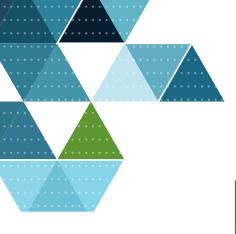






New Beginnings. Endless Possibilities.







Daniel Vandermeulen Board Chair



Ann Everatt President and CEO

EXCELLENCE, LIFELONG LEARNING, COMMUNITY...

The Community Report is an opportunity to reflect on the past year, celebrate our students' successes, and provide a snapshot of activities undertaken by Northern Lakes College in 2019.

The pursuit of excellence is a founding value of Northern Lakes College. We are proud of the excellence that we have achieved in creating an innovative Supported Distance Learning (SDL) environment. Unique delivery models like NLC LIVE Online[™] and NLC Anytime, Anywhere ensure educational access to students at home, work, or on campus. With limited broadband services in many northern communities, students can study from any NLC campus and receive support through our unique 'wraparound' system, which provides a highly supportive learning environment.

Our dedication to the values of lifelong learning and community result in projects such as the NLC Speaker Series and the launch of the NLC podcast, *OnCourse with NLC*. Initiatives such as the welding-focused Mind over Metal and artificial intelligence-focused Robotics Summer Camps provide youth with a best-in-class experience to careers and cutting edge technologies. Our partnership with Community Adult Learning Programs (CALPs) ensures adults have access to literacy and foundational learning opportunities.

As we approach our 50th anniversary in 2020, we are proud that we have always maintained our focus on serving our communities and students. We maintain a strong and direct link to each of our communities through our community engagement model of Community Education Committees (CECs). Northern Lakes College will continue to seek community and stakeholder engagement to ensure the unique regional training needs are recognized and met.

Enjoy a walk through our 2019 Community Report: A Year in Review.

We are Northern Lakes College

We are leaders, game changers, and trailblazers.

We are **passionate** about what we do, where we are, and who we are.

We are **inspired** by our students and invested in our communities.

We are hungry in our quest for **EXCE** ence and relentless in that pursuit.

We are Northern Lakes College and We make a difference.

Northern Lakes College respectfully acknowledges that we are located on Treaty 8 territory, traditional lands of First Nations and Métis people.

MEMORIES

NLC students share their memories via NLC Connect

My NLC Memories 2019



My favourite memory is when I first moved into the dorms. Before, I was couch surfing with friends and relatives, not really having a home. Living in the NLC dorms gave me a sense of comfort and peace. Thanks again NLC!" #MyNLCMemories2019 -Celeste Anderson

#My NLC Memories

The whole semester was just amazing. The support and positivity from instructors to me is immense and I'm thankful I chose this College." #MyNLCMemories2019 -Destinee Schartner

My favourite memory is honestly the

moment when I received my acceptance letter. That was the moment that I knew the

opportunity was there; the moment I was

finally going to be able to create a better

#MyNLCMemories2019

-Olivia Broad

life for me and my family. Thank you NLC!"



I have lots of memories with NLC, but something I will always carry with me is the respect and dignity the staff has shown me. Their encouragement and words of wisdom have always pulled me through. Even as a home-based student, I have never felt excluded and have always been welcomed. Thank you NLC for all you have done." #MyNLCMemories2019 -Marie MacCrae

My overall experience at NLC has been incredible! This is my last but most memorable year with NLC. I've learned and accomplished so much during my time here. I've met new people and made amazing memories I will cherish forever. I want to give a HUGE thank you to all the hard working staff at NLC for everything you do to help students achieve their goals. It has been an amazing journey NLC! Thank you." #MyNLCMemories2019

-Shaila Sutherland



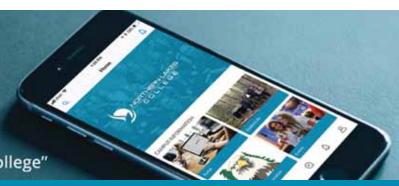
NLC Connect App NLC in the palm of your hand!

Download now!

App Store

Shouldes

Search for "Northern Lakes College"



CELEBRATION

Convocation 2019

Northern Lakes College Convocation 2019 celebrated 752 graduates on Friday, September 13 at The Gathering Place in Slave Lake. NLC staff and faculty, along with family and friends, came together to celebrate graduates from 37 credit programs, along with those completing Continuing Education & Corporate Training extension certificates.

Respected Elder Florence Gladue led the opening evocation with prayer, followed by Canada's national anthem. Ann Everatt, President and CEO of Northern Lakes College, delivered the congratulatory



address. "We are very excited to be here today celebrating Convocation. Although the event was delayed due to the wildfires, we are so happy that so many graduates have attended. We are very proud to honour your achievements as you embark on your new journey."

Valedictorian Gloria Fierro shared the following sentiments with her fellow graduates, "As we leave here today, we carry smiles in our hearts, a sense of pride and accomplishment in what we have achieved, and gratitude for those who have helped us along the way."

Capping and Pinning

The Practical Nursing students celebrated the completion of their program with a traditional Capping and Pinning Ceremony on the evening of September 12. During the candlelight ceremony, each nursing student is presented with a nursing cap and pin. The Practical Nurse program graduated 70 students from across the College service region, including 26 students from a partnership with Lakeland College.

Northern Lakes College continues to be a champion of community based learning through Supported Distance Learning. The graduates here today can attest that distance education works – all of you have achieved your postsecondary goals right at home in your community." – Daniel Vandermeulen, Board Chair







FRIENDSHIP



Friend of Northern Lakes College

Northern Lakes College annually presents the *Friend of Northern Lakes College* award to a person who demonstrates commitment to the success of the College and is a role model who actively supports post-secondary education. The College is honoured to name Terri Rosser as this year's *Friend of Northern Lakes College* in recognition of her strong support of the institution.

COMMUNITY

Terri is a strong believer in lifelong learning and continually demonstrates this in her daily living. She has volunteered for innumerable organizations throughout the years, becoming a leader in her community. With a 'no-nonsense attitude', Terri raised a large family, all while being involved with her community, fueled by her compassion to help others.

EDUCATION

Terri's advocacy for educational services in her community spans the continuum, from adult literacy and numeracy, to crafting workshops, through to postsecondary programming. The College has been a fortunate beneficiary of this advocacy, with Terri fulfilling the role of Chair of the Council of Community Education Committees (CCEC) for the last ten years.

