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For Immediate Release

CONTACT NORTH | CONTACT NORD'S TOP TEN WISH LIST

Ten developments we wish for online learning in 2016

(THUNDER BAY) - Contact North | Contact Nord, Ontario's Distance Education & Training Network, today released its Top Ten Wish List for Online Learning in 2016, which outlines ten developments it hopes to see happen in online learning this year.

The top ten developments include foundational wishes – we stop debating about whether or not online learning is as effective as classroom teaching – to practical items such as a broadband Internet access for all Canadians and better data to help make decisions to making full use of online learning to using online learning to meet the expanding education and training needs of Canada's fast-growing Aboriginal population.

“2016 is the year online learning programs and courses, when developed the right way, are finally accepted as being equal to, or better, than classroom-based programs and courses” noted Maxim Jean-Louis, President – Chief Executive Officer, Contact North | Contact Nord. “It is time that all involved with higher education accept that online learning is simply part of the mix of options offered to learners for each program and course.”

The Top Ten Wish List for Online Learning in 2016 includes:

1. We stop debating about whether or not online learning is as effective as classroom teaching.
2. Canada starts collecting quality data about online, blended and flexible learning so that we can make evidence-based policy decisions.
3. The federal government and service providers accelerate broadband Internet access for all Canadians.
4. Indigenous Online learning comes of age.
5. Innovative assessment tools appear in significant numbers and grow in acceptance.

6. Learner mobility becomes a focal point for public policy.
7. Access and increased accommodation expand.
8. New funding models for higher education begin to appear in 2016.
9. Significant growth in collaborative and global programs.
10. A relaunch of major and sustained initiatives in e-Apprenticeship.

The full text of Contact North | Contact Nord's Top 10 Wish List for Online Learning in 2016 can be found on its teachonline.ca portal, which provides information and resources for faculty and instructors teaching online.

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 centres located in communities across the province.

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