Town of Peace River and Northern Sunrise Country Donate to the Peace River Steam Lab

September 9, 2014 (Peace River) – The Town of Peace River and Northern Sunrise County announced a $200,000 donation to the Northern Lakes College Power Engineering Steam Lab.

Mayor Tom Tarpey and Reeve Carolyn Kolebaba presented the cheque to Northern Lakes College CEO and President Ann Everatt.

Pictured from left to right: Northern Sunrise County Reeve Carolyn Kolebaba; Town of Peace River Councillor Rod Burr, Northern Sunrise County Councillor Dan Boisvert; Northern Sunrise County Councillor Garrett Tomlinson; Northern Sunrise County Councillor Doug Dallyn; Northern Sunrise County Councillor Norm Duval; Mayor of Peace River Tom Tarpey; Northern Lakes College Regional Manager Kevin Delorey. Sitting left to right: Vice Chair, Northern Lakes College Board of Governors Sandra Willing; President and CEO of Northern Lakes College Ann Everatt; Northern Sunrise County Deputy Reeve Marie Dyck

"Northern Sunrise County is pleased to partner with the Town of Peace River for the Peace River Power Engineering Steam Lab with Northern Lakes College," said Reeve Kolebaba. "The ability to provide training in the Power Engineering trade, particularly for steam time, is essential to the ever-growing industries in the North. We are proud to support ongoing education that will be of benefit to the residents in our communities. The ability to provide local training allows our residents to continue to work and live in the North."

The demand for power engineers in industry continues to grow, evident in the increase in enrolments in the Power Engineering program at Northern Lakes College over the past few years. Over the last three months the college has had more than 200 power engineering students, more than double the amount over the same time period in 2011. With the growth in the program, it is increasingly more challenging for students to obtain the steam lab time required for certification.

"This is a great project for the region", added Peace River Mayor Thomas Tarpey. "With the demand from area industries for Power Engineers, I can see Peace River's Northern Lakes College building on the steam lab and creating a center of excellence for steam and power engineering here for all of northern Alberta."

Construction of the steam lab, began in June of 2014 and will be completed by the end of September. The steam lab will provide the necessary steam time for over 80 students a year to become 3rd and 4th class power engineers. High school dual credit students will also be able to use the lab to log steam time. The first group of students will begin to use this facility in November, 2014.

"We are excited about this partnership with the Town of Peace River and Northern Sunrise County, and thankful for their support of the steam lab," said President and CEO of Northern Lakes College Ann Everatt. "It is through partnerships such as these and continued collaboration that we are able to meet the demand for power engineers, as well as other skilled labourers, created by the growing industry in the north."

The power engineering program has a continuous intake and is available at any Northern Lakes College campus located across northern Alberta. The college offers 5th, 4th and 3rd class power engineering, as well as a dual credit program for high school students.

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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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