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affiliated with NOSM programs. Robinson explained that once re-circulated, a total of between \$67 and \$82 million of new economic activity is generated.

Economic growth, Robinson added, is only part of the picture. "Though these numbers are exciting, the real impact is not on the size of the economy, but on the development of the economy. NOSM is building capacity to bring in more researchers, more research funding, and its activities are leading to the creation of more jobs," he said. The School funds over 230 full-time equivalent (FTE) positions and it is estimated to support a total of 420 – 510 FTE positions through direct, indirect, and induced economic benefits.

Both Pong and Minore also spoke of the School's social impact, particularly on the host universities, Lakehead and Laurentian, on the health-care system, and on the

communities of Northern Ontario. Nearly 60 stakeholders comprising senior university and health-care administrators, physicians, and community leaders interviewed for the study reported that NOSM has had a positive impact on the host universities and affiliated health-care institutions, as well as community hospitals, many of which have transitioned to teaching hospital status. Community leaders also expressed their optimism that NOSM graduates will return to practice in Northern communities and alleviate physician shortage. Gilbert, spoke of the School's wide-reaching influence. "What is being unveiled today is a testament of the School's significance to the people of Northern Ontario. NOSM is an institution that touches small, rural, urban, Aboriginal, and Francophone communities across the region," he said.

Strasser concluded with a summary of the key messages: "This is the first chapter in the



ongoing story of the School, and already there have developments in research, new economic activity, and in the recruitment and retention of physicians and other health-care providers. There is a real sense of optimism in Northern communities about the future."

Exploring the Socio-Economic Impact of the Northern Ontario School of Medicine is available online at www.nosm.ca. ■

Transformative Report on Medical Education Consistent with NOSM Approach

The Association of Faculties of Medicine of Canada (AFMC) is setting out to ensure that physicians-in-training receive the best possible medical education this country has to offer, and Canadians receive the best possible medical care. Such was the message delivered at a nation-wide launch of the AFMC's transformative report, *The Future of Medical Education in Canada (FMEC): A Collective Vision for M.D. Education*.

The multi-site, videoconferenced launch linked all 17 Canadian medical schools and featured presentations by the three Co-Chairs of the FMEC Task Force on Implementation Strategy, Drs. Nick Busing, Jay Rosenfield and

James Rourke. A video montage of commentaries from the deans of Canada's medical schools followed.

The FMEC report was prompted by the need to adequately address the complexities of a changing health-care system, one that includes providing quality care for the country's diverse populations and communities.

The 30-month project involved literature reviews, national and international consultations, and the participation of all medical schools in Canada, as well as many other stakeholders. While Canada's faculties of medicine are leaders in medical education, physicians of the future will require skills necessary to respond to ongoing changes brought about, for example, by scientific discoveries, new knowledge, the mounting burden of diseases, health disparities, and the challenges of serving people in rural and remote areas.

The plan of action outlined in the report includes 10 recommendations and five enabling recommendations that provide the

basis for implementation. The 10 recommendations focus on: leadership, community needs, admissions processes, scientific basis of medicine, prevention and public health, hidden curriculum, learning contexts, generalism, inter- and intra-professional practice, and competency-based approaches.

NOSM Dean, Dr. Roger Strasser, who participated in the FMEC project, commented on the report's significance. "This document provides the blueprint for a new approach to medical education in Canada that addresses the growing complexities of health care in Canada and the health challenges of our diverse populations. It is pleasing to note that the Northern Ontario School of Medicine has taken an approach to developing our M.D. program that is consistent with the recommendations in the FMEC study," he said.