INVOLVEMENT

Terri has been the Community Adult Learning Program (CALP) Coordinator in High Prairie for 16 years, and a member of the High Prairie Community Education Committee (CEC) for the duration of that time.

COLLEGE

AKES

Friend of Northern Lakas College Awarded to:

NORTHERN

Terri Rosser

For your continued support in promoting post-secondary education to conthem Alberta residents

June 1, 2019

Authentic. Transparent. On Course.



OnCourse with NLC is a weekly podcast hosted by Northern Lakes College with organic conversations from experts who touch on a variety of educational topics. *OnCourse with NLC* provides listeners with a shot of inspiration through engaging stories, useful information, and learning opportunities.



Get to Know the Field of Paramedicine with alumni Kris Porlier



NLC Library Services with Library Technical Support Specialist Rachel Martins



Becoming a Published Author with alumni Katie Bickell

Subscribe to OnCourse with NLC Tune in every Tuesday for a new episode!

Listen on Google Podcasts



ІМРАСТ

MINISTER OF ADVANCED EDUCATION VISITS NLC

During his whirlwind visit to post-secondary institutions throughout the province, Honourable Minister of Advanced Education, Demetrios Nicolaides, visited the Northern Lakes College Slave Lake Campus on September 5. The Minister met with students from a number of programs, including those from the Primary Care and Advanced Care Paramedic programs onsite to complete their Functional Fitness Testing. He also met with President Ann Everatt and representatives from the Board of Governors. The Minister was impressed to learn about the Supported Distance Learning (SDL) model that allows Northern Lakes College to provide access to quality educational programming to learners throughout a large part of the province.

Demetrios Nicolaides [+]

Stop #5 of my tour of #abpse was in Slave Lake at @starthere_nlc. I was happy to learn about the great work being done to deliver high quality educational programming to such a large and diverse part of the province. #ableg



Governor Rachel Ouellette, Governor Fern Welch, Honourable Minister Demetrios Nicolaides, Board Chair Daniel Vandermeulen, President Ann Everatt, and Board Vice-Chair Ray Stern

Creating Crisp, Clean, and Free Solar Power Kurtis Lunty, Pre-employment Electrician David Douillard, First Period Electrician

Northern Lakes College Electrical instructor Martin Engler brings his passion for alternative energy into his classroom, inspiring students to look beyond the conventional. As a classroom project, Electrical students Kurtis Lunty and David Douillard built a portable, fourpanel solar array capable of converting abundant Alberta sunlight into 1064 watts of electrical power. This power charges the batteries on a 2200-volt amp, battery-based solar system, which would be ideal for providing the electrical supply for a small cabin. Engler included the class project to provide students the experience of working with electrical materials commonly used in northern Alberta's industrial settings. "It involves a lot of precision cutting, and provides practice using the tools required for such materials." Engler explained that the portable solar array feeds a two-sided panel, which includes both battery-based and grid-tie systems. Battery-based systems are standalone solar systems suitable for off-grid dwellings. The grid-tie

option, including both string inverter and micro inverter systems, is suitable for residential use.

Pre-Employment Electrical student Kurtis Lunty is from Forestburg, Alberta. He found his way to NLC because it is one of the few Alberta colleges offering the Pre-Employment Electrician program. David Douillard of Slave Lake, a First Period Electrician student, is employed by an Edmonton-based electrical company. They both appreciate the small class sizes, which provide a lot of one-to-one time with instructors.



CONNECTION

NLC Roadshow

The *NLC Roadshow* provided communities with the opportunity to learn about the College, its programs, and services. Each Open House included wellness activities, prizes, student recruitment, and a free BBQ lunch. The word and excitement quickly spread as the *NLC Roadshow* team hit the road.







NLC and U of C Enter into Agreement for *Bachelor of Education Degree*

The University of Calgary's Werklund SchoolStarting in 2020, NLC students will be
able to transfer courses from NLC in
partial fulfillment of U of C's Commun
Based Bachelor of Education program
This will provide students living in run
or remote areas with an opportunity t
complete the majority of their program

"Northern Lakes College is thrilled to enter into this agreement with the University of Calgary. Providing our students with local access to opportunities, such as the Bachelor of Education degree, is at the foundation of our core values, that include accessibility, community, and collaboration," states President Ann Everatt. Starting in 2020, NLC students will be able to transfer courses from NLC in partial fulfillment of U of C's Community-Based Bachelor of Education program. This will provide students living in rural or remote areas with an opportunity to complete the majority of their program requirements in their community. Courses will be completed through in-person and online offerings, enabling students to take courses at home or at any NLC campus. Field placements will be completed in and around students' local communities. This course of studies prepares students to teach at the elementary and secondary levels. As part of a blended program where students are connected to the Werklund School of Education from the beginning of their studies, students will complete a two-week summer residency on-campus at the University of Calgary in each of the four years that they are enrolled.

Comments Dr. Amy Burns, the Associate Dean of Undergraduate Programs at the Werklund School, "We're dedicated to ensuring teacher education programs that are built on a foundation of excellence and innovation and we are excited to learn alongside Northern Lakes College."



The Werklund School values deeply the educational community across the province and this partnership is a stellar example of the accessibility, collaboration, and innovation that comes of working together."

 Dr. Amy Burns, Associate Dean of Undergraduate Programs, Werklund School

MEETING INDUSTRY Training Needs

Northern Lakes College programming has a profound impact on the municipal, business, and industry partners we serve. Programming such as the Maintenance Management Professional and Asset Management Professional assists in building human resource capacity and increases efficiencies. We are pleased to be a significant contributor to the economic benefits realized."

- Ann Everatt, President & CEO

MMP Program at J.D. Irving Accelerates Management Talent

The Maintenance Management Professional (MMP) program focuses on the effective management of physical assets. Mike Crowell, Director of Maintenance at Irving Forest Services in New Brunswick, a division of J.D. Irving



Ltd., credits the program with creating a platform for attaining leading practice and performance at the organization, as well as achieving consistency and standardization across divisions.

"In 2013, ten people from the division enrolled in Module 1 of the PEMAC MMP program," says Crowell. Five years later, 90 employees have participated in 337 modules, a \$300,000 investment by the company. "This has really engaged our employees and we have 22 who are now MMP-certified."

The company places a high value on training and development programs that provide professional certification, such as MMP. Crowell explains that the \$300,000 has had a great return on investment, reflected in the long-term performance trends driven by maintenance activity. Crowell urges influencers and leaders at other organizations to adopt the program stating, "It's an easy sell; do the math."

