

News Release

June 30, 2008

RBC and NorQuest College announce partnership to support new Canadians through education and training

EDMONTON – As students and employees at NorQuest College celebrated Canada Day, RBC announced a four-year, \$450,000 investment to support new Canadians. RBC's contribution, one of the largest in the College's 43 year history, will expand programs and services at NorQuest designed for immigrant students and businesses that employ new Canadians.

RBC's partnership includes support of the following NorQuest College programs and events:

- **Centre for Excellence in Intercultural Education**
Delivers programs that focus on developing effective communication skills for both new Canadians entering the workforce and Canadian-born residents who work within our multicultural labour market.
- **Student Ambassador Program**
Provides opportunities for NorQuest students to improve their public speaking skills by functioning as greeters at College events, and by telling their personal stories to visitors and fellow students about the positive impact that NorQuest is having on their lives.
- **Speaker's Series**
Assists Alberta businesses in improving intercultural communication in the workplace.
- **Annual Fundraising Breakfast and Canada Day Celebration**
RBC is the presenting sponsor of these two major College events.

"It is because of partners like RBC that we can offer these unique programs and services to our students," says NorQuest College President and CEO, Dr. Wayne Shillington. "Both organizations are committed to improving the lives of new Canadians and one of the best ways to do that is through education.

"Our student population covers the spectrum, from refugee students with little education to highly skilled immigrants who, with some additional education, can more easily transition into the workplace. This gift from RBC ensures we can continue to offer the programs and student supports that best benefit newcomers and their future employers," explains Shillington.

"RBC believes an investment in students and education is an investment in our community's future. Businesses need a skilled workforce to remain competitive and we believe NorQuest provides both new Canadians and businesses with the education and training necessary to contribute to success," says Molly Ann Chan, regional vice-president for RBC in Edmonton.

NorQuest's partnership with RBC started in 2004 with the NorQuest–RBC Foundation Literacy Fund and has since grown to fund the College's Intercultural Education Centre.

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Backgrounder attached. For more information contact:

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Backgrounder

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, human services, business and industry career programs, NorQuest offers expertise in adult literacy, English as a Second Language (ESL), academic upgrading, and learner supports for students with disabilities. Language Instruction for Newcomers to Canada (LINC) serves about 1,200 students annually. An additional 400 students are enrolled in Adult Literacy programs and 500 more are receiving English as a Second Language (ESL) training, making NorQuest the largest provider of ESL training in Edmonton. More than 60 per cent of NorQuest students come from outside North America, representing more than 200 countries and some 70 languages. For more information, visit www.norquest.ca.

RBC is one of Canada's largest corporate donors, and contributed more than \$82.8 million to community causes worldwide in 2007, through donations of more than \$47.7 million, and an additional \$35.1 million in sponsorship of community events and national organizations. In 2007, the company announced the RBC Environmental Blueprint, a formal roadmap outlining the company's environmental priorities and objectives, and the RBC Blue Water Project, a 10-year philanthropic program to support projects dedicated to water conservation, watershed protection, access to clean drinking water, and other water-related issues in Canada and around the world. In 2007, RBC was named Canada's top corporate citizen, and in 2008, was named one of the top 100 sustainable companies in the world.