A full copy of the report, in both official languages, as well as a downloadable version of the FMEC launch video, can be downloaded at: www.afmc.ca/fmec/. ■



The Future of Medical Education in Canada Report

NOSM Researcher Collaborates With Community Members In Tackling Diseases

Research at NOSM reflects the School's mandate to be socially accountable to the diverse cultures of the region it serves. As such, research programs target areas that have a direct relevance to Northern populations, and investigators like NOSM's Dr. Kristen Jacklin are searching for solutions to longstanding problems. As Assistant Professor in Medical Anthropology, Jacklin's broad area of research encompasses several programs, one of which addresses the high rate of diabetes in Aboriginal populations. Since 2005, she has been the lead investigator in a diabetes quality-of-care study at the Wikwemikong Unceded Indian Reserve on Manitoulin Island. Her research is formed by community priorities such as local capacity building whereby community members are trained to acquire data and monitor ongoing investigations.



Of equal importance is community empowerment, examples of which include enlisting the help of research subjects who are successfully managing their diabetes. Feedback from these participants can be incorporated into future programming and in suggestions for physician care. Asking the right questions in order to identify causes and to assess problems in disease management is key to addressing the issues of importance. "What we need to do is find out from the people what the barriers to successful disease management are. Why is it that some people find it difficult to follow the recommendations of their physicians and others don't? What prevents them from doing what is necessary," Jacklin asks in her search for culturally meaningful answers that will improve health patterns.

Alongside diabetes research, Jacklin is the lead investigator (co-investigator Dr. Wayne Warry, McMaster University) in a province-wide study of dementia in Aboriginal peoples. Participants in the project include northern, southern, rural, remote and urban

Aboriginal communities in Ontario. The project was developed in response to noticeable increases in behavioural changes among aging community members. "People in the field noticed a lot more dementia in the communities than they used to see. The more they talked, the more they realized this was a common occurrence in Aboriginal communities across the province," Jacklin said.

This discovery led to round table discussions which identified particular research topics and explored such issues as cultural competency training for physicians, suitable cognitive screening tools and health promotion materials. As with diabetes research, Jacklin and her colleagues set out to learn about Alzheimer's and dementia within the cultural understandings of the

communities that are experiencing its effects.

The investigations inspired a bevy of questions: How do Aboriginal people interpret Alzheimer's disease? Is it understood as a pathology or as a natural, or even a sacred, part of the aging process? Do perceptions differ between northern and southern Ontario communities? If so, how many cognitive teaching tools are required to accommodate divergent beliefs? The provincial study is funded by the Alzheimer's Society of Canada and the Ontario Mental Health Foundation.

The province-wide study has generated enough interest to lay the groundwork for future nationwide investigations. Jacklin has developed a network of academics across the country who are involved in dementia research. A national forum will be held with these researchers at NOSM in April 2010. "There is potential here for something really big that has never been done before," concluded Jacklin. ■

NOSM Board Director Saluted for Business Excellence



Derek Debassige

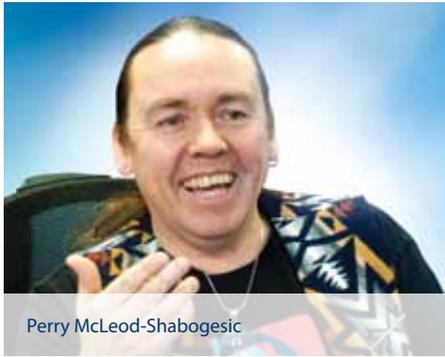
A member of NOSM's Board of Directors has been acknowledged for excellence among First Nations business leaders. Derek Debassige, who was appointed to NOSM's Board of Directors in March 2009, is the recipient of the 2009 Youth Entrepreneur of the Year award presented by the Waubetek Business Development Corporation at Casino Rama last November.

The award recognizes an entrepreneur who has established a successful business prior to reaching 35 years of age. At 33, Debassige is a health professional based in the First Nations community of M'Chigeeng on Manitoulin Island. Now in his tenth year of practice, and owner/operator of the Manitoulin Physio Centre since 2007, he and a team of professionals provide physiotherapy, massage therapy, and acupuncture services to enhance the wellbeing of Aboriginal people from across Manitoulin and the North Shore.

