



MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 6th, 2018

Slave Lake, Alberta

Best Selling Author Doug Griffiths presents “13 Ways to Kill Your Community” at Northern Lakes College in Slave Lake

Northern Lakes College, in partnership with the Council of Community Education Committees, hosted a one-day workshop featuring well-renowned keynote speaker Doug Griffiths. On April 5, 2018, Griffiths captivated a large audience with his passion for helping communities find ways to be prosperous and enduring.

Daniel Vandermeulen, Chair of Northern Lakes College’s Board of Governors, said, “In many of the communities that the College serves, our Community Education Committees play an integral role in bringing education and training to their communities. The committees are the principal public advisory body for the College. This workshop is a great opportunity for Northern Lakes College to have Mr. Griffiths share his wisdom on the future of rural communities, and how educational programming is paramount for success.”

Griffiths spoke about attitude being the biggest factor, and roadblock, to building a successful community. He told a variety of stories about concerns such as water quality, ignoring seniors, and not addressing questions that would enable communities to reach their full potential. Griffiths said, “Successful communities are not afraid to take risks and embrace change. By being creative and taking on a 'can do' attitude, a community can find that one success leads to another and another.”

Concerned about the future of rural communities, Griffiths was successfully elected as the MLA for the Battle River-Wainwright constituency in 2008, becoming the sixth youngest person ever to serve in the Legislature. Griffiths was elected for four consecutive terms and continuously advocated for policies that would strengthen rural communities. He retired from politics in January of 2015. Griffiths’ proven ability to lead, vast experience, and unique style have led many community leaders to call him a “community therapist.”

Griffiths said, "I always love helping communities that are looking to the future and not stuck in the past. Through identifying, highlighting, and sharing the 13 ways that a community can be held back, I hope that this community, through the help of great

partners like Northern Lakes College and the CCEC, can begin to find their paths to success."

Ann Everatt, President and CEO of Northern Lakes College said, "Northern Lakes College is pleased to engage local community leaders in creating strategies that will benefit rural communities. It is great to see so many municipal councillors and residents from across the NLC service region in attendance. Northern Lakes College is committed to working with our communities, local businesses and industries. We respond to their changing needs by providing distance education in the region."



Mr. Griffiths addresses audience at Northern Lakes College Slave Lake Campus

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.

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