



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**March 22, 2018**  
**Slave Lake, Alberta**

#### **Northern Lakes College hosts 16th Annual Round Dance in Slave Lake**

On Saturday, March 17, 2018, Northern Lakes College hosted its 16<sup>th</sup> annual Round Dance. Northern Lakes College welcomed approximately 150 people from across the region to its Slave Lake Campus. Many took the event as an opportunity to visit with old friends, make new ones, and dance the night away.

The evening started with a Pipe Ceremony that was conducted by Elder Mike Beaver from Bigstone Cree Nation. The College provided a feast for everyone attending the ceremony. During the Round Dance, approximately 20 drummers were the focal point and shared their songs well into the night.

Stan Isadore, from Driftpile First Nation, was Master of Ceremonies for the evening and kept the crowd entertained with stories and funny anecdotes. Isadore said, "When we come together as Indigenous people to celebrate, it is our culture and spiritual practices that keep us connected to our history. Northern Lakes College shows the relationship it has with its students and First Nation communities in the region, and helps us carry on the beautiful gift of song and dance."

The Slave Lake and Grouard Students' Associations were also on-site, running the canteen, selling 50/50s and hosting two blanket raffles. The funds raised by the Students' Associations will go towards a year-end event for students.

A special guest in attendance was the Honorable Danielle Larivee, MLA for Lesser Slave Lake and Minister of Children's Services. When asked to comment on the event, Larivee said, "I had a great evening at the Northern Lakes College Round Dance. Thank you to Elder Mike Beaver for the pipe ceremony and to the drummers for the songs. Thanks also to the organizers for the fantastic feast of stew and bannock. The Round Dance, a recognition of the equality and connection of all in the circle, is an excellent example of the school and its students enriching their community. This event celebrates the vibrancy of the cultures of many NLC students, fostering pride and a sense of community. It was great to visit with so many folks and to get up and dance a few rounds!"

“Northern Lakes College is very proud to host the 16th annual Round Dance. It is an opportunity for the College to celebrate Indigenous culture and enhance our relationships with our students. We are very honored to be a part of this celebration. What a fabulous event enjoyed by young and the young at heart,” said Ann Everatt, President and CEO of Northern Lakes College.

Northern Lakes College hosts two cultural events each year: the Métis Celebration and the Round Dance.



*Photo: The Honorable Danielle Larivee, MLA for Lesser Slave Lake and Minister of Children's Services, joins with other participants in the Round Dance.*

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. To meet regional needs, 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. 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.

For additional information contact:

Valerie Tradewell  
Senior Director, External Relations  
Northern Lakes College  
780-849-8621