The Waubetek Business Development Corporation was established 20 years ago by a group of founders who shared a vision of providing financial services that would address the business needs of the Aboriginal population. Derek Debassige credits the organization for helping him to address the health needs of the Aboriginal communities. "Waubetek is an organization that helps a lot of people minimize the risk at the beginning of their careers and businesses. A lot of risk still exists, but Waubetek takes a lot of the edge off and lets you focus on the project," he said.

Debassige was nominated by the Union of Ontario Indians and later approved by NOSM's Board of Directors to sit as one of its 35 members. Each individual comprising the Board is chosen by key stakeholder groups in Northern Ontario to serve this governing body which presides over governance at the School. ■

Interview with an Elder



Perry McLeod-Shabogestic is an Ojibway Anishinabe from N'biising (Nipissing) First Nation near North Bay. He is one of a growing number of Elders who serve the NOSM community through the sharing of traditional knowledge and consulting services.

His position as a Community Liaison Specialist for the Anishnabek/Ontario Fisheries Resource Centre is one of many roles he performs in contributing to the Anishinabe way of life. Others include cultural resource person, traditional helper, and medicine harvester. His spirit name is "Aandzooked," which means story teller.

Here, McLeod-Shabogestic shares with *Northern Passages* his thoughts on the importance of Elders in Aboriginal communities and the benefits they bring as they share their understanding of traditional knowledge with members of the NOSM family.

NP: *What is an Elder?*

McLeod-Shabogestic: I believe there are as many answers to this question as there are Elders. This title is given to someone who

gains knowledge through life experience. My Dad told me it was someone who held great knowledge and was gifted with the ability to pass that knowledge on, regardless of age. I believe there are different kinds of Elders who carry different teachings.

NP: *How long have you been an Elder?*

McLeod-Shabogestic: That, too, is a difficult question. The role of Elder is not self-defined. It is something we acquire as others come to us for knowledge and direction. I have a hard time defining myself as an Elder, though I would say I'm on my way. It's a very organic process. You do not graduate from Elder University.

NP: *What prompted your interest in this path?*

McLeod-Shabogestic: I always wanted to be a helper of some kind if I could. The role of giving advice and sharing my thoughts is something that grew over time. When I was at university I realized I needed to come home and serve my community in some way. As I learned different teachings, it became clear that this is the work I would do. I knew it would be traditional and I was honoured to be recognized by my community.

NP: *Are there specific attributes associated with Elders?*

McLeod-Shabogestic: It varies. There are some Elders who have very particular ways of doing things. There are also Elders who represent different understandings. Some may be knowledgeable about hunting and fishing, for example; others with expertise in family relations, or in medicine and spiritual matters. However, it is important to

understand that our Elders are human and have struggles of their own. We should be careful not to hold them up to our own expectations and condemn them if they should stumble. Regardless of their human faults, they all carry knowledge that we need to grow as Anishinabek. We can't be quick to judge. Each of them, as each of us, travels at their own pace on the healing path.

NP: *Is becoming an Elder age specific?*

McLeod-Shabogestic: No. Although most people gain knowledge as they get older, an Elder could still be a fairly young person who is well versed in a specific area.

NP: *What life experiences have formed your worldview and helped develop the gifts you bring to your role as Elder?*

McLeod-Shabogestic: Everything in my life helped shape my views and beliefs. I learned about herbs and other forms of knowledge as a young person growing up on the reserve. As I got older I began to understand how important these things were in making me who I am.

NP: *In what ways can Elders be of service to NOSM?*

McLeod-Shabogestic: They can bring to others the benefits of the knowledge they possess whether that be in personal, professional, emotional, or spiritual matters. It's important for the School to see in which areas each Elder is best suited. Then they can be approached to assist with matters in which they have a strong knowledge base. It's good to have enough Elders to cover the entire range. ■

NOSM Staff Members Participate in Canadian Aboriginal Festival

NOSM staff members were among thousands who attended and participated in the annual Canadian Aboriginal Festival in November 2009 at the Copps Coliseum and Hamilton Place Theatre in Hamilton, Ontario.

