



Sault College and Collège Boréal News Release

For immediate release

Ontario's Number One Colleges, Sault College and Collège Boréal Sign Unique Partnership Agreement

(Toronto, ON September 19, 2014) In a celebration joining two of Ontario's number one colleges, Dr. Ron Common, President of Sault College, and Pierre Riopel, President of Collège Boréal, were in Toronto today to sign a unique Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). Surrounded by social justice and peace supporters, the terms of the agreement outline the ways in which both Sault College and Collège Boréal will work together to jointly offer the Peace and Conflict Studies Program. This program is the only 2-year diploma program of its kind within the Ontario community college system and will now be offered in both French and English. The signing took place in Toronto at 1 Yonge Street at College Boréal's campus.

"We are excited to offer our unique Peace and Conflict Studies program in Canada's largest city," notes Dr. Ron Common, President, Sault College. "By making the move to Toronto, it enables our students to gain access to a wider array of related global activities, advocacy work, social movements, and peace organizations. The opportunities to partner with like-minded individuals are significant and we are only too pleased to be involved with the continued growth of this program and to collaborate with our partners at Collège Boréal."

The city of Toronto is a multicultural centre for North America and the ideal location for the signing of a MOU pertaining to this program. The Peace and Conflict Studies Program is premised on a holistic conceptualization of peace that is aligned with the ideas expressed in the United Nations Declaration and Program of Action on a Culture of Peace and encompasses the work and perspectives of peace researchers over the last several decades. Themes of human rights, positive communication skills, social justice, personal wellness, holistic thinking,

environmental well-being, cultural diversity and solidarity, conflict transformation, violence prevention and mitigation are some of the themes integral to this two-year diploma.

“This partnership is an indication of the hope and goodwill to make the impossible possible,” says Dr. Izzeldin Abuelaish, professor at the University of Toronto, founder of the Daughters for Life Foundation and Sault College’s Honorary Peace and Conflict Studies diploma recipient and past keynote speaker at convocation. “With increasing conflict in the world along with the tragedies that accompany such conflict, a program such Peace and Conflict studies is critical. Lasting peace in this world depends on empowering young minds through education and teaching them to develop strong voices for the betterment of life,” he added.

“Collège Boréal is very excited to offer this progressive program developed by Sault College,” emphasizes Mr. Pierre Riopel, President of Collège Boréal. “And we are particularly pleased that this partnership between our two establishments will allow French speaking students to study peace and conflict throughout the world, thus also benefitting from an innovative learning experience. Our shared vision is that graduates from this program will participate in making this world a better place in the years to come.”

The Peace and Conflict Studies program, offered in both French and English options, will begin its first intake in Toronto beginning in January, 2015. Applications are currently being accepted via OCAS at www.ontariocolleges.ca and interested applicants are encouraged to contact Student Recruitment at Sault College by phoning 705-759-2554 ext. 2222 or Collège Boréal Liaison Office at 1-800-361-6673 ext. 6024.

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About Sault College

The vision of Sault College is to provide a transformative life experience through empowering those who study with us to think and learn in progressive, innovative ways, including those we have not yet imagined. Ranked #1 in the province with a score of 85% in overall student satisfaction by students themselves, Sault College grants Ontario College certificates, diplomas, advanced diplomas, graduate certificates, and degrees to its graduates. The College is the largest deliverer of apprenticeship training in all of Northern Ontario. Educating over 3,900 students each year, Sault College has a significant

economic impact on the community, with spin-offs in excess of \$158 million. Over \$2 million dollars in scholarships, bursaries and awards are distributed annually to students at the College. Located on the border to the United States and situated in the middle of three of the largest great lakes on the planet, Sault College is one of 24 publicly-funded colleges in the province of Ontario. Visit our website at www.saultcollege.ca to learn more.

About Collège Boréal

Established in 1995, Collège Boréal is a French-language postsecondary training and learning institution dedicated to the development and growth of French communities throughout the province. Deeply rooted within some 25 communities throughout the province, the seven campuses – including one located at 1 Yonge St., in Toronto - and numerous access points provide a number of services to a variety of clientele. Indeed, Collège Boréal is an educational, innovative, cultural, and community hub serving a diversified francophone population including Franco-Ontarians, immersion students, immigrants, French-speaking members of First Nations and Métis communities, international students, etc. Our goal is to produce a highly qualified bilingual work force in French-speaking communities who contributes to the economic, social, and cultural vitality of the province and of the country. And for the second year in a row, Collège Boréal has the highest graduation and graduate satisfaction rates of all 24 community colleges in Ontario. Moreover, 100% of all surveyed employers would recommend hiring Collège Boréal graduates! For more information about Collège Boréal, visit our website at www.collegeboreal.ca

Please contact:

Tessa Pino
Communications Officer
Sault College
705.759.2554 ext. 2830
www.saultcollege.ca

Jacqueline Gauthier
Senior Advisor, Communications and Public Affairs
Collège Boréal
705-560-6673 ext.2720
www.collegeboreal.ca