



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **For Immediate Release**

July 19, 2016 (Slave Lake, Alberta)

### **Sturgeon Lake Students Graduate NLC's Technical Preparation Program**

Thirteen Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation students have recently celebrated success in a new Northern Lakes College program. The Trades Technical Preparation program prepares participants for the Apprenticeship and Industry Training (AIT) Entrance Exam, offering academic study on trade science and mathematics, and practical exposure to carpentry, electrical, and welding fundamentals. What sets the Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation/NLC experience apart from other trades training is the innovative delivery style of this training and the program's inclusiveness of First Nations culture.

Sturgeon Lake ASETS Office Coordinator Rosalynn Goodswimmer says "Northern Lakes College's program was very well planned. The college worked with me to include a Traditional/Cultural program within the curriculum that incorporated Elder teaching into classroom sessions. Our trainees left the program fully self-sufficient, knowledgeable in the trades, and well aware of who they are as Indigenous People. I believe that will be the key to their success."

Practical components of the program were delivered in a similarly student-focused way. Utilizing NLC's brand new mobile trades trailers, the portable training labs were set up in the Sturgeon Lake community providing easy access to students and reducing barriers for students who are unable to travel to attend training. With 1500 square feet of lab space, students have the opportunity to experience hands-on aspects of the welding, carpentry and electrical trades. "Northern Lakes College is a community-based institution and the Technical Preparation program was created to meet the expressed training needs of our communities," says Rachel Ouellette, Chair of Continuing Education and Corporate Training. "This specific program assists students in obtaining the academic preparation required to successfully challenge the AIT entrance exam while enjoying a hands-on experience in our state-of-the-art Mobile Trades Trailer. Application of concepts learned in the classroom and practiced in an applied environment enforces learning and increases student success."

All thirteen participants of the Technical Preparation program achieved certificates of completion and were celebrated at a community ceremony on June 9, 2016. 85% of participants went on to secure their AIT Entrance Exams at a level two or higher, and all graduates acquired work experience placements with local businesses related to their chosen trade.



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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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