"Our employees are more engaged and motivated. They understand the roles they occupy."

- Mike Crowell, Irving Forest Services



Sherritt International Partners with NLC for *Professional Training*

When it needed maintenance and asset management training, Sherritt International Corporation came to NLC. A global leader in its field, Sherritt's Fort Saskatchewan Metals Facility invests in employees to ensure that they are able to deliver best practices in maintenance and asset management. Over 120 employees from various divisions participated, including managers, schedulers, engineers, and technologists.

Sherritt opted for private onsite delivery to allow employees to attend during work hours. To increase engagement and realize an immediate application, instructors customized courses with examples relevant to activities at the Fort Saskatchewan facility.

Shane Prazak, Training Manager at Sherritt, comments, "We chose NLC because they deliver the Plant Engineering and Maintenance Association of Canada-certified MMP program. NLC is very professional and accommodating. Ours is quite a large training request, yet it has been relatively simple, considering the magnitude of the project. NLC was able to set up the onsite delivery in a short period of time."



Offering Asset Management training to Municipalities across Canada

Made possible by a Municipal Asset Management Program grant through the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, NLC offered the Asset Management Professional program in seven cities. The program, available to municipalities across Canada, teaches participants strategic asset management thinking. The management of municipal assets is critical to maintain or extend the lifetime of assets. Municipalities must manage existing and aging infrastructure



alongside new infrastructure projects. This training assists municipal teams to optimize asset management practices and infrastructure investment decisions.

The first course of the program was offered in Edmonton, Halifax, Mississauga, Newmarket, Saskatoon, Vancouver, and Winnipeg. The remaining five courses were offered online, allowing participants to study from home or work.

This initiative was offered through the Municipal Asset Management Program, which is delivered by the Federation of Canadian Municipalities and funded by the Government of Canada.

MEETING INDUSTRY Training Needs



ENGAGEMENT

Fourth Annual **MIND OVER METAL** WELDING CAMP

Fourteen youth from the communities of Driftpile, Peerless Lake, Sucker Creek, Kinuso, Canyon Creek, Swan Hills, and Slave Lake celebrated the completion of the Mind Over Metal welding camp at a luncheon and ceremony on Friday, July 12. Northern Lakes College hosted the camp from July 8 – 12 at the Slave Lake Campus. This was the fourth annual offering of the Mind over Metal Welding Camp, with the camp held in Wabasca in 2016, High Prairie in 2017, and High Level in 2018.

Students learned the proper use of hand tools, the basics of Gas Metal Arc Welding, introduction to weld symbols, and welding safety, including a demonstration of how to extinguish a welding fire by the Lesser Slave Regional Fire Service. The program included a tour of a local welding shop, Heavy Equipment Repair, in Slave Lake. Students completed four, take-home projects over the duration of the camp. The Mind over Metal welding camp was free to students, thanks to the generous sponsorship of the College and its partners, the CWB Welding Foundation, Shell Canada, and STELCO.

"These camps are specifically designed to provide youth with a hands-on introduction to welding and inspire them to pursue a career in welding. Students build confidence and have fun while being supervised by professionals in a safe environment," says Susan Crowley, Executive Director, CWB Welding Foundation. "Through experiential learning opportunities like the Mind Over Metal welding camps, their newly sparked interest in welding may lead to further education and employment."

Camp instructor Ralph Courtorielle comments, "The Mind Over Metal Camp is a fun way to show youth that welding is a rewarding career and there is also a lot of room to be creative and imaginative as a welder. It is important to show them what the trade is like at a young age so they can decide for themselves if that is a path they would like to choose."

Shell Canada welcomes the opportunity to partner on initiatives providing Indigenous youth from the region with exposure to the trades. The Mind Over Metal welding camp supports our commitment to community investment and building a future workforce."

- Charlene Parker, Community Liaison for Shell Canada











Build Anything. **Imagine** Anything. NLC Hosts First Robotics Camp

Two groups of 12 – 15 year olds were the first to participate in the Northern Lakes College Robotics Summer Camp. Including virtual reality, 3D printing, and robotics, the one-day camp was held at the High Prairie Main Campus on July 23 and the Slave Lake Campus on July 25.

Chief Information Officer for Northern Lakes College, Bruce D'Sena, leveraged the skills within the College's Information Technology department to create the camp. "We have incredibly skilled and knowledgeable people working in Information Technology at NLC and we're committed to providing students a best-in-class experience. The cutting edge technologies - like artificial intelligence and virtual reality - that students explored in our summer camp are also being harnessed to support a number of our College programs, so it was a natural fit to create and host the camp," he comments.



Students assembled the components of a robot, built using a 3D printer. Artificial intelligence capability allowed participants to customize their robot, including gender, voice, and language, and enabled the robots to respond to voice commands, tell jokes, and recognize objects using machine vision.

Students also had an opportunity to experience augmented reality, where virtual things are experienced in the real world. Wearing specially designed goggles that they assembled themselves, participants held a physical cardboard cube, on which virtual characters appeared. Trying out the latest headsets being deployed in the College's regular programming, participants had the opportunity to experience virtual reality and had fun with a few action-packed activities in a virtual world.

At the end of a fun day, students left with a set of NLC Goggles and their 3D creations.



"This camp is really fun! My favourite is the 3D printing. It is amazing to see reality shaped by a machine, and how smart AI (artificial intelligence) can be." - Camp participant Simon, 13

High Level Campus Refreshed and Going Green with Facilities 2025 Project

The High Level Campus has a fresh new look. As a result of extensive smoke damage from the 2019 wildfires, the campus required extensive cleaning and refurbishing. After many months of work, students, staff, and community members at the campus are enjoying a refreshed learning environment, which includes fresh paint and new furnishings. Furthermore, as part of the College's overall strategy to achieve a 20% increase in energy efficiency by 2025, the campus is also getting a brand new building envelope.

"The 2025 plan requires us to have two years of baseline emissions. We have designated 2016 and 2017 as our baseline for the College. We are currently analyzing the data from 2018, which will allow us to establish parameters for our overall implementation plan," explains David Sharpe, Manager, Facilities, Maintenance, and Operations for the College.

