



## NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Slave Lake, Alberta (July 9, 2015)

### **Northern Lakes College gets Approval for Early Learning and Child Care Diploma**

Northern Lakes College is pleased to announce that it will be introducing the new Early Learning and Child Care Diploma Program.

This is a natural extension of the Early Learning and Child Care Certificate Program, and adds to its repertoire of Human Service Career Programs which includes Addiction Services Worker Certificate, Educational Assistant Certificate and the Social Work Diploma.

The first offering begins in September, and is 38 weeks in length. Like many Northern Lakes College programs, it is delivered online, allowing prospective students to integrate education in to their current lifestyles with little interruption. The accessibility, affordability and flexibility of this and other programs helps to remove barriers for those looking to continue their education, and aligns strongly with the mission of Northern Lakes College. Graduates of the Early Learning and Child Care diploma program meet the educational requirements to apply to Alberta Human Services Child Care Staff Certification for Child Care Supervisor designation.

“It is a period of growth for Northern Lakes College, and this is another example of that” said Ann Everatt, President and CEO. “We continue to seek out programming that will allow those in our region to get a quality education in or near their home communities and start their careers there too.”

Demand is high in this field, and according to the ALIS website, which assists Albertans in planning and achieving educational and career success, 56% of recruiting employers experienced difficulties hiring. “There is currently a need in our region for early childhood educators at the Child Care Worker and Supervisor levels. At Northern Lakes College we have had great success in preparing our students to bridge that gap, and fill those in demand positions” said Michelle Mitchell, Chair, Centre for Teaching and Learning. “We have high expectations for this program” added Mitchell.

Graduates of this program will develop the skills to work with children in preschools, day cares, day homes and various after-school programs.

Those interested in pursuing a career in this field are encouraged to contact Northern Lakes College at 1-866- 652-3456 or visit our newly designed website at [www.northernlakescollege.ca](http://www.northernlakescollege.ca).



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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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