Known as a "signature event" for Canadian Aboriginal peoples and for attracting tens of thousands of visitors each year, the event brought together many with an interest in

music and the performing arts, traditional foods, sports and education - all of which were featured at this year's gathering.

"NOSM participated in this event so that we could engage with new members of the public and renew acquaintances with old friends. It was also learning about education and social policies that can help make things better for Aboriginal people," said NOSM

Aboriginal Support Worker, Sally Monague. Monague attended the event accompanied by fellow staff members Sarah Noël-Gervais, Bryan Stamm, and Mathieu Seguin, each of whom introduced visitors to the School's unique education model and fielded questions from students with an interest in medicine as a career option. ■

NOSM Partner Receives Award

The Ontario College of Family Physicians has granted the Marathon Family Health Team (MFHT) the 2009 "Family Practice of the Year" award for the province of Ontario. The award recognizes the challenges the Family Health Team has successfully addressed since its inception in 1996, then known as the Marathon Family Practice, and the range of services offered by the clinic and physician staff at the Wilson Memorial General Hospital.

Recognized as a first-rate provider of health care also presents recruitment opportunities. "It is our hope that this good news will continue to create a positive vibe for the MFHT and allow our continued success in the recruitment of both physicians and all other health-care providers to our community," said Dr. Sarah Newbery in response to the news. Newbery is an Assistant Professor in Family Medicine at NOSM who also assisted with curriculum development for years one and two of the M.D. program prior to the arrival of NOSM's Charter Class. All of the physicians with MFHT, in fact, have participated in various committees or direct teaching with the School since its inception.

NOSM Dean, Dr. Roger Strasser, noted that the award as another example of health providers rising to the task of tackling the health challenges of the people of Northern Ontario. "The physicians and staff of the Marathon Family Health Team are true pioneers and standard bearers for high quality health care in small rural

communities. It is truly wonderful that this Northern Ontario story of success is being recognized at the provincial level," he said. The MFHT came together when six like-minded physicians expressed a desire to practice in an underserved area. "The initial driving force was a shared belief that a deeply satisfying and effective professional practice could be balanced with a meaningful personal life," Newbery explained.

The success of the Health Team is also built on a foundation of consensus. When the health professionals teamed up, wall partitions came down not only to open space, but to create a collaborative atmosphere that would lend itself to a consensus-based decision making process, as well as to good interprofessional learning. The Ontario College of Family Physicians conferred the Award based largely on the development and utilization of a health-care team that delivered good patient care. In addition to a full complement of physicians, the MFHT includes four nurses, a dietitian, and a social worker. Programs have been developed to streamline health-care delivery so that patients can more readily access care from other health providers when appropriate.

Newbery explains: "A woman does not need to see a physician for a PAP test, but still requires assistance from a health provider. In our clinic they will see a nurse for that, as well as for other health concerns, such as birth

control counseling and diabetes management."

Members of the health team also commit to research pursuits; the most recent example involves a study in obstetric care, the results of which were written by Drs. Eliseo Orrantia and Barbara Zelek and published in the Winter 2010 issue of the *Canadian Journal of Rural Medicine*. MFHT's non-traditional approach to medical practice is an attraction for many wishing to pursue work-life balance. The organization's commitment to personal satisfaction as well as to professional development makes it possible for practitioners to take time off or revise work schedules to accommodate family and personal needs.

Of particular importance to many prospective recruits is the no-pressure attitude to health practitioners who may want to leave the community to pursue other goals. "Recruitment and retention is always an issue," said Dr. Mary Wilson, a 10-year veteran of the Family Health Team. "Because of the way we work, we've been successful in retaining people who enjoy working in this system. Paradoxically, one thing that has worked well for us is that we do encourage people to feel they can leave Marathon if it is time to move on." The Marathon Family Health Team received the 2009 award alongside the Regent Park Community Health Centre in Toronto. ■

Marathon Family Health Team



Symposium francophone de l'EMNO – avril 2010 à Sudbury

L'EMNO est affiliée à plus de 70 collectivités du Nord de l'Ontario qui offrent à ses étudiants des possibilités de stage clinique, un élément essentiel de l'expérience d'apprentissage de la médecine. Des communautés et partenaires francophones se trouvent dans plus de 40 de ces collectivités. L'EMNO se fait un devoir d'appuyer ces partenariats afin de renforcer la capacité interne des collectivités à assurer l'enseignement et à recruter des professionnels de la santé. Fidèle à son imputabilité sociale, l'École entretient une culture où les collectivités francophones et leurs besoins sont pris en compte.