Paul Chaulk, Senior Director, Facilities comments, "The College looks at three areas when considering greenhouse gas emissions, which include purchased electricity, stationary combustion, and mobile consumption. From our baseline year, we have decreased emissions from electrical production by 12%, equaling 300,000 kilos of carbon dioxide per year. We continue to work at reducing emissions in all three categories." Further to the new envelope and groundwork at the High Level Campus, the portable classrooms are being attached to the main building. Attaching the portables will create better utilization of space, increase student interaction, and provide access to the student lounge and the Elder's room.

These improvements will result in an estimated tripling of the current insulation value. This, along with highefficiency boilers installed in the fall of 2018, will make the Campus significantly more efficient. Exterior work commenced in the fall of 2019, so the community can look forward to an even further enhanced NLC Campus in High Level.



AMBITION

From Alumni to Faculty: Getting There Sooner than Anticipated Ryan Broadfoot, Carpenter Apprenticeship

Ryan Broadfoot always thought he would cap a long carpentry career and ease into retirement by teaching in the trades. "I've gotten there sooner than anticipated," he laughs. "The idea was that I would teach when I was 55 and didn't want to work in construction or out in the elements anymore." Life has a funny way of working out. Shortly after obtaining his journeyman carpenter and Red Seal designations, the opportunity to teach carpentry with the College presented itself.

Ryan completed his carpenter apprenticeship training with NLC and is now a journeyman carpenter. He reflects on his time as a carpentry student at the College and remembers how his instructors took the time to listen to their students and assist them on a one-to-one basis. This has influenced how Ryan now approaches teaching his own students. "Finding out where students are at in their knowledge, and it is different for each student, and then providing them with the specific knowledge, skills, and abilities they need to succeed is rewarding," he shares.

Though teaching is a lot more challenging than he expected, he thoroughly enjoys passing on the knowledge he has amassed over the years. While Ryan may have thought teaching would be his "retirement career," he now intends to complete a Bachelor of Education, become a certified teacher, and make teaching his career.

The Art of the Weld Ralph Courtorielle, Welder Apprenticeship

When you think of art forms, welding is not a medium that comes to mind. The work of Ralph Courtorielle creates a compelling argument for its inclusion. A journeyman welder, Ralph completed his welding training at Northern Lakes College and now teaches Pre-Employment Welding at the College.

Ralph is a perpetual student and continues to learn. "Every year there is something new or more efficient in the field of welding, and I find this interesting," he observes. This love of learning has translated into a passion for teaching. Ralph takes great pleasure in passing on what he has learned. He considers himself a mentor, not only teaching the technical aspects of welding that lead to employment, but also the artistic aspects of the trade.

"I think the reason that I connect so well with the pre-employment students is that I am a product of pre-employment training myself. When I first picked up the welder, it was as though I was meant to do it. I want to show students that, though welding can be taxing on your body and physically demanding, there is a lot of room for the creative. It is not all hard work; there is fun involved."

With his artistic approach to welding, don't be surprised if you see his work featured in an exhibition at some point. Until then, he will continue to pass on his passion for the trade to up-and-coming welders.





Community Consultation

In order to ensure its programming and initiatives meet the needs of all community stakeholders, Northern Lakes College consults with students, staff, employers, and municipal, First Nation, Métis, business and industry partners. Community feedback informs and shapes the decisions and initiatives undertaken by Northern Lakes College. In the fall of 2019, this is what our stakeholders told us.



Childcare, transportation, and housing remain challenges and barriers to student success.







INSPIR

SUCCESS

WORK TRUST TEAM

COOPERATIVE

WOWZA

TEAMWORK

GROW

NELCOMING

BAZIIINGA NFORMAT

A NEW

TRUST

CONNECT

A C C O U N T A B I L I T Y



Community Report 2019 19

PARTNERSHIP

Partnership Leads to *Homegrown Workforce* in Wabasca-Desmarais

With a senior's care facility under construction in the community of Wabasca-Desmarais, the M.D. of Opportunity, Atoske Action Group, and Bigstone Cree Nation formed a partnership with Northern Lakes College to ensure a local workforce will be available to staff the facility. In June of 2019, this collaboration resulted in the graduation of 14 students from the community of Wabasca-Desmarais from the Northern Lakes College Health Care Aide program. The partners provided students with support on a variety of fronts. Atoske Action Group covered the cost of tuition, while the M.D. of Opportunity and Bigstone Cree Nation provided the students with a living allowance. Northern Lakes College hired a dedicated instructor to work with the cohort at the Wabasca Campus and provided instructor-led clinical placements.

Kathy Reid-Soucy, Dean, Nursing and Allied Health at Northern Lakes College, is excited about the success of this partnership. "There are so many wins that have been created through this partnership. These students were able to study in their home community, allowing them to balance their family and school obligations. The new seniors' care centre will have the homegrown workforce it needs to operate successfully. Finally, this new facility will provide practicum sites, which has been a barrier until now. Students in health programs will no longer need to leave the community to complete their practical experiences."

Halena Szmata with the M.D. of Opportunity states, "We appreciate that there are now 14 Health Care Aides in the community available for employment opportunities. Working with Northern Lakes College has a number of benefits, not least of which is their understanding of challenges faced by rural communities. The College was able to create an offering that worked for this community, which is not a cookie-cutter community. Due to the excellent working relationship between the four partners, we were able to meet the challenges that inevitably arose. Ultimately, everyone was committed to the success of the students."

Working with Northern Lakes College has a number of benefits, not least of which is their understanding of challenges faced by rural communities."

- Halena Szmata, M.D. of Opportunity

ACCESSIBILITY

Co-build with Peerless Trout First Nation

New Campuses in *High Prairie* and *Peerless Trout First Nation*

Facility renewal is a priority for the Northern Lakes College Board of Governors. Providing communities and students with adequate and appropriate learning environments is a key focus. The new High Prairie Campus will accommodate up to 225 students, increase campus energy efficiency, and support specialized training in health and trades programs. The Peerless Trout First Nation Community Learning Centre, located in Trout Lake, is a cobuild by the College in partnership with Peerless Trout First Nation. "The development of the new High Prairie Campus will allow for future program growth to meet regional employment demands and services to community members."

- Daniel Vandermeulen, Board Chair

Grand Opening of New *Athabasca* Location

The co-location and partnership with Athabasca University was officially celebrated in May 2019. Commented President Ann Everatt at the ceremony, "Our partnership enhances post-secondary services in northern Alberta. By working together, we are able to create learning pathways that are accessible to all learners in our common service region. In particular, we are creating a smooth transition for high school students into Northern Lakes College certificate and diploma programs, and from there into degree programs at Athabasca University."



