



MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Northern Lakes College proudly hosts its 14th Annual Round Dance

March 24, 2016 – Slave Lake, AB

The Slave Lake Campus hosted a regional Round Dance on March 19th. The Aboriginal peoples of the area have long held traditional social dances, drawing dancers and drummers in either celebration or in remembrance.

Randy Anderson, Manager of Aboriginal Relations at Northern Lakes College welcomed approximately 350 attendees this year. Asked about the breakdown between those in attendance and actual participants, Anderson remarked that “Most of those who attend a Round Dance actually participate.” A Pipe Ceremony was followed by a meal before traditional drumming and song filled the night. Anderson explains that prior to the Pipe Ceremony, time was scheduled for a free public workshop. This educational component explained the protocols of aboriginal culture such as elder respect and the role of tobacco use within the communities.

Northern Lakes College has two Aboriginal cultural events each year, the Metis Celebration and the Round Dance. Though this is NLC’s fourteenth year of sponsoring the Round Dance, it is the first year it has been held at the Slave Lake Campus. “The Round Dance is an event that the College is proud to host. Our staff volunteer their time to ensure the event is run smoothly and enjoyed by all participants. It is an opportunity for us to continue to strengthen relationships with students and celebrate aboriginal heritage” says Ann Everatt, President and CEO.

Along with more drummers than was expected, the event welcomed the Honourable Danielle Larivee, MLA for Lesser Slave Lake who participated as a dancer, interacted with Elders and displayed knowledge and respect for the Aboriginal culture. Asked to comment on the event, Larivee replied "I have always seen Northern Lakes College's greatest strength as being its connection to its students and their communities. The Round Dance, a recognition of the equality and connection of all in the circle, is an excellent example of that. This event celebrates the richness of the indigenous cultures of many NLC students, fostering pride and a sense of community. Thank you for inviting me to be a part of it!"

Northern Lakes College sponsorship is intended to garner support and create positive energy within the community. It is also an opportunity to display the facilities available to all attendees and in exchange, expose and showcase the rich and vibrant Aboriginal culture of the area.



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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