Des activités de renforcement des capacités communautaires, comme les symposiums pour les francophones par l'EMNO permettent à cette dernière de renforcer son engagement envers les populations francophones du Nord de l'Ontario et de donner aux collectivités francophones les moyens d'établir et de maintenir des relations cruciales entre elles.

Pendant trois jours (du 28 au 30 avril 2010), l'EMNO accueillera ce symposium où interviendront des conférenciers régionaux et du pays qui parleront de la santé communautaire, de l'établissement de réseaux entre les communautés, et de sujets liés à la santé et à la collectivité particulièrement pertinents pour le Nord de l'Ontario et les communautés francophones et rurales.

Le thème de cette année est « *La santé : un enjeu communautaire* ». Cet événement prévoit attirer des professionnels et des représentants communautaires de tout le Nord de la province qui s'intéressent à la santé et au bien-être de nos collectivités du Nord.

Le comité de planification du symposium de 2010 est constitué de représentants d'organismes francophones locaux, provinciaux et nationaux de santé et d'éducation, dont :

- l'Association des médecins de langue française du Canada;
- le Consortium national de formation en santé – volet Université Laurentienne;
- les Services de santé en français;
- le Regroupement des intervenants et intervenantes en santé et services sociaux de l'Ontario;
- L'Accueil francophone de Thunder Bay;
- le Vice-rectorat aux affaires francophones de l'Université Laurentienne, bureau des collaborations et partenariats francophones;
- le Groupe consultatif francophone de l'EMNO ainsi que des étudiants et du personnel.

L'EMNO et son bureau des Affaires francophones s'efforcent d'appuyer des initiatives qui encouragent la collaboration et l'établissement de liens avec la population francophone, et le symposium fait partie des moyens employés pour poursuivre la collaboration avec les collectivités du Nord de l'Ontario. ■

NOSM Francophone Symposium – April 2010 in Sudbury

NOSM is affiliated with over 70 Northern Ontario communities that provide NOSM learners with opportunities in practice-based settings. These clinical community placements are a vital part of the NOSM medical learner's experience. Of these many communities, over 40 include active Francophone communities and partners. NOSM is committed to supporting these partnerships in an effort to build internal capacity that will assist communities in the teaching and recruiting of health-care professionals. The School's social accountability mandate ensures that NOSM will pursue a culture of inclusiveness and responsiveness within Francophone communities.

Community capacity building events such as NOSM-sponsored Francophone Symposia provide opportunities for the School to reinforce its commitment to the Francophone populations of Northern Ontario and to empower Francophone communities to build

and maintain crucial relationships with each other.

Over a three day span (April 28 to 30, 2010), NOSM will host the 2010 Francophone Symposium showcasing regional and national speakers in the fields of community health, community networking and special health and community-related topics particularly relevant to Northern Ontario, Francophone and rural communities. The theme for this Symposium is *Health: A Community Issue*. The Symposium expects to attract professionals and community representatives from across Northern Ontario interested in the health and well-being of our Northern communities.

The 2010 Francophone Symposium planning committee is made up of representatives from local, provincial, and national Francophone health and education organizations, including:

- Association des médecins de langue française du Canada;
- Consortium national de formation en santé – volet Université Laurentienne;
- Services de santé en français;
- Regroupement des intervenants et intervenantes en santé et services sociaux de l'Ontario;
- L'Accueil francophone de Thunder Bay;
- Vice-rectorat aux affaires francophones, bureau des collaborations et partenariats francophones – Université Laurentienne;
- as well as,
- NOSM's Francophone Reference Group, learners and staff.