Athabasca University President Dr. Neil Fassina, President Ann Everatt, Athabasca Mayor Colleen Powell, Athabasca County Reeve Larry Armfelt, and Athabasca CEC Chair Lionel Cherniwchan

Loon River Back to Full Campus Status

After six years as a Community Access Point (CAP), the Northern Lakes College Loon River site returned to full campus status in September 2019. With demand for programming growing and proven enrolment, the site was 'upsized' to campus status once again. The unique NLC site model allows for expansion and contraction, based on enrolment and program demand, while maintaining a presence in communities.



Brenda Yellowknee, Glenn Mitchell, President Ann Everatt, Kevin Crosby, Loon River First Nation Chief Ivan Sawan, Joanne Noskey, Angeline Auger, and Beverly Ward

O P P O R T U N I T Y

NLC Partnership Creates *Homegrown Workforce* with Dual Credit Programming



"Other communities ask us how this works. It is based on excellent relationships with both internal and external stakeholders. Relationships create opportunities."

Angie Mann, Director of Clinical
Operations Area 1, Alberta Health
Services



Through an innovative partnership with the Fort Vermilion School Division and Alberta Health Services, Northern Lakes College is ensuring that communities in the Mackenzie Region have gualified Health Care Aides (HCA). Says Kathy Reid-Soucy, Dean, Nursing and Allied Health at the College, "The partnership is entering its fourth year this September. We've had three cohorts of high school students take the Dual Credit HCA program. We are proud to be part of a collaboration that ensures local and qualified staff for regional care centres." Students from high schools in Fort Vermilion, High Level, La Crete, and Rocky Lane have completed the program.

Fort Vermilion School Division (FVSD) supports Dual Credit programs that lead directly into the workforce. "The HCA program fits perfectly with our philosophy because there is a definite need for Health Care Aides in our region," states Karen Smith, Supervisor of Learning Services with FVSD. "Having the support of Alberta Health Services (AHS) has been crucial in the success of this program. AHS has provided students with clinical skills instruction, practicum placements, plus hiring information and support," comments Smith. Angie Mann, Director of Clinical Operations Area 1 for AHS is equally enthusiastic about the success of the partnership. "We need to sustain local health services. This is an innovative way to 'grow our own" Mann explains that AHS faces recruitment challenges in the north. Recruitment of professionals from the south or out of province is a temporary solution as they do not have a connection to the communities and often leave. "We need to build capacity locally with people who grow up in, and know, the north. Because we recruit these students in their hometowns, they are 'culturally competent'. They can work with clients in long-term care and there is no cultural gap or language barrier. For some, HCA is the beginning of a career in health. Some decide they want to pursue nursing. This is the local, homegrown workforce that we need."

AHS supports students' practical hours, so many graduates will have already worked in the long-term care, acute care, and emergency facilities of the local health centres. The students are familiar with the organization, so it is a seamless transition into the workplace upon graduation.

Increasing Awareness and Preparing For the Challenges

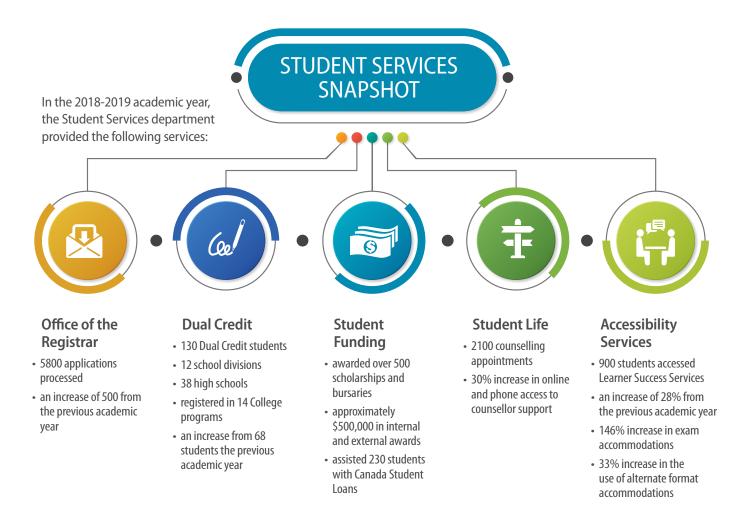
NORTHERN LAKES COLLEGE STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION

This year the NLCSA, in partnership with the College, launched the Peer Support Program. While a student's journey may start as one of self-improvement, with personal goals as the driving force, life factors will challenge anyone's determination. Student pressures and challenges include concerns about academic performance, family difficulties, and community tragedies. Even regular, day-to-day obstacles can be challenging, coupled with the stresses of student life.

The Peer Support Program's focus is to support students in their defeats, celebrations, challenges, successes, and in every aspect of the student journey. There is a dynamic perspective when comfort is peer-to-peer; the warm feeling in supporting each other in wins and, sadly, coming together when communities are grieving. The NLCSA works to enhance the student experience through student-led events, mental health training, first aid training, and participation in various community engagement activities. The Association strives to communicate student needs effectively, ensuring that students have a voice to make positive changes for the College community and for themselves.



NLCSA NORTHERN LAKES COLLEGE STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION



NLC LIVE Online[™] Makes all the Difference Erin Mitchell, University Studies

When Erin Mitchell had to spend a month in Newfoundland due to a family illness in the fall of 2018, the NLC University Studies student did not miss a beat when it came to her studies. The College's unique NLC LIVE Online™ delivery model allowed Erin to attend her classes, submit her assignments, and keep on track, while spending quality time with her gravely ill grandmother. "I would have likely had to withdraw for



the term had I been studying at a school with traditional face-to-face classes," she comments.

Her instructors offered extensions to allow her to have time with family. Erin was able to maintain the schedule of assignments,



I did not have to move or change my lifestyle. I am happy that I am not facing some of the challenges that my friends who did move away from home are now facing." – Erin Mitchell but knowing this flexibility was available reduced the stress in a difficult situation. Erin knows the flexibility and personal touch offered at a community institution such as NLC would not have been available at a larger institution.

Born and raised in Slave Lake, Erin graduated from Roland Michener Secondary School in June 2018. With a longterm goal to be an elementary teacher, she works part-time at the local day care and is saving money while attending college. Erin's goal is to finish her degree with little to no student debt.

