



## NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Slave Lake, Alberta [June 15, 2015]

### **Northern Lakes College Celebrates Largest Graduating Class**

Northern Lakes College is experiencing unprecedented growth in many areas, and that was showcased at the recent convocation held in Peace River at the Baytex Energy Centre. Families, friends and Northern Lakes College representatives gathered to celebrate the achievements of the 950 students graduating in 2015. This year marked the highest number of students graduating at the College.

Master of Ceremonies Amy Saitz, Chair, Academic Upgrading at Northern Lakes College opened the ceremony by inviting elder Dave Matilpi to play his drum and prayer. A number of dignitaries brought greetings and congratulations including Dan Fletcher, Vice Chair, Board of Governors and Rod Burr, Councillor for the Town of Peace River.

Valedictorians Tanis Flett and Nellie Robinson shared the stage and addressed the graduates. “Not one of us got here today without stumbling along the way, but we learned to never give up and not be afraid of making mistakes” said Tanis “Look back on all you have accomplished and be proud of what you have achieved. Your future is bright.”

Keynote speaker Dino Colbourne, Operations Manager of Shell Canada Peace River, shared words of inspiration. Mr. Colbourne spoke of his work experience, the lessons learned along the way and how his journey has taken him to management. He encouraged the students to try new things and “appreciate the people you meet in life because you never know when you will meet them again.”

Ann Everatt, President and CEO of Northern Lakes College, addressed the graduating class of 2015 with words of motivation. “This is your time. You have worked hard to get here. Celebrate tomorrow and don’t be afraid of change.” She balanced her passionate words with a light-hearted quote from Dr. Seuss “*You have brains in your head. You have feet in your shoes. You can steer yourself any direction you choose.*”

Awards were given to students in recognition of outstanding achievements in various areas. Vice-Chair Dan Fletcher presented several awards and among those were the Board of Governors Scholarship to Alexandria Legare and the Board of Governors Leadership Award to Valedictorian Tanis Flett. Many other students received awards including Katharina Zacharias in the Social Work Diploma program receiving both the Governor General’s Collegiate Bronze Medal and the Louise McKinney Scholarship for her high marks.

The nursing students celebrated their graduation with a traditional Capping and Pinning Ceremony on Thursday, June 4. The ceremony is a 150 year old tradition that is conducted in candlelight, and each nursing student is presented with a nursing cap and pin. This year, 47 nursing students from Barrhead, Peace River, Slave Lake and Grande Prairie graduated.



Valedictorians Nellie Robinson and Tanis Flett

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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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