

Northern Lakes College signs agreement to enhance northern education opportunities

March 25, 2013 - Northern Lakes College and six other post-secondary educational (PSE) institutions signed an innovative Memorandum of Action (MOA) at Keyano College in Fort McMurray, intended to improve access to post-secondary education delivered across Alberta.

The groundwork for the new collaborative initiative followed discussions among northern post-secondary presidents about ways to create seamless student transfer and mobility, better access to quality education, and enhance the scope of programming available in rural and remote areas throughout northern Alberta.



Back row: L-R: Dr. Trent Keough, President & CEO, Portage College, Barry Walker, Board Chair, Athabasca University, Dr. Glenn Feltham, President & CEO, NAIT, Ann Everatt, President & CEO, Northern Lakes College, Dr. Frits Pannekoek, President & CEO, Athabasca University, Pete Merlo, Vice Chair, GPRC, Don Gnatiuk, President & CEO, GPRC. Front Row: Steve MacDonald, Deputy Minister of Innovation & Advanced Education, MLA Don Scott, Dr. Kevin Nagel, President & CEO, Keyano College, Kara Flynn, Board Chair, Keyano College, and Gord Johnston, Assistant Deputy Minister of Innovation & Advanced Education at the MOA signing. Photo by Sean McLennan, Keyano College

The signing ceremony was attended by the Hon. Don Scott, MLA, Associate Minister, Accountability, Transparency and Transformation who brought greetings from the Hon. Dave Hancock, who was recently sworn-in as interim Premier. In a prepared statement, the interim Premier, said “this initiative is a true demonstration of the principles of Campus Alberta in action.”

“Collaboration, innovation and a vision to give Alberta’s students the opportunities they need is how you enhance our post-secondary system and how we continue to build Alberta together. I’m very proud of all of the partners who have worked to enhance access for students in northern Alberta,” Premier Hancock added.

“This MOA underlines the values and principles that have guided Northern Lakes College: Community, Respect, Accessibility, Collaboration, Excellence and Lifelong Learning. We are delighted to participate in and support a collaborative initiative that focuses on the outcomes of student success and mobility,” said Ann Everatt, President and CEO, Northern Lakes College.

The presidents from Athabasca University, NAIT, Grande Prairie College, Portage College, and Keyano College were also in attendance, as were senior Ministry officials Steve MacDonald, Deputy Minister of Innovation and Advanced Education and Gord Johnston, Assistant Deputy Minister of Innovation and Advanced Education. Although a full partner in the northern PSE collaboration, Lakeland College President and CEO Tracy Edwards and Board Chair Milt Wakefield were unable to attend the signing ceremony.

“This multi-stakeholder agreement is a true difference maker for generations of students in northern Alberta who want to realize their dreams of a post-secondary education,” said Don Scott, Associate Minister of Accountability, Transparency and Transformation and MLA for Fort McMurray-Conklin.

“More courses will now be offered throughout the region and give students the opportunities to learn in their communities via e-learning and program sharing among institutions,” MLA Scott noted.

The collaborative process featured input from each of the institutions, keeping all stakeholders and especially students in mind. The MOA will reduce traditional access barriers and enhance learner mobility by facilitating block transfer and creating flexible learning pathways. It will also provide an opportunity to share information, knowledge, programming and applied research ideas while improving system quality and achieving greater efficiency by working together. An opportunity also exists for the PSE institutions to provide new programs and services to under-represented groups. In order to achieve this goal in the most efficient and effective manner, a collaborative process will be initiated with the various groups and communities involved.

30-

Northern Lakes College is located in more than 26 communities across northern Alberta. Programs offered include, diploma, certificate apprenticeship, university studies, academic upgrading and a variety of workforce development opportunities.

For media inquiries please contact:

Brad Hestbak Senior Director, External Relations
Northern Lakes College
ph. 780.849.8619
hestbakb@northernlakescollege.ca