NorQuest College Indigenous Students Week of Welcome Event

The Indigenous Students Week of Welcome event was held on Thursday January 25 in the atrium of the Singhmar Centre for Learning at NorQuest College.

The event was very well attended as we witnessed a packed atrium and opened with a prayer from Resident Elder, Delores Cardinal. The event also included a welcome from RBC Indigenous Student Liaison, Elizabeth Routledge, an introduction to the Indigenous Students Support Team, as well as a speech from Indigenous Student Mentor, Denene Lamouche.

During the celebration, we had former NorQuest student Amanda Lamothe with her group, Native Entertainment, sharing a variety of powwow dances with our staff and students who danced to the sounds of a local drum group.

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The month of January was a busy one! The RBC Indigenous program held their 10th Annual Week of Welcome on Thursday, January 25.

As well, we hosted a guest speaker from Edmonton Community Legal Center on Friday, February 9 for the Speakers Series.

We are also continuing to make ceremony skirts/ribbon shirts with the RBC Mentors over the next several weekends.

If you are interested in attending any of our events, please email elizabeth.routledge@norquest.ca

Aksis Breakfast at NorQuest

The Aksis Edmonton Aboriginal Business and Professional Association held their breakfast with Aksis Board of Directors at the NorQuest College Indigenous Students Centre on January 16. Aksis is a membership-driven, not-for-profit organization created to serve as a central meeting point that inspires Edmonton’s Aboriginal business and professional community to connect and collaborate.

NorQuest College has been a proud partner of Aksis for several years and was more than willing to host their event on our campus. The breakfast mixer provided an opportunity for discussion with the Board of Directors’ vision for the development of Edmonton’s Indigenous business and professional community.

Additionally, Colin Critch, Business Development Officer and Naim Cardinal, Indigenous Community Engagement Advisor provided Aksis with an information session on NorQuest’s business opportunities and partnerships with Indigenous communities, as well as information regarding Indigenous student services offered at NorQuest College.

For more information on Aksis, you can visit their website: www.aksisyeg.ca
Indigenization Strategy Update

NorQuest Indigenous Relations and Student Supports held a meeting in early November to provide an opportunity for staff to give their thoughts and feedback regarding the Wahkôhtowin Strategy released in November. Since then, the Indigenous Relations unit has been working very closely with instructors and program areas in implementing this strategy. Staff have been very open and their response has been positive in these changes in curriculum and programming happening at NorQuest College.

We will continue to work alongside each other in bringing these ideas together for our staff, students, and community. Additionally, a public version of the strategy will be released in the coming weeks for everyone to read.

NorQuest College Student Profile: Thomas McKercher

Tanisi, my name is Thomas McKercher and I was born in Fort Smith, NWT. I am currently enrolled in my second semester of Academic Upgrading at NorQuest College, and the last time I was in school was in 1985. My career plan after NorQuest is to attend the University of Alberta to receive a Bachelor of Science in Registered Nursing.

I have been involved in the RBC Indigenous Mentorship Program. I have also had the wonderful opportunity to be able to smudge, participate in talking circles, be involved in rattle making, and now I am making my first ribbon shirt. I am so thankful for the Student Advisors at NorQuest and extremely grateful for the Elders and the time they give in this journey. Thank you, NorQuest College and RBC for having an Indigenous Students Centre available to me and other students to express my education and culture.

Photos from the Indigenous Week of Welcome and our Christmas celebration
Conversational Cree

By Yvonne Carifelle

Tanisi! Hello!

I think we are almost through the coldest days of winter, according to our pîsimahsinahikan (calendar). Our calendar provides cultural information and the natural life cycles of all living things in nature and our mother earth.

Conversations you will hear this time of the year:

Tânisi, kisin cî? .............................................Hello, it is cold isn’t it?

Tâpwikwani, nimîsapowinâna mîna wâpaskatinwa. .......For sure, even my eyelashes are frosted.

Kîpa âtawiya takîsipwînipayin. ..................................At least it will warm up soon.

Months:

Kisîpisîm ........................................................................January – The cold Moon
Mikisiwîpisîm .................................................................February – The Eagle Moon
Niskipîsim .................................................................March – The Goose Moon
Ayîkipîsim ........................................................................April – The Frog Moon
Opiniyawâwîpisîm ..........................................................May – Egg Laying Moon
Pâskawîhowîpisîm .............................................................June – Egg Hatching Moon
Paskowîpisîm .................................................................July – The Moulting Moon
Ohpahowîpisîm .............................................................August – Fledglings Taking flight Moon
Nocihtowîpisîm .................................................................September – Mating Moon
Pimihawîpisîm .................................................................October – Migrating Moon
Kâskatinowîpisîm ..............................................................November – Frost Moon
Pawâhcikanasîspîsim ........................................................December – Frost exploding, Blizzard Moon

NorQuest College Important Dates

February 15..............................NorQuest College Info Night
February 19..............................Family Day
February 20–23..........................Reading Week
February 28..............................Pink Shirt Day

Contact Information

Location:
Room 1-151
Singhmar Centre for Learning
Edmonton Downtown Campus

Phone:
780.644.5965

Website:
norquest.ca/indigenous