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For Immediate Release

Online Learning in 2013: An Ontario Perspective

(THUNDER BAY, ON) – Contact North | Contact Nord Research Associate Dr. Tony Bates, author of 11 books, 350 research papers, advisor to over 40 organizations in 25 countries, takes a critical look at the developments in online learning in the past year in [Online Learning in 2013: An Ontario Perspective](#).

In his review, Dr. Bates looks at six key developments in online learning within the province:

- Another year of the MOOC (massive open online course)
- The growing number of institutional strategies for online learning at Ontario's public colleges and universities
- The transition of online learning from the periphery to the centre
- The increased use of hybrid learning
- An increased push from government to use online learning for greater academic productivity
- The rising use of open educational resources (OER)

"I can't think of another year where there has been so much interest at an institutional level in thinking strategically about online learning. Ontario is a case in point", commented Dr. Tony Bates. "These plans meant setting priorities and goals for online and hybrid learning and in some cases targets for online course development. Tied to these strategies were considerations of resources, organization and methods of working."

"Tony is spot on in his conclusion that online learning can play an important role as much in improving quality as in reducing costs" noted Maxim Jean-Louis, President – Chief Executive Officer, Contact North | Contact Nord. "Online learning is indeed helping the post-secondary sector and government wrestle with the iron triangle of increasing access, reducing or containing costs and improving quality."

Dr. Bates is publishing his 5th annual Outlook for Online Learning in mid-January 2014. This must read for faculty and instructors, administrators and policy and decision-makers will be available from the [Ontario Online Learning Portal for Faculty & Instructors](#).

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For more information:

Heather Campbell
Contact North | Contact Nord
1- 855-345-5035
heather@contactnorth.ca

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 with its head office in Thunder Bay, Ontario, and is funded by the Government of Ontario.

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