



MEDIA RELEASE

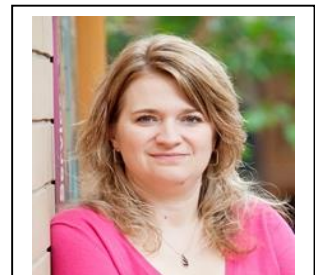
For Immediate Release

September 15, 2016 Slave Lake, Alberta

NLC selected Top Presenter at Conference Board of Canada

Northern Lakes College's Chair of Centre for Teaching and Learning, Michelle Mitchell, is receiving recognition for her presentation, "Supporting Aboriginal Students at Risk - Improving Post-Secondary Education Completion Rates." The topic was originally introduced to the Conference Board of Canada at the annual Skills and Post-Secondary Education Summit in November 2015, where it was ranked day one's best presentation. Because of the presentation's popularity among academic facilitators and its theme of breaking educational barriers, Mitchell has been invited to take part in the Board's live national webinar series which is scheduled for September 15, 2016. Registration for this webinar is the largest that the Conference Board of Canada has experienced this year.

Of this opportunity, Mitchell says, "It's an exciting experience and I'm glad to receive positive feedback regarding this topic. It's the mission of Northern Lakes College to remove barriers wherever possible, both distance barriers and educational barriers especially for rural northern, and indigenous learners. It's about being part of a community and empowering students where they live instead of expecting them to have the time, financial means, or opportunity to move to large centers."



In her presentation, Mitchell uses learner data and collected statistics to speak of the unique challenges faced by northern students. To implement educational empowerment in smaller communities, Mitchell says, colleges and universities must redesign outdated educational models while providing human support to rural learners. "The technology to learn anywhere exists, but NLC doesn't expect, nor do we believe it is responsible to assume, that all students will have a natural aptitude for exploring and using this technology. Community-based resources are vital; distance-learning students need access to facilitators who will assist in getting them online, planning course loads, exploring learning and funding options, and whom might act as supportive learning coaches."

President and CEO Ann Everatt, who assisted in the presentation, stresses the benefits of such innovative models. "Rural and indigenous students consistently contribute learned skills to their

home communities in very direct, tangible ways. It's important that education be accessible, affordable, and engaging. Northern Lakes College will continue to create supportive learning models for our northern students.”

Mitchell's presentation will be available for streaming throughout Canada on September 15th, 2016, and can be accessed on the Conference Board of Canada's e-Library Site.

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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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