



## **NEWS RELEASE**

**For Immediate Release**

Slave Lake, Alberta [May 6, 2015]

Northern Lakes College and the Métis Education Foundation celebrated the creation of a \$200,000 Special Purpose Fund for Métis students attending Northern Lakes College. The gift from the Métis Education Foundation along with a contribution from Northern Lakes College will allow the fund to distribute awards and bursaries over a 15 year period to Métis students. Beginning in 2015-2016, over \$12,000 will be distributed to Métis students to encourage post-secondary achievements and to provide financial assistance to Métis students in greatest financial need.

Northern Lakes College has seen its enrollment numbers continue to climb steadily over the past six years and has seen a growth in the number of Métis students attending college. In the 2013-2014, the College had 279 students self-declare Métis status. Northern Lakes College offers certificate and diploma programs in Business, Health Sciences, Human Services, Technology, Trades, University Studies and Academic Upgrading.

“Scholarships and bursaries help remove financial barriers for students, and allow them to focus on academic excellence and achieving their education goals. Northern Lakes College is pleased to establish a partnership with Rupertsland Institute and the Métis Education Foundation. We look forward to a good working relationship and the possibility of partnering on future programs” says Ann Everatt, President and CEO of Northern Lakes College.

“The vision to create a Metis endowment portfolio for the Metis Nation of Alberta in such a short period is astonishing for our people. Less than 10 years ago, the Metis people of this province had little financial means to enter post-secondary schooling. With our portfolio of endowments now established at 14 post-secondary institutions across Alberta and with the Rupertsland Institute’s support of final year of studies, we are going to see a lot more Metis graduating from post-secondary institutions” said Audrey Poitras, Chair of the Metis Education Foundation.

Representatives from the two institutions signed an agreement to officially signify the establishment of this special purpose fund.



*Left to right: Ann Everatt, President & CEO, Northern Lakes College; Audrey Poitras, President of Métis Nation of Alberta; Bev New, President of Region 5 Métis Nation*

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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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