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For Immediate Release

Contact North | Contact Nord Reports a 44.3% Increase in Student Registrations

Ontarians Continue to Use Online Learning to Complete Their Degrees, Diplomas, and Certificates and Improve Their Skills in Winter 2015

(THUNDER BAY) - Contact North | Contact Nord, Ontario's Distance Education & Training Network, today reported a 44.3% increase in the number of student registrations in online programs and courses from Ontario's 24 public colleges, 22 public universities, and 250 literacy and basic skills and training providers during the Winter 2015 academic semester as compared to the Winter 2014 semester.

Total student registrations increased from 15,010 in Winter 2014 to 21,654 in Winter 2015. Contact North | Contact Nord reported growth in student registrations for courses offered by universities, colleges, literacy and basic skills providers and other training providers. On an annual basis, the organization supports 40,000 student registrations. Ontarians continue to use online learning to complete their degrees, diplomas and certificates, and improve their skills while they remain in their community, and they can participate in their courses when it is convenient for them as they continue to meet their work and family responsibilities.

"Ontarians continue to recognize the benefits of obtaining a university degree, a college or high school diploma, or improving their skills or their ability to get a job, and earn a higher than average salary," stated Sylvie Lemieux, Coordinator, Recruitment, Training & Partnerships, Contact North | Contact Nord. "Online learning provides an effective and flexible way for Ontarians to complete their education and training goals and realize the benefits."

"In 2011, 70% of all new jobs required a post-secondary credential and it is predicted that by 2031, 80% will require a post-secondary credential" noted Lynne Belonoha, Online Learning Recruitment Officer, at Contact North | Contact Nord's South Porcupine online learning centre. "With 1,000 online programs and 18,000 online courses available from our colleges, universities and literacy and basic skills and training providers through a local

Contact North | Contact Nord online learning centre, Ontarians can get the education and training they need for the jobs of today and tomorrow right in their community.”

“A study by economists from the University of Montreal and the University of British Columbia uncovered that Canadians who completed a Bachelor of Arts degree earned 40% more than someone who completed a high school diploma” stated Christina Patterson, Online Learning Recruitment Officer, at Contact North | Contact Nord’s Orléans online learning centre. “With hundreds of post-secondary credentials available through online learning, Ontarians have a tremendous opportunity to complete their education without leaving their community and land higher-paying jobs.”

Contact North | Contact Nord partners with Ontario’s 24 public colleges, 22 public universities, and 250 public literacy and basic skills and training providers to provide local access to education and training opportunities. Funded by the Government of Ontario continuously since 1986, Contact North | Contact Nord supports over 4 million Ontario residents living in 600 small, remote, rural, Aboriginal and Francophone communities to access post-secondary education and training without having to leave their community.

Visit studyonline.ca or call the Student Information Hotline at 1-877-999-9149 for more information on available online programs and courses and how to connect with one of the 112 Contact North | Contact Nord online learning centre located in communities across the province.

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