



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

**For Immediate Release**

### **Generous Donation will help save Lives - Northern Lakes College receives \$200,000 donation from the Heart and Stroke Foundation**

May 9, 2016 Slave Lake, AB

Northern Lakes College has received \$200,000 from the Heart and Stroke Foundation through a generous donation from an anonymous donor to provide 20 Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) and the associated training at 20 campuses throughout the Northern Lakes College service region. AEDs are life-saving devices used to restart a person's heart that has stopped beating; they are safe, easy to use, and can be operated effectively by the public.

Jim Meldrum, Occupational Health and Safety Officer at Northern Lakes College commented that "In addition to the donation of the actual 20 AED devices, the College also received 10 Trainers and 350 CPR (cardio pulmonary resuscitation) Training Kits." Meldrum went on to explain that "distribution, training and accreditation classes have already commenced. In conjunction with a training video, students will use the AED Trainers and material in their CRP Training Kits to experience true-to-life situations in dealing with persons experiencing a cardiac arrest."

The Heart and Stroke Foundation explains that most cardiac arrests occur in homes and public places, and are witnessed by a family member, co-worker or friend. Performing CPR and using an AED before emergency medical services arrive can double the chance of survival. Up to 40,000 sudden cardiac arrests occur in Canada annually; which is about one every 13 minutes. The Heart and Stroke Foundation trains more than half a million people every year in CPR and AED use. "Cardiac arrest can happen anywhere, to anyone, at any age," says Mike Hoffman, Manager of the Foundation's national AED program "and the chance for survival depends on fast action that includes CPR and application of an AED within the first few minutes. That's why this donation and the training that goes along with it is so important."

"Northern Lakes College serves northern communities in Alberta. Having access to life saving equipment in our remote campuses will benefit our students, our staff and the entire community" says Ann Everatt, President and CEO. "Northern Lakes College is proud to partner with the Heart and Stroke Foundation in a program that benefits so many."

All AEDs are registered in the province of Alberta and each AED location is carefully documented. An example may be that someone is in the state of a cardiac arrest and 911 is contacted. The 911 operator could see the caller's location via the cell phone GPS signal and then tap into the database and give specific instructions to the caller the nearest location of an AED. Administration of this database is provided through the Public Access to Defibrillation program.

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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.*

For media inquiries please contact:

Valerie Tradewell  
Director, College Advancement  
Northern Lakes College  
780-849-8621