



## NEWS RELEASE

**For Immediate Release**

Slave Lake, Alberta [May 12, 2015]

### **Northern Lakes College Prepares for Growth and Enhanced Programming**

Northern Lakes College has passed a balanced budget that is focused on improving and expanding the services provided to their service region. Funding challenges over the past few years, including cuts to the Operating Grant and inflationary increases have resulted in a complete review of the capacity of the college to provide regional access and quality service delivery for our students.

Ann Everatt, President and CEO of Northern Lakes College states “we consulted extensively with our staff, our students and our regional stakeholders on how we could improve the quality of the services, introduce new programs that meet regional demand, and enhance access to post-secondary programs in our region. It was clear that we had an over-capacity in some key program areas and demand for the introduction of new programming. This budget will allow the College to invest in enhanced programming and service to meet the growing demand of our student population. This is a growth budget.”

Daniel Vandermeulen, Chair of the Northern Lakes College Board of Governors states “We have focused on becoming more efficient and more effective through this process and we have a broad goal of ensuring that Northern Lakes College remains a financially sustainable institution. The College and the Board of Governors are aware of the critically important role we play in our communities and will be continuing to ensure that we are able to provide enhanced access to programming that meets the needs of our stakeholder region. We will continue to seek partnerships with other institutions to increase access to programs for students in our region.”

Some of the measures undertaken include the suspension of two low enrolment programs and the closure of two campuses that have been experiencing low enrolment. The College will continue to support these communities and provide access to students through a Community Access Centre. As well, there has been a restructure of a number of our departments to ensure that we are operating more efficiently while maintaining the quality of service and programming to our students. And finally this budget allows for the investment in new programming and an enhanced quality of service delivery.

Regrettably, a number of Northern Lakes College staff will be affected. The College has worked hard to limit the affect by implementing a hiring freeze in November of last year and by offering an early leave or retirement incentive program. Although a number of positions have been eliminated there have been a number of positions created to support the ongoing sustainability of NLC as well as opportunities for staff to transition to vacant positions.

Northern Lakes College maintains its commitment to providing access to post-secondary programs in this region. “We are confident that the strategies being undertaken at this time will ensure the foundation is set for a vibrant and financially sustainable future for Northern Lakes College”, says Dan Vandermeulen, Chair of the Northern Lakes College Board of Governors.

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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:

Valerie Tradewell  
Director, College Advancement  
Northern Lakes College  
780-849-8621