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On behalf of Athabasca County, it is a privilege and a pleasure to bring greetings and best wishes to the Northern Lakes College graduating class of 2020 and 2021.

You have graduated in a pivotal time in the history of the world. The Covid virus has brought new challenges and disadvantages to everyone. I do not want to dwell on the reality of how your graduation was unfortunately cut short by Covid-19 but rather on how your resiliency and the challenge of adapting to lifestyle technology and on-line courses was paramount to your success. You realized how self-motivation and overcoming self-doubt became a major consideration in your own personalities. Please remember that every adversity you overcame; comes with an equal or greater benefit. Hardships of success will often prepare you for an extraordinary future.

There is no point in worrying about things beyond your control. Continue to laugh and celebrate all your successes. Consider your graduation, accomplishments, and opportunities you created for yourself – a time in history – that was what it was. The graduates of 2020 and 2021 have a unique worldwide bonding. You were part of it and succeeded despite the pandemic.

If you are reading this, the best starts now. You will be leaders in your communities because of this day. A true leader helps others grow. Accept this gift.

We wish you the best in your chosen careers.

Larry Armfelt, Reeve, Athabasca County