NOSM and its Francophone Affairs Unit strive to support initiatives that promote collaboration and relationship building within the Francophone population. The Symposium is one such way that the School continues to be engaged with the communities of Northern Ontario. ■

Coalition of Health Professionals Attend 2010 CCC Retreat in Parry Sound



Drs. Laurel Snyder and Jacques Abourbih conduct a skill session.

Health-care professionals and learners, administrators, and NOSM faculty and staff gathered in Parry Sound on January 14 – 16, 2010 to participate in the third annual Comprehensive Community Clerkship (CCC) Retreat. A key component of NOSM's M.D. program is the Community Clerkship wherein third-year students learn medicine in hospitals, clinics, and health centres across 12 medium-sized Northern Ontario communities. These extended eight-month learning sessions in practice-based environments also introduce learners to lifestyles in culturally diverse settings.

Traditionally, the CCC Retreat has been just for third-year medical students and CCC faculty and staff as a mid-year opportunity to share learning experiences. This year, the program was expanded to an interprofessional educational activity, involving many of the portfolios within NOSM with the aim of adding value to the host CCC community, and providing an opportunity to showcase both NOSM and Parry Sound.

In addition to the NOSM learners, the participants included a significant number of nursing students from Canadore College, as well as high school students and members of the Parry Sound health-care community. With a theme of disaster medicine, Dr. Sarah Strasser, NOSM's Phase2 (third year) Coordinator and Division Head of Human Sciences, and principal organizer of the event, welcomed participants at the Thursday afternoon session, promising them an intense learning experience over the next few days. Don Brisbane of Parry Sound, an authority in disaster management, then followed with a presentation, discussion, and interactive exercise that introduced key concepts in responding to disaster situations.

The Friday morning sessions included a surprise simulated emergency resuscitation scenario. This involved local EMS staff, NOSM learners and teachers who demonstrated interprofessional teamwork and the adaptability and mobility of NOSM's simulation resources.

One high point of the retreat was a series of clinical skills stations at the West Parry Sound Health Centre that consisted of a range of disaster and emergency response scenarios oriented to Northern Ontario. These simulation skills sessions attracted significant interest from the community, including a visit by the Honourable Tony Clement, MP for Parry Sound - Muskoka. Dr. Rachel Ellaway, Assistant Dean for Informatics observed, "This is the first time we have taken such a large simulation presence into a community setting. The enthusiasm of the learners, teachers and the many volunteers involved all contributed to ensuring that the experience was a great success".

As a whole, the retreat enabled everyone to develop and practice effective responses to crisis situations, said Dr. Sarah Strasser. "There was a real sense of excitement and achievement as participants learned effective strategies during presentations, discussions and hands-on training sessions, all of which contribute to our common goal of educating first-rate health professionals."

The CCC Retreat was sponsored by the Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation (NOHFC), Scotiabank, Royal Bank of Canada (RBC), and Parry Sound Area Community Business and Development Centre, and delivered by NOSM in partnership with West Parry Sound Health Centre and Canadore College. ■

NOSM Faculty, Preceptors, Learners, and Staff Acknowledged for Commitment to Excellence

Student Award Recipients

Laura Burke
Arianne St. Jacques
Matt Strickland
Geeta Yadav

Faculty and Preceptor Award Recipients

Dr. Chris Decker
Dr. Sam Fratesi
Dr. J. Raymond Jacques
Dr. Saleem Malik

Staff Award Recipients

Gail Brescia (Inspiration)
Kerry Berlinquette (Team Player)
Kim Daynard (Leadership)
Pierrette Gervais (Innovation)
IDEAS Project Team (Team Effort)
Aaron Wright, Heather Kivi/Purchasing Unit, Suzanne Lortie-Carlyle, Dr. Christine Kupsh, Charlie Armstrong
Cathy Senior, Kelley Van Den Broek



Student Award Recipients: Geeta Yadav, Matt Strickland, Laura Burke, and Arianne St. Jacques.

