Welcome Back!

We would like to welcome all new and returning students to NorQuest College. We hope your summer was great and you are feeling refreshed for another year of learning! This newsletter is a new initiative being put forth by the Indigenous Relations Team at NorQuest College. We are hoping the newsletter will be a great way of sharing the successes of our Indigenous students and our Indigenous Relations team. We hope you enjoy the first edition of our newsletter! Hiy hiy!

New Indigenous Students Centre Now Open

We are pleased to announce that the Indigenous Students Centre is now open in the new Singhmar Centre at NorQuest College. In the centre, students will have access to student supports, computers, scholarship and bursary information, smudging, a male and female Elder, and ceremonies that will be held throughout the academic year. We look forward to seeing you visit the centre and accessing our student services and supports. The hours of the Indigenous Student Centre are Monday to Friday from 8:15am-4:30pm.

The goal of the centre is to provide students with a safe space of all cultural backgrounds and provide an opportunity to share local Indigenous culture with everyone. Our staff includes: Manager, Roberta Bear, Student Advisors, Luella Massey and Pauline L’Hirondelle, Indigenous Community Engagement Advisor, Naim Cardinal as well as Elizabeth Routledge, Liaison for the RBC Indigenous Mentorship Program. All of our staff members are accessible Monday to Friday during operating hours and our Elders are available on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday of each week.

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Meet the Indigenous Students Centre Staff

Naim Cardinal

Tànsi! My name is Naim Cardinal and I am the Indigenous Community Engagement Advisor at NorQuest College. I grew up in a small community in northern Alberta called Fort Vermilion and I am a member of the Tallcree First Nation which is located in Treaty 8 territory. I have been living in Edmonton for 15 years as I moved here to attend post-secondary and was fortunate to find a career working with Indigenous people.

My role at NorQuest is to assist in helping to strengthen the relationship between the Indigenous community and NorQuest College. I really enjoy assisting students in any way I can and also providing them with new opportunities through programs and initiatives.

Pauline L’Hirondelle

Tàn’si! (hello) I will begin by introducing myself the traditional way. I am a fluent Cree speaker of Metis descent from Treaty 8 area. I was raised in a northern Indigenous community where the lifestyle between the Cree and Metis was undistinguishable.

As part of the Indigenous program support team, my primary function is to identify and review services, learning programs and staff development in relation to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) calls to action. The role also entails identifying major barriers to student success including but not limited to mental health, housing, financial, cultural and family issues to create an enhanced learning environment as it pertains to reconciliation. It also involves having daily contact with students for the purpose of discussing concerns and making required referrals to internal and external community resources. Regular contact with staff and faculty will also ensure adequate information and support is available for their work with students. A final role involves delivering and organizing culturally sensitive/TRC reconciliation presentations and fairs that provide meaningful information to students and staff.

RBC Indigenous Mentorship Program

Indigenous mentors create a support system from within an Indigenous framework to develop a sense of belonging and enhance the learning experience of Indigenous students attending NorQuest College. To learn more about the RBC Indigenous Mentorship Program and how to get involved please contact Elizabeth Routledge at elizabeth.routledge@norquest.ca
**Luella Massey**

I am a proud Metis woman and have focused on helping Indigenous people throughout my career.

For the past 17 years I have been employed with NorQuest College as an Indigenous Liaison and Student Advisor. My role is to be a "go to person" for Indigenous students to smoothly transition through college programs and services. Also provide information and awareness of the New Indigenous Centre and the services including, Elder Support, Indigenous Ceremonies and Mentorship Program.

Some of my specific duties are to provide support services to Indigenous students including: Indigenous funding options, case management (Indigenous funded students), and liaison with funders and provide program information to prospective students.

**Elizabeth Routledge**

Tansi, my name is Elizabeth Routledge I am the RBC Indigenous Liaison for the RBC indigenous mentorship program here at NorQuest College.

I am a proud Ojibway woman from New Market Ontario but, raised in Edmonton and I am a huge oilers fan. I chose to come to NorQuest because of the student engagement. This is where my passion is in helping the Indigenous and non-Indigenous students at NorQuest by creating a safe and welcoming space for them to come make friends and new memories.

Conversational Cree

This section is provided to us by Student Advisor, Pauline L’Hirondelle who identifies the nehiyaw (Cree) language as her first language. She will be providing conversational Cree words for us in each newsletter.

This can be used when meeting someone for the first time.

â as father; oy as in oil; aw as in ouch; e as hey; a as in under; iy as in bee

Tân’si Hello
Moy nân’taw I’m fine
Ekwa kîya and you?
Peyakwan The same.

Orange Shirt Day—September 29th

NorQuest College is committed to honouring reconciliation and will be participating in Orange Shirt Day on September 29th as September 30th falls on a Saturday. The event remembers the difficult reality of the residential school system in Canada and brings to light the harm this system did to children’s self-esteem and well-being. To participate in the spirit of reconciliation and hope for future generations, wear an orange shirt on Friday, September 29th.

Upcoming Events

September Events

21st 11:00am-2:00pm – Indigenous Student Week of Welcome Event in Singhmar Centre for Learning Auditorium

29th – Orange Shirt Day campus-wide

Future Events

October 4th—Grand Opening of Singhmar Centre for Learning

November 2nd—Grand Opening of Indigenous Students Centre, Signing of CICan Protocol, and Launch of Indigenization Strategy