

# Impact Report

2025



# WOMEN POWER POTENTIAL



**Carolyn Campbell**

President and CEO, NorQuest College

Something truly extraordinary happened in 2025—a feat unprecedented in the 15-year history of 1000 Women. In a single calendar year, together, we raised more than one million dollars!

This remarkable achievement did not happen by accident. It happened because our 1000 Women community understands something fundamental: that potential is everywhere, but opportunity is not.

Your generosity means a single parent can now register for classes without wondering who will watch their child. It means a woman entering STEM has the tools, technology, and textbooks to fully participate. And it means a student facing an unexpected crisis will not have to choose between staying enrolled and keeping the lights on.

A million dollars is an incredible sum. But what is far more remarkable is the impact those donations will have.

Because financial support does more than pay a bill; it tells someone they are not alone on their journey, and that they have the belief of 1000 Women behind them. So, on behalf of the students whose lives will be forever changed, thank you for showing us what is possible when women—and allies of women—come together in service of something bigger than ourselves.

This is what a community looks like. This is what impact feels like. And this is the power of 1000 Women.

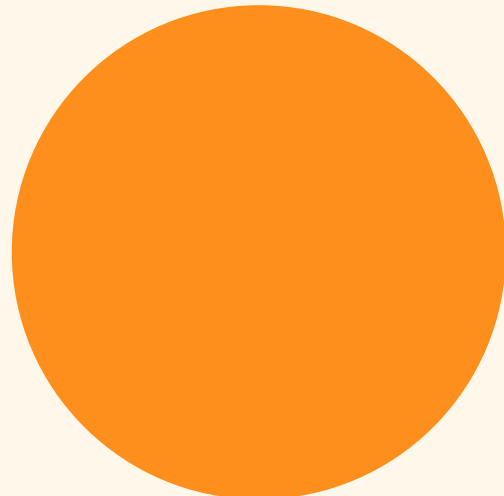
**“Together, we proved what is possible when a community comes together to remove barriers and create pathways to education.”**

Alessandra Bruni-Smith, 1000 Women Chair

As we celebrate the 15th anniversary of the 1000 Women movement, this year stands out as one of the most remarkable yet. Entering 2025, our committee set an ambitious and unprecedented goal: to raise \$1 million to support NorQuest learners. Thanks to the overwhelming generosity of our community—our donors, sponsors, partners, and advocates—we achieved this milestone for the first time in our history. Together, we proved what is possible when a community comes together to remove barriers and create pathways to education.

This year was filled with moments that showcased the strength and spirit of the 1000 Women community. We hosted our second annual Sip & Chip event, bringing people together in support, celebration, and generosity. Our annual 1000 Women: Inspiring Possibilities powered by Kiwi gala welcomed more than 750 guests, demonstrating a deep and growing commitment to uplifting women and families in Alberta. We also connected with supporters through several donor appreciation events, creating meaningful opportunities to share stories of impact and gratitude.

As the 2025 Chair of the 1000 Women Committee, I am profoundly grateful for every contribution that made this record-breaking year possible. Whether through donations, event attendance, sponsorship, or spreading the word, each act of support helped open doors for women pursuing their education at NorQuest. Thank you for standing with us, believing in our movement, and continuing to champion our cause to reduce educational barriers. Together, we are building brighter futures.





# A YEAR IN REVIEW

**Jamie O'Connell, 1000 Women Lead,  
NorQuest College**

## Greetings!

This past year marked a historic moment for the NorQuest College 1000 Women Movement. For the first time, more than \$1 million was raised in a single year, an achievement made possible by a powerful community of donors who believe in education as a pathway to opportunity. Through fundraisers like Sip and Chip, the 1000 Women Inspiring Possibilities Gala, and the steady commitment of monthly and one-time donors, hundreds of acts of generosity came together to create lasting change.

Every contribution helped remove barriers, open doors, and create new possibilities for NorQuest learners working to transform their lives and the lives of their families and communities. This milestone is more than a number, it is proof of what happens when a community comes together with purpose and heart.

Thank you for believing in learners, for showing up year after year, and for making this historic year possible. Together, you have helped shape a future filled with opportunity.



**TOTAL RAISED**

**\$1,259,624**



# 1000 WOMEN IMPACT

## Jennifer Deschenes



### 1. Barriers before receiving the 1000 Women bursary

Before receiving the 1000 Women bursary, I was balancing a part-time FTE position with AHS while simultaneously building my own private foot care clinic. Between work, home, and school, I felt extremely overwhelmed. Something that often gets overlooked is how different it is to pursue further education as an adult with an established career. Life doesn't slow down.

I am responsible for a family, a mortgage, work, overtime, and school. Receiving this bursary allowed me to focus on my education without sacrificing precious family time or taking on additional overtime shifts. It allowed me to keep my focus where it needed to be: on succeeding in my clinical placement and ultimately graduating.