Commitment to excellence in medical education is evident in all areas of the Northern Ontario School of Medicine. Award recipients were assessed and selected from an extended list of exceptional nominees chosen by their peers. "The broad endorsement of so many learners, faculty, staff, and physician teachers by their peers clearly speaks to the number of high-calibre people at NOSM and the depth of their commitment to the School," noted NOSM Dean, Dr. Roger Strasser.

Winners were presented with the Awards of Excellence at a Board of Directors dinner in Thunder Bay on December 3, 2009, by Dr. Gerry Cooper, Associate Dean, Learner Affairs and Ken Adams, Associate Dean, Administration. ■

NOSM Research Supported by Generous Contribution from Thunder Bay Donors

Ken and Dawn Ironside are Thunder Bay residents who have overcome adversity to take their place alongside those committed to the greater good. The premature death of loved ones, some of whom succumbed to neuroendocrine cancers, fuelled the Ironsides' determination to do something constructive with their resources and time. "We don't want to leave this planet without making some meaningful contribution," said Dawn Ironside of their decision to invest in neuroendocrine research. Their determination to help others culminated in the creation of the *Reg and Olga Ironside Memorial*, a tribute to Ken's parents. Ken's mother succumbed to undiagnosed pancreatic cancer. The planned gift they have bequeathed to NOSM after their passing will target endocrine

cancers, rare diseases which Dawn says do not receive much funding in comparison to better known malignancies. The advantages of investing in NOSM's research program are twofold. The endowed bursary will promote research in a field for which the donors show great passion, and the investment will contribute to the retention of health professionals committed to the well being of Northerners.

Dr. Greg Ross, NOSM Associate Dean of Research, credits the Ironsides for their generosity and highlights the direct benefits Northerners receive as a result of research directly relevant to their health. "Research is a critical component of medical education at the School and this generous contribution by Ken and Dawn Ironside exemplifies the spirit of cooperation and support that drives research toward meeting the health challenges of Northerners." The Ironsides see the School and the Thunder Bay Regional Health Science Centre (TBRHSC), noted for its emphasis on cancer research, as major

influences in the city's transition from a resource-based to knowledge-based economy. "For us, NOSM and the Health Science Centre are catalysts to opening our community and providing a high quality of life and strong hope for keeping our young and brilliant minds working in our region," concluded Ken Ironside.

Both Ken and Dawn encourage others to consider future endowments to the School as a way of controlling their assets before their passing and contributing to regional prosperity. "When people are planning their estates it's important they see this as a reasonable option. You can still drive your own bus when determining where the funds should go." ■



Joey McColeman

NOSM Staff Member Participates in Historic Event

The longest Olympic Torch Relay in history took place in Canada this past winter as 12,000 torchbearers carried the Olympic Flame 45,000 kilometres through more than 1,000 communities to its final destination at the 2010 Winter Olympics in Vancouver, B.C. Taking part in that history was NOSM's Postgraduate Promotions and Recruitment Coordinator, Joey McColeman, who carried the torch on January 3, 2010 – day 66 of the flame's 106-day cross-country expedition.

Accompanied by his father, McColeman was one of six torchbearers to run with the flame through the streets of Wawa, Ontario on this Sunday morning with temperatures dipping below -40° Celsius. The hospitality of local business people, combined with the enthusiasm of sports fans and many thrilled children cheering on the runners, made an impression on the 32-year old NOSM employee, himself a lifetime sports enthusiast. "We couldn't have asked for a better time. The people of Wawa were

incredibly welcoming and were caught up in the national excitement of the Olympics," McColeman said.

McColeman's participation builds on previous experience. He worked at the Pan Am Games in Winnipeg in 1999, and in 2000 was chosen to work in a supervisory position at the Summer Olympic Games in Sydney, Australia.

The 2010 Winter Olympics is the third Olympics hosted by Canada, following previous games in Montreal in 1976 and Calgary in 1988. ■