Of her choice to study at NLC, Erin says she would absolutely make the same decision today. She is more convinced than ever that she made the absolute right decision by staying home and studying locally at Northern Lakes College.

NLC: A Family Affair Andy Alook, Computer Technician Certificate, Business Management Diploma

As a youngster, Andy Alook would accompany his father, Russell Alook, a longtime instructor in the College's Academic Upgrading program, to the Wabasca Campus. Andy's mother is a graduate of the Health Care Aide program. It was only natural that Andy would also attend NLC.

Raised in Desmarais on the Bigstone Cree Nation, Andy graduated from Mistassiniy School. After completing one year of Academic Upgrading at NLC, he enrolled in the Computer Technician program in 2007. Upon graduation he began work with Bigstone Education Authority, eventually making his way to the Bigstone Health Commission. In 2011, he enrolled in NLC's Business Management Diploma program. Graduating in 2013, he returned to the Health Commission, working various positions in Finance and Health.

Andy's relationship with NLC continues. He was involved in an initiative between NLC and multiple community stakeholders to prepare students to enter health programs. Explains Andy, "Such an initiative is important for the recruitment of community members in the health professions. We always have a high turnover rate of health professionals from outside the community. It is important to train local community members so that trainees will stay in the community."

Now the Assistant Director of Health for the Bigstone Health Commission, Andy is proud of his family's long history with NLC. "It is so important for people to have the opportunity to pursue an education within their community. I understand the difficulties of leaving the community to pursue an education. NLC being in the community and offering a wide variety of programs allows community members to pursue post-secondary goals they otherwise could not."



Andy and Russell Alook

Things Just Fall into Place Brooke Ghostkeeper, Social Work Diploma

About returning to school as a mature student, her advice to others is concise: "Just do it! It is a life-changing experience. Things just fall into place." It is evidently worth the sweat and tears, as Brooke Ghostkeeper's educational ambitions have no end in sight.

Brooke grew up in High Level, moving to Slave Lake as an adult. Looking to start a career where she could set long-term goals, she enrolled in NLC's Social Work Diploma program in June 2014. Being in her community as she attended school meant she had the support of friends and family. With two children, aged 8 and 12, she relied on friends and family for childcare many evenings and weekends. One of the many benefits of attending NLC was that she had the support of her instructors. She recounts, "When I got to a point where I was overwhelmed with personal challenges, they were there to support me. They helped me to stay focused on my goal and to push through."

Brooke works for the High Prairie School Division as the Indigenous Success Coach. After taking a break from studies, she started her Bachelor of Social Work through the University of Calgary in 2017, through NLC's block transfer agreement. She will graduate with her degree in 2020. When asked where she sees herself in five years, she does not hesitate, "I will be working on a Master's degree in social work." "I chose Northern Lakes College because it is in my community, which is convenient. Moving from the community to study was not an option I would have considered."

- Brooke Ghostkeeper

Alumni Provides French-speaking Albertans with Health Services Rachelle Bérubé, *Secretarial Arts Certificate, 1987*

Thirty-plus years after graduating from Northern Lakes College, alumni Rachelle Bérubé continues to use the essential skills she learned in the Secretarial Arts Certificate. As a result, the French-speaking population of the Smoky River region is able to obtain health services in French. As the French Health Coordinator for Alberta Health Services' North Zone, Rachelle's role is to promote and improve access and quality of health services in the French language. "Approximately ten years ago, there were 400 health care professionals identified as French-speaking in Alberta. As of September 2018, there are now 1775," says Rachelle.

Born and raised in the predominantly French-speaking village of Girouxville,

Rachelle graduated from Georges P. Vanier High School in Donnelly. She enrolled in the bilingual Secretarial Arts Certificate program at the NLC campus in McLennan, graduating in 1987. Rachelle immediately landed work at the Sacred Heart Hospital in McLennan, thanks in part to her successful practicum there during her program.

In 2018, Rachelle was awarded the Prix Dr. Jean-Paul Bugeaud Award of Excellence by the Association Canadienne-Française de l'Alberta to recognize her dedication to improving the quality of French services to patients. This includes her advocacy to attract bilingual Nursing and Health Care Aide students to the North Zone for clinical experiences. "In coordination with Alberta's Rural Health Professions Action Plan (RhPAP) and the Smoky River Regional Physician Recruitment and Retention Committee, we also host medical students for the Bilingual RhPAP Healthcare Skills Weekend in Northern Alberta."

Rachelle Bérubé, recipient of the Dr. Jean-Paul Bugeaud Award of Excellence

To read these alumni stories in their entirety, go to northernlakescollege.ca/alumni-donors/alumni-stories

RESPECT

SEVENTEENTH ANNUAL ROUND DANCE

Northern Lakes College, in partnership with the Students' Association and the Council of Community Education Committees, hosted its 17th annual Round Dance on Saturday, March 23. Approximately 200 people from across the region attended the event at the Slave Lake Campus.

"The Round Dance is a culturally significant and ceremonial way to honour and support students' success in their educational endeavours. There is also great importance to a Round Dance, as it is an opportunity to rekindle or connect the Elders with our youth. The reason for reconnecting Elder and youth is to support and pass along traditional teachings. By hosting such an event, Northern Lakes College demonstrates understanding of the importance of passing culture along to the next generations."

– Master of Ceremonies Stan Isadore, Driftpile Cree Nation



Celebrating Métis Week

To celebrate Métis Week, November 10 – 16, NLC teamed up with Region 5 Métis Nation, Region 6 Métis Nation, Rupertsland Institute: Métis Centre of Excellence, and the Northern Lakes College Students' Association. Events included flag ceremonies, free public swims throughout the Northern Lakes College service region, and community lunches and performances.

In celebration of Métis culture, the College was proud to collaborate with our partner, Rupertsland Institute: Métis Centre of Excellence, to create an educational video. *The Colours of the Métis Sash: Stories of Identify, Culture, and Reconnection* launched on November 14 on the College's YouTube channel, YourfutureNLC.







CONNECTED TO OUR COMMUNITIES

Northern Lakes College contributes to community development, leadership capacity, and vibrant communities through a unique partnership with a network of local Community Education Committees (CECs) in every community with a full service campus. Each CEC selects a member to form the Council of Community Education Committees (CCEC or Council). The Board of Governors recognizes the CCEC, which is a registered society, as the principal advisory body of the College. The committees and their Council identify program and service needs for their communities and regions, support individual learners, and advise each other about best practices in community education.



