

News Release

Contact North | Contact Nord President – Chief Executive Officer Elected to International Council for Open and Distance Education

October 16, 2013

(THUNDER BAY) – Contact North | Contact Nord's President – Chief Executive Officer, Maxim Jean-Louis, was elected to serve a three-year term on the Executive Committee of the [International Council for Open and Distance Education](#) (ICDE). The appointment is effective January 1, 2014.

ICDE is the leading global organization for enhancing the quality of open, distance, flexible and online education, including e-learning. With its headquarters in Oslo, Norway, ICDE is organizing the [25th ICDE World Conference](#) in Tianjin, China from October 16 to 18, 2013. The World Conference is focusing on the theme of "New Strategies for Global Open, Flexible and Distance Learning".

"ICDE is pleased to welcome Maxim Jean-Louis as a member of the ICDE Executive Committee" stated [Tian Belawati](#), President of ICDE Executive Committee. "The Executive Committee looks forward to Maxim sharing his 30 + years of experience in online and distance education in Canada and bringing the unique perspective of North American students and universities and colleges to ICDE."

"I am honoured to have been elected to serve on the Executive Committee of ICDE" said Maxim Jean-Louis. "It is a great opportunity for me to champion the needs of students when national and international organizations are considering new institutional policies and guidelines and to also bring the best practices from around the world back to North America."

Maxim takes the place of Dr. Frits Pannekoek, President of Athabasca University, who will complete his term at the end of this year having served on the Executive Committee for six years.

The [ICDE Executive Committee](#), which is responsible for making policy decisions in accordance with ICDE's mission and constitution, includes presidents and experts from major open and distance education institutions around the world:

- Tian Belawati, Rector, Universitas Terbuka, Indonesia
- Mandla S. Makhanya, Principal and Vice Chancellor, The University of South Africa (Unisa)
- Marta Mena, Individual Member, Director of Virtual Training Program for Researchers at the Secretariat of Science, Technology and Graduate Studies, National Technological University (Universidad Tecnológica Nacional), Argentina
- Alan Tait, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Academic), The Open University, United Kingdom

- Yang Zhijian, President, The Open University of China

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About Contact North | Contact Nord – Ontario's Distance Education & Training Network

Contact North | Contact Nord is Ontario's distance education and training network serving more than 600 small, rural, remote, Aboriginal and Francophone communities across the province through its 112 local online learning centres.

Contact North | Contact Nord partners with Ontario's 24 public colleges, 22 public universities, over 250 public literacy and essential skills and training providers and the government of Ontario to provide local access to education and training opportunities.

Its three portals provide an online learning virtual hub to Ontario students, prospective students, faculty and instructors averaging close to 450,000 unique visits a year: Ontario Online Learning Portal for Students (studyonline.ca), Ontario Online Learning Portal for Faculty & Instructors (contactnorth.ca/home), and e-Channel (e-channel.ca).

Since it was established in 1986, Contact North | Contact Nord has generated and supported more than 315,000 registrations.

Contact North | Contact Nord is a not-for-profit corporation headquartered in Thunder Bay, Ontario, and is funded by the Government of Ontario.

www.contactnorth.ca

About ICDE

The International Council for Open and Distance Education (ICDE) is the leading global membership organization for open, distance, flexible and online education, including e-learning, and draws its membership from institutions, educational authorities, commercial actors, and individuals.

ICDE has consultative partner status with UNESCO and shares UNESCO's key value – the universal right to education for all. ICDE further derives its position from the unique knowledge and experience of its members throughout the world in the development and use of new methodologies and emerging technologies.

ICDE was founded in 1938 in Canada as the International Council for Correspondence Education and today has members from over 60 countries worldwide.

ICDE's Permanent Secretariat is in Oslo, Norway, and has been hosted by this country on a permanent basis since 1988. ICDE is supported by the Norwegian Ministry of Education and Research and by membership fees.

www.icde.org