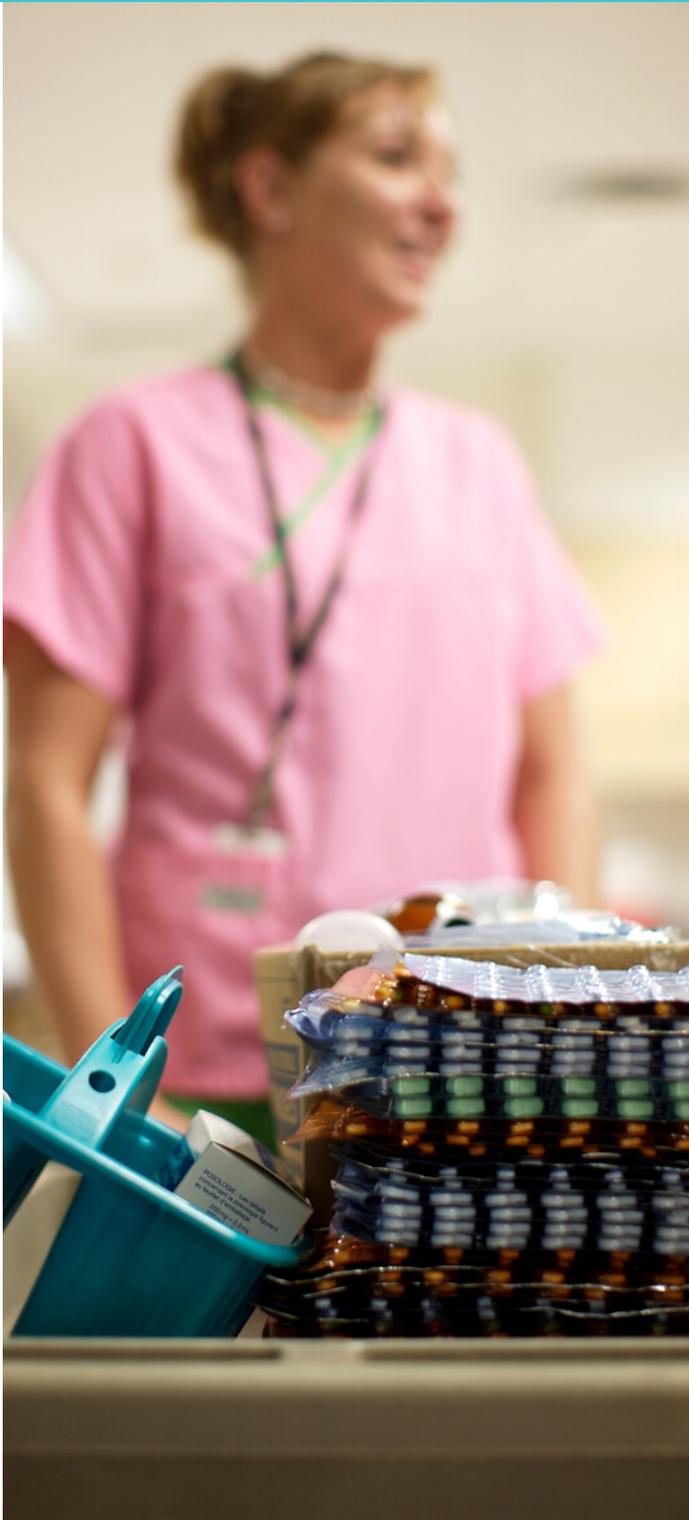


BUILDING LOCAL HEALTH SERVICES THROUGH A HOMEGROWN WORKFORCE



A local 'grow our own' initiative has a school division and health authority collaborating with a northern college to offer the Dual Credit Health Care Aide (HCA) program. This program trains and certifies high school students so that they can gain both high school and post-secondary credits, while working towards a HCA designation.

This initiative is supporting northern health care centres facing staffing challenges by contributing to sustainable solutions for delivering health services and building and retaining a qualified local workforce. Since the program is offered while students are in high school that pays for the tuition, it saves costs to the students. Upon graduation, students are qualified to go directly into the local workforce or further their training in the health field.

PROJECT:

HCA EDUCATIONAL INITIATIVE

Fort Vermilion School Division (FVSD), Alberta Health Services (AHS), and Northern Lakes College (NLC) have a tri-partnership agreement to offer the NLC Dual Credit HCA program to FVSD students.



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Northern Trailblazers highlights stories of innovation and development in northern Alberta by showcasing initiatives, programs, and approaches undertaken by communities and businesses across the region.

This 'grow our own' initiative exemplifies how local partnerships can provide sustainable solutions for recruiting and retaining health care providers in rural and remote communities.

Through this program, HCAs are working with clients in regional care centres, building local capacity, and growing a workforce of homegrown young professionals, who know the north and can support the north's unique populations and clients.



Photo source: Northern Lakes College

HOW DOES IT WORK?

Students from high schools in Fort Vermilion, High Level, La Crete, and Rocky Lane have completed the program. In the first two years of the partnership, 20 students completed the program. Twelve students were enrolled in the third year of the program.

Under this partnership, AHS representatives meet with students to provide:

- an overview of job opportunities; and
- a review of their application documents and support for practical hours.



FIND OUT MORE ONLINE AT: [HTTPS://WWW.NORTHERNLAKESCOLLEGE.CA/PROSPECTIVE-STUDENTS/DUAL-CREDIT](https://www.northernlakescollege.ca/prospective-students/dual-credit)