CCEC HOSTS LEADERSHIP WORKSHOP

A two-day Leadership Workshop, hosted by the CCEC in Peace River in the spring, included guest speaker, Nicole Bourque-Bouchier and keynote speaker, Kathy Archer. Community representatives from throughout the College's service region attended the workshop.

Nicole Bourque-Bouchier, recipient of the Canadian Council for Aboriginal Business Indigenous Women in Leadership Award (2019), Indspire Award in Business and Commerce (2018), and co-owner and CEO of the Bouchier Group, is an advocate for Indigenous women's economic empowerment. The Bouchier Group is one of the largest Indigenous-owned and operated companies in the Athabasca Oil Sands region. Bourque-Bouchier addressed workshop attendees on the evening of May 1, sharing her secrets to success in spite of life's challenges.

"What you do with these challenges determines the level of success you will attain. Challenges helped me build the strength, resilience, and the determination and leadership to build a company."

 Nicole Bourque-Bouchier, co-owner and CEO of the Bouchier Group



Frank Chalifoux, Nicole Bourque-Bouchier, and CCEC Chair Terri Rosser

BUSINESS BOOTCAMP

Recognizing the importance of supporting small businesses and entrepreneurs in northern Alberta, the NLC Council of Community **Education Committees partnered** with Alberta Innovates, Community Futures Northwest Alberta, Northern Lakes College, and Regional Economic Development Initiative for Northwest Alberta to increase accessibility to business training opportunities. The unique partnership covered the costs to offer Business Bootcamp courses to residents in over 50 communities. **Business Bootcamp courses are** designed for entrepreneurs, aspiring entrepreneurs, and managers and their staff.







Growing communities one idea at a time.



Success and Financial Health featured in NLC Speaker Series



Collaborating with ATB Financial and the Council of Community Education Committees, Northern Lakes College hosted the *Speaker Series*, consisting of lunch hour sessions offered to all College students and staff. The series included sessions by inspirational authors and financial literacy sessions covering life balance, success, and financial health.

Sponsored by the Council of Community Education Committees, speaker,

Kendal Netmaker, Author and Entrepreneur

entrepreneur, and author Kendal Netmaker presented *Driven to Succeed*, a session based on his book of the same title. Founder and CEO of Saskatoonbased Neechie Gear, Netmaker grew up on the Sweetgrass First Nation in Saskatchewan. Inspired by the effects of his involvement with sports, Netmaker's company is involved in philanthropic activities including bursaries for postsecondary students and assisting underprivileged children to participate in sports. Comments Netmaker, "I'm excited to join the Speaker Series to impart the importance of planning where you want to be in the future in order to succeed in life, business, and as an entrepreneur."

ATB Financial sponsored and presented a Financial Literacy Program consisting of four modules, including, Taking Control of your Money, Credit Jeopardy, Saving and Investing, and Banking and Financial Institutions. "At ATB Financial, we hear the importance of financial literacy and are committed to leverage our expertise and our extensive network of communityminded team members and partners to increase awareness and knowledge in this area. We have financial literacy programs catering to various groups, including at-risk women, university students, and Junior ATB and we are excited about our partnership with Northern Lakes College," comments Nizar Abouchami, Vice President, North Market for ATB.

The Speaker Series was made accessible to staff and students at all Northern Lakes College locations via the College's unique and innovative NLC LIVE Online[™] delivery model.





BRAVERY

Employees Fight 2019 Wildfires

As the wildfires raged through much of the Northern Lakes College service region in the spring of 2019, the impact to students, community members, and NLC employees was significant. Many were evacuated from their homes, only to be received warmly in evacuation centres in neighbouring communities. In a time of hardship and heartache, human compassion prevailed, including many College personnel who were on hand to fight the blazes. Northern Lakes College employees from many campuses volunteer as firefighters, and were heavily involved in firefighting in locations such as High Level, Marten Lakes, Paddle Prairie, Peerless Lake, Slave Lake, Trout Lake, and Wabasca-Desmarais.

Support Through the Wildfires

Counsellor Karen Campbell works at the NLC High Level Campus. When she and her family had to evacuate the community, the outpouring of support from her colleagues made a tough situation a little easier. This is her story.

Wildfire is not a word you appreciate until you see the orange wall of smoke. As the evacuation order hit High Level, we packed up the truck, kids, and dog. I texted my supervisor, "Hi, I think my town is on fire. We have been evacuated. Losing cell service." After a few hours of waiting for news in La Crete, cell service was restored and my phone went into overdrive. When my husband asked who it was, I replied, "ALL of NLC!" I received messages and calls from many colleagues; people from campuses near and far, even some I had not met in person. All were concerned and many offered us shelter. We opted to stay with a colleague in Slave Lake.

NLC supported us as we navigated this stressful time. Upon returning to High Level, there was a sign that read, "Your heart will always bring you home." For us, a part of our heart is with my NLC family. We truly felt the support that makes NLC the incredible place that it is.



NLC Maintenance Personnel Rick Wouters



Instructor Tim Murphy



AMBITION

Discovering the World of Water through *Dual Credit Programming*

McKenna Patterson, Water and Wastewater Operator Preparation Level 1

We expect clean water to flow from our taps. Glenmary Dual Credit student McKenna Patterson knows what goes into making this occur, thanks to the Northern Lakes College Water and Wastewater Operator Preparation Level 1 program. "Water is not appreciated. Often people don't know how it gets to the house," she observes. Consumers are often unaware of water treatment practices and water usage rates. McKenna continues, "The protocols that go into making sure water is safe for the public are unbelievable."

McKenna's knowledge speaks to the value of Dual Credit programming, where students gain both high school and postsecondary credit. McKenna completed the program while in eleventh grade. Passion for the environment sparked her interest. Treating water goes hand in hand with her environmental interests and helps in her goal to be an environmental consultant. McKenna worked at the Grimshaw Water Treatment Plant during the summer of 2018. She learned the entire system from water to wastewater treatment. McKenna worked with Regional Water Manager Derrel Johnson in water treatment and conducting water infrastructure upgrades. Johnson comments, "I would hire her today if I could. McKenna will make an excellent operator. I will be happy to have her back."

