



MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release

NORTHERN LAKES COLLEGE WATER AND WASTEWATER PROGRAM PARTNERSHIP ANNOUNCED

November 9, 2015 (Slave Lake, Alberta) – An important issue facing Canadian communities, including first nation and metis settlements is management and stewardship of water and wastewater systems. It is each municipality's responsibility to ensure the continuous safe operation of its water and wastewater systems. In northern Alberta, communities are continuously searching for qualified individuals to fill the complex roles of water and wastewater treatment plant operators, water distribution system operators and wastewater collection system operators.

“Northern Lakes College is proud to announce that we will be continuing our development of innovative programming to serve northern communities,” stated Ann Everatt, CEO and President, Northern Lakes College. “In partnership with ATAP Infrastructure Management Ltd. we are developing the water wastewater training program to address critical demand for training in Alberta. Northern Lakes College's water and wastewater treatment program will be a premiere training program, providing practical job readiness training.”

The program will be delivered LIVE Online which will allow students to access the program from their home community and still continue working. Students will become proficient in learning the support systems and technical aspects of water and wastewater treatment, and water distribution and wastewater collection as they work through each module. Students will also have an opportunity to tour a treatment plant, conduct water tests and assist with day to day activities, putting into action their in-class learning. Completion of the program will provide students with the necessary knowledge to write the province's certification exam.

ATAP (Advanced Technology Applications) Infrastructure Management Ltd. is an affiliate of Associated Engineering Group of Companies. ATAP was incorporated to provide comprehensive and cost-effective operation, maintenance management and alternate project delivery services with a focus towards small water and wastewater systems.

ATAP's Grant Dixon, Operations and Management Specialist stated “by leveraging and combining the strengths of our two organizations, we are able to enhance our curriculum and training that will provide an exceptional learning path with practical career outcomes. Working in this industry can provide a very rewarding career for both men and women starting their careers, re-entering the workforce or considering a change in careers.”

According to the Government of Alberta's ALIS website, there is expectation for a high number of positions coming available, in an industry where demand is already high as members of the baby boom generation retire over the next few years. In the past two years, over 40% of employers have recruited to this position, with almost 30% indicating difficulties in hiring. The website also indicated that the average wage for those employed in water and wastewater is \$29.11 an hour.

Northern Lakes College will be offering the program in September 2016, with registration opening August, 2016. For more information please contact Rachel Ouellette, Chair of Continuing Education and Corporate Training.



Left to right: Helder Afonso (Vice President and General Manager, Associated Engineering), Ann Everatt (President & CEO, Northern Lakes College) and Garry Drachenberg (Vice President, Water Solutions, Associated Engineering)

-30-

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