### 2. How this support changed my education & career journey

This support truly shifted everything for me. I was able to pay for my next course immediately, which kept me progressing in my program without interruption. Without this help, I would have been forced to delay enrolment or take on additional debt.

The bursary didn't just support my education; it boosted my confidence. As women, we often carry many responsibilities that go unnoticed, and it felt empowering to know that I could continue my education without relying on anyone else financially. I've worked incredibly hard to get where I am today, and I genuinely would not have made it this far without the support of bursaries and financial aid.

### 3. What my life looks like today because of this support

Because of NorQuest, I am now the proud owner and operator of an advanced foot care practice, Sole Solutions, located in Peace River. NorQuest's flexible online learning made it possible for me to complete my education while living five hours north of Edmonton—an area where access to specialized training can be limited. With the knowledge and confidence I gained at NorQuest, I felt empowered to step into independent practice as a nurse and succeed.

### 4. Message to the donors

I cannot express my gratitude enough. As a wife, nurse, and friend, stepping away from my home and job to pursue further education was intimidating, especially living so far north, where educational opportunities are harder to access. But your support made that leap feel less frightening.

I am proud to share that I graduated with honours in my orthopaedic specialty. Because of donors like you, I now operate a thriving business, offering services that were never available in my region before. I am able to bring value, expertise, and needed resources to my community and that brings me immense joy.

Thank you for believing in women, for supporting our education, and for creating opportunities that change lives.

# 1000 WOMEN IMPACT

## Tori Thomas



### 1. Barriers before receiving the 1000 Women bursary

Three years ago, I made the decision to take my life back. For years before that, I lived with depression, anxiety, grief, addiction, self-sabotage, and emotions that felt intense and uncontrollable. Every day felt like survival.

My life during that time was filled with hospital stays, countless doctor appointments, psychiatrists, medication changes, and treatments. While working to heal mentally and emotionally, I was also trying to rebuild my life from the ground up.

Getting my education while carrying that weight, and the financial stress that came with it, felt overwhelming. The 1000 Women bursary lifted a significant burden and gave me the space to focus on healing, learning, and believing that my life and future were worth investing in.

### 2. How this support changed my education & career journey

This support arrived during a turning point in my life, when I was choosing growth over survival. The bursary gave me stability and momentum, allowing me to fully commit to my education instead of constantly worrying about how I would manage financially.

It also strengthened my confidence and sense of purpose. I no longer saw my past as something holding me back, but as something shaping my future. My lived experience with mental health challenges has become the foundation of my career goal: to work in a specialized mental health response unit such as the A/PACT/PACT team, supporting individuals during their most vulnerable moments.

### 3. What my life looks like today because of this support

Today, I am three years into a new beginning: three years of growth, strength, resilience, and healing. My life has new meaning, and my future feels brighter than ever. My goals are closer than I once believed possible.

There will always be bumps in the road, but now I have the tools, support, and control to keep moving forward. NorQuest has supported me not only academically, but as a whole person. Through education, encouragement, and

opportunity, I am preparing for a career where I can give back, helping others through mental health crises with compassion, understanding, and lived experience.

### 4. Message to the donors

To the donors who made this possible: thank you. Your generosity changed more than my educational journey; it changed my belief in myself and my future. You supported someone who was rebuilding after the darkest chapter of their life, and that support created hope, direction, and opportunity.

Because of you, I am moving forward with purpose. Because of you, I am working toward a career where I can help save lives the same way mine was once saved. One day, I will tell my story of how I overcame what I went through, and it will be someone else's survival guide.

I am deeply grateful for the difference you have made.

# 2025 DONOR LIST

**A special thank you to everyone  
who contributed**

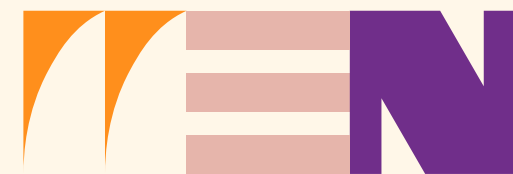
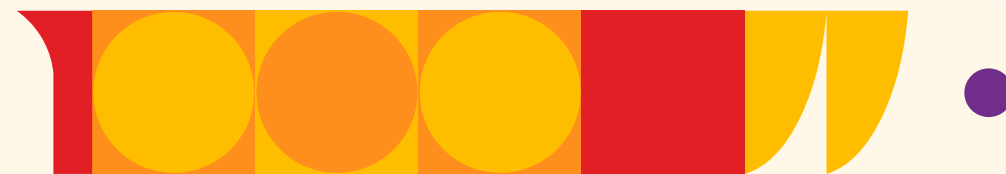
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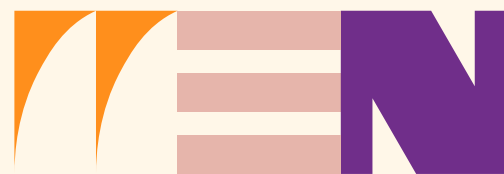


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