The hours she accrued will apply towards the practical requirement for operator certification. She returned in February 2019 to do Work Experience, gaining further practical hours. Once she has her hours and graduates from twelfth grade, she will write her provincial exam, becoming a certified operator. She intends to complete the NLC Water Treatment and Water Distribution Operator Level 2 program, allowing her to one day manage a water plant.

McKenna is a very mature young lady. Based on her evaluations, she did an excellent job, all while maintaining her grades in other classes. The future is bright for McKenna!"

 Scott Randall, Off-Campus Coordinator, Holy Family Catholic Regional Division

RECONCILIATION

Elders-in-Residence Program

The Elders-in-Residence program responds to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada Calls to Action. Elders' rooms are located at the Grouard, High Level, and Wabasca campuses. Students are encouraged to contact Elders when seeking personal or professional cultural advice or guidance, with questions about Indigenous protocol or languages, or just to have a casual conversation or to say hello.

Heart Work: Traditional Indigenous Crafting Leads to Healing

Working alongside Northern Lakes College Elder-in-Residence Betty Jackson, alumni Ramona Young turned out her first pair of beaded mukluks. Though her first experience with the traditional art of beading, Ramona discovered an innate talent, one that her mother and kokums possess. She did her beadwork as the sun came up. She resumed her work in the evenings when the house was quiet, once the children settled for the night. It was a labour of love, what she calls "heart work." Reflects Ramona, "Working with Elder Betty helped to ground me, my family, and my home. My children see that I am content." Traditional beadwork is one way in which Ramona is working her way through the intergenerational trauma left over from the residential school experience her parents and grandparents survived.



Indigenous Exhibits Promote Reconciliation





"Forgiveness, apologies, actions, unity, change, and healing are all components of reconciliation," explains Sam (Carl) Willier, an alumni of the NLC Academic Upgrading program. "We chose Indigenous exhibits to dedicate healing towards the process of reconciliation in Canada." Sam is one of five summer students who created new exhibits at the Native Cultural Arts Museum at the Grouard Campus. Based upon the artefacts in the collection, they created five exhibits celebrating the ingenuity, creativeness, and playfulness of the Indigenous culture.

The Indigenous Children's exhibit contains a dreamcatcher, baby moccasins, cradleboard, and medicine pouch. As explained by one of the students who grew up hearing stories in the oral tradition, "My parents told me the traditional stories as I was growing up. The Spider Lady was a spiritual protector, spinning her web of protection. As her children grew and dispersed, she taught the mothers and grandmothers how to weave their own web to protect their children. That is where the dreamcatcher originates."

"I feel my role is to educate people on the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, the 94 Calls to Action, and what is means to reconcile. It means a lot to have the opportunity to educate people through this work at the Museum. As a teacher, I will be able to contribute more to the process of reconciliation. The first step is creating awareness and understanding," states Sam, who is pursuing his Bachelor of Education degree at the University of Alberta.

GALA RAISES \$11,000 to benefit students

The inaugural Northern Lakes College Gala 2019 raised \$11,000 in net funds that will help create student awards, expand activities to support students, and upgrade classroom equipment and facilities to benefit students.

Tolko Industries Ltd. High Prairie Division made a special presentation during the evening, donating \$7,500 towards the Northern Lakes College Student Emergency Fund. The fund assists students when unexpected financial situations arise.

Called by NLC's own Paul Chaulk, the auction for a private dinner for 10 at the Lesser Slave Lake Regional Fire Service's Slave Lake Hall # 1 was entertaining and contributed to funds raised.

The evening was a wonderful opportunity to dance to live music, provided by Canadian Country Music Association award winner, Hey Romeo. Guests enjoyed a delicious meal provided by Slave Lake's FIX. Coffee Bar & Bakery.

As part of its Community Investment Strategy, Tolko is excited to make this donation to support the Student Emergency Fund."

Bronwyn Dunphy,
HR Business Partner for Tolko Industries



Gala Diamond and Platinum sponsor representatives from Northern Sunrise County, ATB Financial, ESC Automation, Tolko Industries Ltd. High Prairie Division, ATCO Group of Companies, MD of Opportunity, and Vanderwell Contractors (1971) Ltd. NLC Board of Governors' Student Representative, Gloria Fierro, in foreground

The Impact of **Philanthropy**

Municipal and Industry Partners Contribute to High Prairie Campus Capital Campaign

Construction of the new Northern Lakes College High Prairie Campus received the support of municipal and industry partners through generous financial contributions.

Big Lakes County contributed \$100,000 towards the construction of the new facility. In recognition of the support, a classroom in the new facility will carry the name Big Lakes County Trades Classroom. Shell contributed \$50,000 towards the new campus. In appreciation, the College will name a trade's lab in the new campus the Shell Trades Lab.

Big Lakes County Reeve, Richard Simard, comments, "The world is changing fast. Upskilling and reskilling, and staying on top of new technology, are keys to success. We believe that the new Big Lakes County Trades Classroom will prepare generations of tradespeople for the jobs of today and tomorrow. Through partnerships with organizations like Northern Lakes College, Big Lakes County is proudly addressing skills shortages, helping to create jobs, and working to remain economically competitive as a region."

"Shell appreciates the efforts of Northern Lakes College to provide a variety of programming to students in many areas of Northern Alberta, and we value our long-time partnership with the College. We believe in being a good neighbor and supporting the communities where we operate," states Shell Community Liaison, Charlene Parker.

Construction of the new campus is on schedule, which means students and staff could be enjoying the new campus in the fall of 2020. The creation of a single facility will reduce the campus environmental footprint and energy consumption and provide up to 225 students with more accessible and efficient learning spaces. A LEED Silver building, the Campus will be constructed of sustainable products, include a high performance envelope, high efficiency windows, and geothermal heating and cooling.

We are delighted that Big Lakes County and Shell have supported this investment towards the new campus in the community of High Prairie. This facility will allow for future program growth to meet regional employment demands and services to community members."

- Board Chair Daniel Vandermeulen



Board Chair Daniel Vandermeulen, President Ann Everatt, and Big Lakes County Reeve Richard Simard



Shell Community Liaison Charlene Parker, NLC Senior Director External Relations Valerie Tradewell, President Ann Everatt



Thank You to Our Donors

The Board of Governors of Northern Lakes College extends sincerest thanks to all the individuals, companies, and organizations who have made generous contributions, including those who wish to remain anonymous.

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NLC is 50 in 2020!

We look forward to celebrating 50 years in 2020.



50 YEARS Inspiring new beginnings. Creating endless possibilities.