

# Colleges offering police program for aboriginals

DAN OVSEY

*Journal Staff Writer*

EDMONTON

Three Alberta colleges are offering a 10-month program for aboriginal students to prepare them to write police entrance exams.

NorQuest, Grant MacEwan, and Northern Lakes colleges are launching the program in September.

"Policing, like any service, should reflect the cultural mosaic they are serving," said Ron Hepperle, manager of police training at the Solicitor General's office.

Hepperle added that it has always been the hope of the

government to have natives enter the police force.

The program will prepare students for the police qualification entrance exams, which include physical, cognitive and written communications tests.

While it is promoted as a course for aboriginals, the program is open to all students. There will be 25 spots at each college.

"From our perspective, we're trying to fill a niche," said Lyle Black, co-ordinator of Norquest's Aboriginal Policing and Security Program.

Tuition for the 10-month course is \$600, plus books and living accommodations.