



MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Slave Lake, Alberta [June 10, 2015]

Northern Lakes College Alumni Wins Prestigious Alberta Literary Award

Northern Lakes College alumni Katie [Mulholland] Bickell is quickly establishing herself as one of Alberta's distinguished writers. Her fiction piece, *But for the Streetlamps and the Moon and all of the Stars* was recently short-listed for the Howard O'Hagan Award, and on May 23rd, was announced as the winning selection by Writer's Guild of Alberta.

This recognition is a testament to Katie's drive, determination and dedication; attributes that she cultivated as a teen in her home town of Slave Lake, Alberta. After graduating from high school a year early, Katie decided to pursue a Bachelor of Education and was accepted into the University of Alberta but instead chose Northern Lakes College. "I decided to stay in Slave Lake and go to Northern Lakes College. That allowed me to work 3 different jobs, put myself through school, live on my own, and I came out with very little debt" said Mrs. Bickell "NLC let me balance my work life and my student life." Like many other students who choose to learn local, Katie saved over \$20,000 in tuition, travel, and living expenses, which afforded her the opportunity to further invest in herself and pursue her dream of writing.

"Northern Lakes College is very proud to have Katie as an alumni of the University Studies Program. Her hard work and dedication have helped earn the success she deserves in the literary world" said Ann Everatt, President & CEO, Northern Lakes College.

Katie also won the 2014 Alberta Views Short Fiction Prize for *Northside Delacroix*, and received praise for her children's books *Hope is in our Hands*, which gave a child's perspective of the devastating 2011 Slave Lake wildfires. Katie Bickell's work has appeared throughout North America and Great Britain in such publications as Herizons Magazine, Tahoma Literary Review, and Alberta Views. The author of two children's books, her short fiction and creative nonfiction have earned her The Voices of Motherhood 2011 Prize, the Alberta Views 2014 Fiction Prize, and the 2015 Howard O'Hagan Award. She owns and operates YMF Writing Services, specializing in professional resume creation.

Visit Katie's website at <http://katiebickell.com>. If you are a Northern Lakes College alumni and would like to share your success story, we would love to hear from you.



Alumni Katie Bickell
(photo taken by Jacob Bos)

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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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