



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**June 2, 2017**

#### **Northern Lakes College celebrates Graduates of 2017 in High Prairie**

Northern Lakes College proudly celebrated the success of our students on June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2017. 917 students have graduated from over 32 programs including 25 dual credit students graduating with a credential. Friends and family celebrated student achievements at the Convocation ceremony held in High Prairie, Alberta at the Sports Palace. The theme of the ceremony was commemorated with the celebratory tune "Try Everything" by Shakira.

Elder Rose Wabasca and her granddaughter Keanna Ferguson led the opening evocation with prayer which was followed by Canada's national anthem. Master of Ceremonies Glenn Mitchell, Dean, Business, Academics and University Studies welcomed all attendees and introduced a number of dignitaries including Mr. Daniel Vandermeulen, Chair Board of Governors; Ms. Debbie Jabbour, MLA for Peace River, Mr. Brian Gilroy, Deputy-Mayor for the Town of High Prairie, Counsellor Donald Charrois of M.D of Big Lakes County and keynote speaker the Honourable Danielle Larivee, MLA for Lesser Slave Lake and Minister of Children's Services.

Ann Everatt, President and CEO of Northern Lakes College, congratulated the graduating class of 2017 with words of motivation and optimism. She said "Education is empowerment. You have many choices in the direction your life will take. Graduation is the first step, the next is your first job in your new career or embarking on a new learning opportunity. Continue to seek out learning opportunities and most of all be passionate about change, for yourself, your families and your future."

Chosen to be the Valedictorian of the Graduation Class of 2017, Jzomuel Vida, Practical Nurse graduate possesses an intense desire to help others and exemplifies integrity and professionalism. Jzomuel is a great role model and an excellent representative of Northern Lakes College. Jzomuel told his peers "Do not stop dreaming and dream big."

Awards were given to a number of students in recognition of outstanding achievement in a variety of areas. Of these, Tanis Flett received both the Board of Governors Scholarship, a prize honoring the exemplification of the philosophy of lifelong learning and the Louise McKinney Scholarship for academic achievement. An unexpected surprise to Tanis was the announcement that she was also awarded the Governor General's Collegiate Bronze Medal for highest academic standing in a diploma program.

The Practical Nursing students celebrated on Thursday June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017 with a traditional Capping and Pinning Ceremony. The ceremony is a 150-year-old tradition that is conducted in candlelight, and each nursing student is presented with a nursing cap and pin. The celebration consisted of a number of speeches from dignitaries, Dean of Health Harrison Applin and the student address by Jzomuel Vida. 46 Practical Nurse students from Peace River, High Level, Slave Lake and Grande Prairie graduated.



Northern Lakes College is a multi-campus college located in northern Alberta and is focused on providing relevant, quality programs through a distributed learning model serving over 6,000 students annually. NLC offers a wide range of certificate and diploma programs in Business, Health Sciences and Allied Health, Human Services, Technology, Trades, University Studies and Academic Upgrading to meet regional needs. The College collaborates with Campus Alberta partners to offer degree completion opportunities throughout its service region, including a Bachelor of Education and a Bachelor of Social Work. Northern Lakes College also provides a wide variety of professional accreditation and certificate programs through its Continuing Education and Corporate Training Department. Northern Lakes College houses the Woodland Operations Learning Foundation (WOLF) to provide Forestry and related post-secondary and professional development programs.

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