



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Northern Lakes College and Portage College Collaborate to Increase Program Accessibility**

**Slave Lake, Alberta (June 24, 2021):** A collaboration between Northern Lakes College and Portage College is increasing accessibility to a broader range of business and hospitality programming. The institutions, together, serve a large portion of north central and northeastern Alberta.

Portage College will be offering the one-year Professional Cooking Certificate program in the industrial teaching kitchen at the new Northern Lakes College High Prairie Campus. The program starts August 27<sup>th</sup> using a blended delivery model with theory classes online, lab training occurring face-to-face in the industrial kitchen, and includes a three-week practicum. Students will have the opportunity to challenge the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> period apprenticeship exams for Cook, and the program is transferable to the Culinary Arts Diploma at Portage College.

The two institutions are also partnering to increase the breadth of business specialties available in their respective service regions. Students who have completed the Portage College Business Administration Certificate can apply to the Human Resource Management Diploma offered by Northern Lakes College. Northern Lakes College students with a completed Business Administration Certificate can apply to the Accounting Diploma or the Business Administration Diploma in Management, both delivered by Portage College.

“Northern Lakes College is eager to work with our colleagues from Portage College to increase accessibility to programming,” comments Amy Saitz, Dean, Business, Academics, Trades & Regional Stewardship. “We are excited to increase the number of specialties available to business students throughout our respective service regions, and to provide an opportunity to offer culinary training in the new, state-of-the-art kitchen at the High Prairie Campus.”

“Partnerships allow colleges to offer a broader range of programs to their service areas,” said Beverly Lockett, Dean of Hospitality and Business at Portage College. “We are so grateful of the relationship we have with Northern Lakes College. Our collaborations are beneficial in providing more educational opportunities to rural learners.”

Interested individuals are encouraged to apply soon for a fall start! For more information, visit [northernlakescollege.ca](http://northernlakescollege.ca) or [portagecollege.ca](http://portagecollege.ca).

## About Northern Lakes College:

A distance learning college, Northern Lakes College provides the most accessible and flexible educational opportunities through innovative delivery. Utilizing its unique Supported Distance Learning (SDL) model, NLC assists 5,000 students annually to continue their education, improve their employment opportunities, and enhance their quality of life. Committed to its communities in northern Alberta and to its students, wherever they may be, NLC collaborates with business, industry, and other post-secondary institutions to benefit students and communities. Explore at [www.northernlakescollege.ca](http://www.northernlakescollege.ca).

## About Portage College:

Portage College connects people with knowledge, skills and opportunities, empowering them to transform themselves and make a difference. Collaboration, inclusion, and a commitment to success and accountability are at the core of the College's values. Board governed and operating publicly under the Alberta Post-secondary Learning Act, Portage College has been serving the region for over 50 years and is proud to be the first choice for learners in northeast Alberta. [www.portagecollege.ca](http://www.portagecollege.ca)

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