

**Growth in Trades and Technology training at Northern Lakes College leads to
Appointment of new Dean**

Northern Lakes College has experienced major growth in demand for trades and technology programs over the last few years. To accommodate this growth, the college has appointed Nelson Lutz to the new role of Dean, Trades and Technology.

Dean Lutz has been with NLC since 1985 when he taught the Forestry Technician program and coordinated the Logging Equipment Operator program from 1992-2000. He added continuing education to his portfolio when he assumed responsibility of the Workforce Development division, until 2011. It was during this time that he was asked to revive apprenticeship and trades training which had been dormant since the early 1990s.

Additions to Nelson's oversight, in recent years, include Power Engineering and the Oilfield Operator program, which enabled NLC to develop a division dedicated to resource and technology based programming.



Nelson Lutz, Dean, Trades and Technology

In July 2014, Northern Lakes College President and CEO Ann Everatt directed that a new Trades and Technology department be established to focus on the growing importance of trades and apprenticeship training, and to support the ever-increasing demand for specialized industrial education in NLC's northern Alberta service region. After an extensive search Nelson Lutz was

chosen to lead this effort. “The growth and stewardship of trades and technology training in our region is both a huge challenge and a huge opportunity for our College”, said Lutz. “Building capacity to take advantage of local job opportunities is critical to the success of our communities.”

Apprenticeship and Technology programs offered by NLC are closely linked to the local economy. Training institutions are provided seats in their apprenticeship programs based on the numbers of active apprentices in the region under the direction of Apprenticeship and Industry Training (AIT), all dependent on the demand of the local economy.

AIT has strict guidelines and standards for trades training. Instructors teach AIT curriculum and students write AIT exams. It is up to the post-secondary institution to provide the high quality of instruction necessary for students to succeed in the exams, and to provide the facilities and technology for training. Northern Lakes College has grown its trades and apprenticeship offerings in recent years by continually meeting provincial standards as demonstrated by hundreds of successful students each year.

The college has grown from offering some pre-employment trades training to providing all periods in carpenter, electrician and welder apprenticeship. Eight years ago, there were no seats available for apprenticeship training in these programs. This year there are 84 electrician seats, 84 welder seats and 40 carpenter seats.

The crane and hoisting - boom truck apprenticeship program began in 2008 and is offered across the province. This year it will travel to Brooks, Red Deer, Olds, Grande Prairie, and for the first time, Hinton. Later this year the college will also be offering crane and hoisting – mobile crane, which will be available in Red Deer, Olds and Grande Prairie. These two programs combined have a total of 144 seats, and represent the largest growth in trades programming for the college, allowing for the college to train people right where they are working.

With the success of these programs, the Northern Lakes College is spearheading another mobile initiative to offer trades training throughout northwestern Alberta. The College received \$3.05 million in 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. The mobile units will largely offer pre-employment and dual-credit training. Dual-credit training is another manner in which the college is accommodating students for trades training. The dual-credit programs allow high school students to take college level courses and receive high school and college credit simultaneously.

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.

For media inquiries please contact:

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