



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ATHABASCA, ALBERTA

Aspen View Public Schools, Athabasca University, and Northern Lakes College Collaboration

Aspen View Public Schools, Athabasca University (AU), and Northern Lakes College (NLC) are excited to announce a collaboration to enable and strengthen educational and operational cooperation. The partners have agreed to establish key collaborative arrangements to enhance the connection between and among primary, secondary, and post-secondary education programs and services to students and communities located in the Athabasca regional and broader Northern Lakes College and Aspen View Public Schools stewardship areas.

The collaboration was celebrated with a ceremony at Athabasca University and was attended by Honourable Minister Marlin Schmidt, Minister of Advanced Education, Mr. Colin Piquette, MLA for Athabasca-Sturgeon-Redwater, Aspen View Public Schools Acting Superintendent Neil O'Shea, Athabasca University President Dr. Neil Fassina, Northern Lakes College President and CEO Ann Everatt, staff, and students.

"I commend Athabasca University for working with Northern Lakes College to increase student access to high-quality education and to enhance educational options in Athabasca. I thank both of your institutions for working with Aspen View Schools to ensure that students, from K to 12 to post-secondary and beyond, can access a good education close to home." Marlin Schmidt, Minister of Advanced Education.

"Northern Lakes College is very pleased to partner with Aspen View Public Schools and Athabasca University to enhance the connection between primary, secondary and post-secondary education programs and services in north central Alberta," said Ann Everatt, President and CEO of Northern Lakes College. "By working together we will be able to develop learning pathways that are accessible to all learners in our common service region. Students will be able to reach the full heights of their potential by learning in the most effective way possible."

"We have a unique opportunity to create an educational hub on the hill," commented AU's president, Dr. Neil Fassina. "The education services, education technology, and related sectors are prime for investment and growth. We're building a critical mass of students and partners

here that will help us attract more partners and lead to diversifying and strengthening our regional economy. The partnership between Aspen View Public Schools, Northern Lakes College, and AU is a significant first step.”

“*Campus Athabasca: PK to PhD* builds on the trailblazing work that Aspen View Public Schools, Northern Lakes College and Athabasca University have done to increase student learning opportunities through Dual Credit programs. This new agreement opens even more educational pathways, and we are excited for the broader horizons it offers our students, staff and community members,” said Acting Superintendent of Aspen View Public Schools, Neil O’Shea. “For generations, rural Alberta students have been accustomed to ‘going away’ for post-secondary education, and often they never return. This unique partnership allows current and future generations of our community members to find pathways to their learning and career goals without having to depart their hometowns. For rural sustainability, it’s a real game-changer.”

This unique partnership will facilitate a smoother transition from secondary to post-secondary education with transfer opportunities into degree programs. The partnership between Northern Lakes College, Aspen View Public Schools, and Athabasca University will ensure a continued and comprehensive effort in contributing to the success of all our north central Alberta students.



About Aspen View Public Schools

Aspen View Public School Division #78 is a regional and primarily rural school authority located north of Edmonton, Alberta. Aspen View is 9,980 square kilometres in size, serving Athabasca County, Thorhild County and Smoky Lake County, with schools located in the communities of Athabasca, Boyle, Grassland, Rochester, Smith, Smoky Lake, Thorhild and Vilna. Aspen View's enrollment is approximately 2,760 students from Pre-K to Grade 12. Our division is committed to a transparent collaboration process with our stakeholders and is dedicated to reflect the beliefs and needs of our communities. Our mission, vision and beliefs clearly set the direction for our division. Providing high quality programs and activities for our students is always a top priority. All members of our organization, both past and present, are commended for their dedicated efforts to our division's accomplishments. This is all achieved while ensuring safe and inviting learning and working environments for students, staff and volunteers.

About Athabasca University

You can create and contribute as you study. This is how Athabasca University transforms lives and communities. The real world sees no separation between your education and the rest of your life. Neither does Athabasca. Athabasca University was North America's first online university. Its open and flexible environment is built on leveraging technology to enable learning. Athabasca is re-imagining its founding spirit with new investments in digital education. Athabasca University will never stop striving to perfect it. Open, flexible, and everywhere.

About Northern Lakes College

Northern Lakes College (NLC), located in northern Alberta, provides quality programs through distributed learning to over 6,000 students annually. NLC offers certificate and diploma programs in Business, Health Sciences and Allied Health, Human Services, Technology, Trades, University Studies, and Academic Upgrading. The College collaborates with partners to offer degree completion opportunities, including a Bachelor of Education and a Bachelor of Social Work. NLC provides professional accreditation and certificate programs through its Continuing Education and Corporate Training Department.

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