NEWS RELEASE



For Immediate Release

Northern Lakes College Receives Major Funding for Mobile Trades Training Facilities

Slave Lake, AB - Northern Lakes College has received \$3.05 million in Targeted Enrolment Expansion funding from the Ministry of Innovation and Advanced Education for Mobile Trades Training facilities. These mobile units will allow the college to offer various Trades programs in communities that otherwise may not have access to such facilities. In addition to the \$3.05 million for the mobile units, the college will receive \$523,000 annually to support program delivery.

The college submitted the project in response to the Ministry's July 2013 request for proposals that would increase access for learners in high demand programs. Pending manufacturing timelines, Northern Lakes College plans to offer programming out of the mobile units during the 2014-15 academic year.

Construction of modern, traditional facilities to accommodate trades such as welder, millwright, carpenter and other occupations in high demand is not only expensive but also hard to sustain in terms of student numbers, maintenance and support in rural and remote communities throughout the north.

According to Ann Everatt, President and CEO of Northern Lakes College, "These cost effective mobile training facilities are a necessary component that will allow Northern Lakes College to provide training to better meet training and labour market demands across our vast service region". The service region of Northern Lakes College is the largest of all Comprehensive Community Institutions (CCI) in Alberta, encompassing 37 communities.

This initiative aligns with the Alberta Ministry's priorities outlined in the *Campus Alberta Planning Resource* 2012 of supporting Alberta's economic and social progress. Labour market needs will continue to grow, and grassroots, community based training will assist in filling projected skilled worker shortages in the area. At full capacity, each mobile lab would allow for two offerings per day, with eight students per offering for each of the two semesters resulting in an enrolment of 64 students.

"Albertans need access to the highest quality learning opportunities regardless of where they live and our funding for this innovative program will do just that," said Dave Hancock, Premier and Minister of Innovation and Advanced Education. "Northern Lakes College can now meet the needs of students in communities where these opportunities haven't traditionally been available and better respond to local labour market demands for more skilled tradespeople."

Although there is nothing like this currently offered in the service region, Northern Lakes College Dean, Glenn Mitchell, is confident that the experience and expertise is in place. "Our Community Education

Committee (CEC) model of community engagement and our mission statement all point to supporting and enhancing the education, employment opportunities, and quality of life of residents in the communities of our service region. We have the staff, infrastructure and local community network to support mobile units on location in many of our communities".

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Northern Lakes College is a Comprehensive Community Institution offering certificate and diploma programs in Business, Health Sciences, Human Services, Technology, Trades, University Studies and Academic Upgrading. The College collaborates with Campus Alberta partners to offer degree completion opportunities throughout its service region, including a Bachelor of Education. Northern Lakes College also provides a wide variety of certificate programs through its Continuing Education and Corporate Training Department.

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