



MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Students celebrate Earth Day at NLC Slave Lake Campus

April 25, 2016 Slave Lake, Alberta

Members of the Regional Environmental Action Committee (REAC) along with Ann Everatt, President and CEO of Northern Lakes College and a group of students and staff met on the grounds of the Slave Lake Campus to celebrate Earth Day 2016. Earth Day is an annual event celebrated on April 22 of each year. Events are held worldwide to demonstrate support for environmental awareness and protection. Earth day was first celebrated officially in 1970 and now has grown to include events in 192 countries. As part of this year's celebration, a campus clean-up was organized and over 30 people participated picking 21 bags of litter and debris.

It's no coincidence that REAC chose NLC's Slave Lake Campus as the backdrop for their Earth Day celebration for here, perched on the roof of the facility is their Solar Panel Project. Tilted at 45 degrees, the array of solar panels was installed in 2014 and is designed to produce 5760 watts of electrical energy for the facility. Collecting the sun's energy year round, this silent but important demonstration project reflects the College's commitment to partnering with industry and the public to work toward environmental sustainability.

"REAC is very pleased with the solar power project installed at Northern Lakes College. There were several funding partners in the project - BP Canada, Pembina Pipelines, Encana, Rotary Club of Slave Lake, Penn West, Shell Canada and RMSS Outdoor Education; this partnership shows that we can all act together toward a sustainable future" says Bonnie Raho, Chair of REAC. "Part of our celebration includes the release of bookmarks discussing the solar power installation."

Paul Chalk, Director of Facilities at Northern Lakes College explains that "The solar panels are just one piece in the College's overall strategy to minimize its environmental footprint. From ongoing physical improvements such as retrofitting the Slave Lake Campus to high efficiency lighting and the installation of water conservation devices to capital investments in the heating and cooling systems, NLC is committed to reducing its overall consumption. Of equal importance, Northern Lakes College has been in the process of creating usage baselines of its heating and cooling systems throughout the region. We now have 126 separate programmable devices which monitor electrical consumption. This information is fed into Data Loggers and downloaded to an off-site contractor for analysis. Once trends are revealed, the electrical systems can be preprogrammed to meet the expected usage, thus minimizing waste."

Northern Lakes College operates 25 campuses over an area of 163,000 square kilometers and in doing so accepts a stewardship and a responsibility in maintaining good environmental principles and practices. Recognizing this obligation, NLC continues to improve the efficiency of its facilities through innovative modernization and adaptive technologies. Just as the celebration of Earth Day each year reminds us all of our environmental obligations, so too does it reflect the need to work toward those goals each and every day. As an environmental shareholder, Northern Lakes College understands the expectations of the communities in which it operates and will continue to search for ways to minimize its impact on the environment all the while delivering the best in educational services throughout the region.

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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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