



MEDIA RELEASE

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Northern Lakes College makes a strong Economic Impact

A recent Economic Impact Analysis shows that Northern Lakes College has had a strong economic impact on its service region. The study shows that Northern Lakes College (NLC), its students, and its alumni added \$104.7 million to NLC's service region's economy in 2015-2016.

In 2015-2016, NLC students made educational investments amounting to \$26 million, with \$7.7 million spent on out-of-pocket expenses such as tuition, fees, books, and supplies. In return for their investment, NLC students developed skills required for an increasingly demanding workplace and prepared a path to higher future wages that will continue to grow throughout their working lives.

Education has a far-reaching economic impact. People who gain knowledge, skills, and abilities improve their employability, achieve their individual potential, and become more productive citizens. Once graduates enter the workforce, their consumer spending increases in their communities. In turn, industries and businesses grow in order to meet the demand for more goods and services. Also, as more people become employed, there is a reduced need for government-supported social services. Finally, more taxpayers results in more income tax collected to support provincial and federal projects and programs.

Daniel Vandermeulen, Board of Governors Chair for Northern Lakes College said, "The results of this study clearly demonstrate that the College has a profound economic impact on the communities we serve. In many ways, NLC functions as an economic spark plug in our region. Our vast service region extends over 164,000 square kms in northern Alberta and NLC provides educational programming to over 50 communities. We are pleased to be a significant contributor to building strong communities."

Ann Everatt, President and CEO of Northern Lakes College said, “The College is an essential economic contributor to rural northern communities across our service region. In 2016-17, Northern Lakes College served 5,305 students. Many of our students remain in their home communities, enjoy fulfilling careers and become successful leaders and role models.”

Today, thousands of former students are employed in the Northern Lakes College service region. NLC is proud that it has improved the lifestyle of its students and is doing its part to contribute to a more prosperous economy.



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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