fund is matched by NorQuest through the Access to the Future Fund, it will become the largest endowment creation in NorQuest’s history.

“Everyone we’ve worked with at NorQuest has been very accommodating,” states Gladue. “We are really hoping to maintain this relationship and look forward to seeing where it takes us.”

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## Golf tournament raises \$139,500



Dr. Wayne Shillington, NorQuest President & CEO, and Gary Mar, Minister-Counsellor, Alberta Office, Canadian Embassy, go for the green at the 5th Annual Gary Mar Charity Golf Classic on September 4, 2008 at Jägare Ridge. Supporters helped to raise \$139,500 toward the purchase of high-tech, high-touch human patient simulators for the new Health Education Centre – 106 Street, in support of the College’s Centre for Excellence in Education for Continuing Care. It’s the first year NorQuest was named the beneficiary.



# THANK YOU!



## The 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Gary Mar Charity Golf Classic

We would like to thank our sponsors and the golfers who participated for making this event a tremendous success. The funds raised at this event will benefit NorQuest College's Centre for Excellence in Education for Continuing Care, making a difference in the quality of education and in the quality of care provided in the Edmonton area.

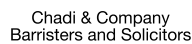
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# NorQuest College Foundation Donor Recognition

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 April 1, 2008 and September 30, 2008.

- Allwest Commerical Furnishings\*
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\* The NorQuest College Foundation gratefully recognizes the multi-year commitment of these Circle of Success Donors



## A message from the Foundation Board Chair

I am always amazed at how people become involved with NorQuest College. Often it starts out as a cup of coffee or a sandwich that suddenly turns into the brewing of a unique and extraordinary partnership.

At a NorQuest 101 session, Dr. Wayne Shillington, President and CEO of NorQuest, will give a personalized tour and share his vision of NorQuest over lunch with anyone who would like to visit the College.

But the highlight of any 101 session is when a student shares his or her experiences at NorQuest and the impact the College has had in his or her life. It is then, through a special combination of magic and logic, that many of the guests in attendance decide they need to become involved too.



*Andrew Megson*  
Springwood Developments  
NorQuest Foundation Board Chair

These coffees and luncheons have been the catalyst for many relationships with NorQuest College. New programming is created to respond to the needs of industry, or the lives of students are profoundly affected through volunteer involvement, industry support or awards and scholarships.

Formal collaborations or informal partnerships are not uncommon at NorQuest College. As more people and businesses become aware of the impact NorQuest is making in our community, more

partnerships are being formed.

Who do you know who has not yet had the opportunity to attend a NorQuest 101 luncheon? Let's invite them. Great things will be sure to happen.

### NorQuest Foundation Board Members

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### Foundation Newsletter Contacts

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 one of the newsletter editors.

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