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For Immediate Release

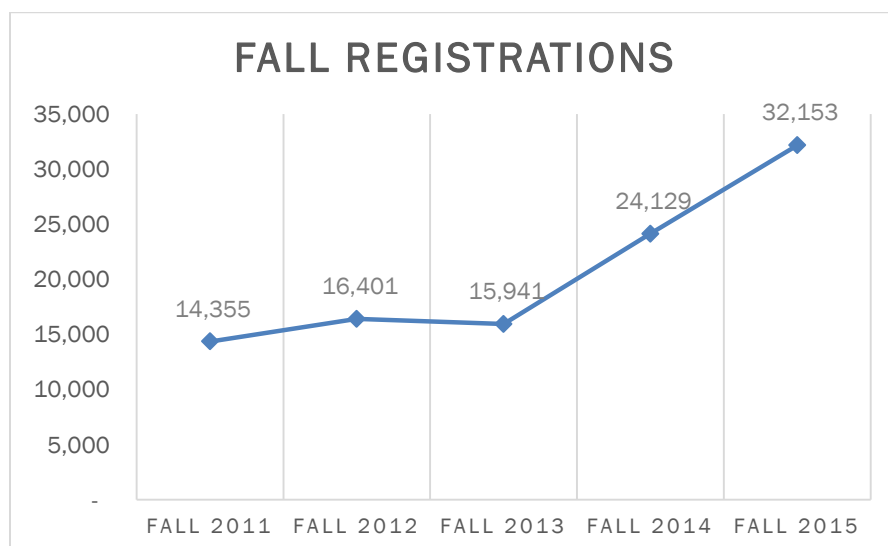
Contact North | Contact Nord Generates Another Record Result with Growth of 33% in Registrations in Fall 2015

For Ontario's 24 public colleges, 22 public universities, and 250 literacy and basic skills and training providers

(THUNDER BAY) – Contact North | Contact Nord generated and/or supported a record **32,153** student registrations for Ontario's 24 public colleges, 22 public universities and 250 literacy and basic skills and training providers in the 600 small, remote, rural, Aboriginal and Francophone communities it serves across the province during the period September 1, 2015, to December 31, 2015.

This result is a 33% increase over the 24,129 registrations generated and/or supported in the Fall 2014 academic semester, representing an additional 8,024 registrations and leading to the record result for fall semester.

Over the past five fall semesters, Contact North | Contact Nord has more than doubled the number of student registrations it generates and/or supports (+124%) from 14,355 in Fall 2011 to 32,153 in the Fall 2015 semester.



The 4 million Ontarians in the 600 small, remote, rural, Aboriginal and Francophone communities served by Contact North | Contact Nord use online learning to complete their degrees, diplomas and certificates and improve their skills. Online learning allows them to remain in their community and participate in their courses when it is convenient for them as they continue to meet their work and family responsibilities.

“The record number of student registrations generated and/or supported by Contact North | Contact Nord in Fall 2015 reflects the increasing demand by Ontarians for local access to online education and training opportunities in rural and remote communities across the province,” stated Sylvie Lemieux, Director, Recruitment & Partnerships, Contact North | Contact Nord. “Through the use of our 112 local online learning centres throughout the province, Ontarians can get their degrees, diplomas and certificates and improve their skills without having to leave their community.”

“Local access to online education and training is critical for the development of small and remote First Nations communities such as Attawapiskat,” noted Stella Spence, Online Learning Recruitment Officer in the Attawapiskat First Nation online learning centre. “Through our local online learning centre, our residents can access over 1,000 online programs and over 18,000 online courses right here in the community.”

For the 2014-2015 academic year, which ran from September 1, 2014, to August 31, 2015, Contact North | Contact Nord generated and/or supported a record 67,135 student registrations for 24 public colleges, 22 public universities, and 250 public literacy and basic skills and training providers, a 92% increase over the past five years.

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 online 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 or how to connect with one of the 112 Contact North | Contact Nord online learning centres located in communities across the province.

- 30 -

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