NEWS RELEASE



For Immediate Release

Northern Lakes College Opens the Shell Canada Power Engineering and Technology Centre

February 27, 2015 (Peace River) – Project supporters and community leaders joined college officials today for the grand opening of the Northern Lakes College Shell Canada Power Engineering and Technology Centre in Peace River, Alberta.

Representatives from the Government of Canada, Town of Peace River and Northern Sunrise County, along with industry partners, Shell Canada and Penn West Exploration, were present. Northern Lakes College announced the Peace Regional Power Engineering Project in 2012 with the goal of raising funds to create a power engineering lab in Peace River to close the gap between the high demand and low supply of power engineers in northern Alberta.

"Our Government is proud to have supported the purchase of specialized equipment for the Power Engineering Steam Lab at Northern Lakes College," said Chris Warkentin, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Public Works and Government Services and Member of Parliament for Peace River, on behalf of the Honourable Michelle Rempel, Minister of State for Western Economic Diversification. "By improving access to training, we are ensuring students are getting the skills and experience they need to secure quality jobs and a prosperous future."



Ribbon cutting (pictured left to right): Power engineering student Gertrude Chikuni; Garret Tomlinson, Reeve, Northern Sunrise County; Ginette MacIsaac, Carmon Creek Operations Manager, Shell Canada; Daniel

Vandermeulen, Chair, Board of Governors, Northern Lakes College; Ryan Gardner, Production Foreman, Penn West; Tom Tarpey, Mayor, Peace River; Ann Everatt, President and CEO, Northern Lakes College; Power engineering student Howard Young

Industry consultation indicates that one of the largest obstacles to training power engineers is the challenge of obtaining the necessary steam time for certification. The power engineering lab will provide the necessary steam time for over 80 students a year, as well as dual credit high school students, to become third and fourth class power engineers. The Government of Canada provided \$1 million towards the purchase of specialized equipment for the power engineering steam lab.

"Funding educational institutions and initiatives across the country is a key area of focus of our social investment program," says Ginette MacIsaac, Shell's Carmon Creek Operations Manager. "As a long-time supporter of Northern Lakes College, we are proud to lend Shell's name to a facility which will help to meet an important need for power engineers across the province."

Ann Everatt, President and CEO of Northern Lakes College, said, "This new facility provides access to training for students throughout the Northern Lakes College region. We are extremely grateful to our industry and government partners, Shell Canada, Western Economic Diversification, Penn West, The Town of Peace River and Northern Sunrise County that provided their support to this venture. We could not have done this without their generous support."

The power lab began its first intake of students in February 2015. Learners are able to achieve their fourth and third class power engineering certification through a service delivery model that breaks away from the traditional learning model by catering to all types of learners.

In addition to having a five week, full-time intake of students, the facility employs flexible hours and schedules to suit the needs of students who are working during the day as well as high school dual credit students.



Speakers at the grand opening pictured from left to right: Ryan Gardner, Production Foreman, Penn West; Garret Tomlinson, Reeve, Northern Sunrise County; Ginette MacIsaac, Carmon Creek Operations Manager, Shell Canada; Daniel Vandermeulen, Chair, Board of Governors, Northern Lakes College; Tom Tarpey, Mayor, Peace River; Ann Everatt, President and CEO, Northern Lakes College

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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.

For media inquiries please contact:

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