

# ONE STUDENT AT A TIME

Strategic Plan 2021 to 2024



NORTHERN LAKES  
COLLEGE

Northern Lakes College

has the singular **VISION**

to provide the most

**ACCESSIBLE**

educational

**OPPORTUNITIES.**

No matter where you are,

you can start **HERE**

and go **ANYWHERE.**

Let us inspire your new

**BEGINNINGS** and

help create your endless

**POSSIBILITIES.**

Northern Lakes College respectfully acknowledges that we are located on Treaty 8 territory and Métis Nation of Alberta Regions 4, 5, and 6, traditional lands of First Nations and Métis Peoples.

# COUNTING OUR SUCCESS **ONE STUDENT AT A TIME**

The Northern Lakes College Strategic Plan, *One Student at a Time*, provides ambitious goals for the College to achieve over a three-year period. The goals identified in *One Student at a Time* will guide planning and decision-making.

As a provider of community-based education, Northern Lakes College understands the importance of reaching each and every individual, no matter how remote, rural, or northern their location. That is why we count our success one student at a time.

Our Northern Lakes College values, which support our mission and vision, serve as the foundation for the priority strategic goals outlined in *One Student at a Time*.

**ACCESSIBILITY**  
**COLLABORATION**  
**COMMUNITY**  
**EXCELLENCE**  
**LIFELONG LEARNING**  
**RESPECT**

With the most accessible programs in Alberta, Northern Lakes College is poised to provide the training Albertans need to participate in the bright economic future of the province.

Daniel Vandermeulen  
Board Chair

Dr. Glenn Mitchell  
President & CEO



Daniel Vandermeulen



Dr. Glenn Mitchell

# PRIORITY STRATEGIC GOALS

Using our six institutional values as guideposts, Northern Lakes College will meet the requirements of the Investment Management Agreement.

## OUR MISSION

With respect for cultures and the needs of communities, Northern Lakes College provides quality educational programs and services which enable adults to continue their education, to improve their employment opportunities, and to enhance their quality of life.

## OUR VISION

Northern Lakes College will be recognized as a first-choice community-based college with the most accessible programs and services in Alberta.

## OUR VALUES

To achieve our mission and vision, we share values that guide our practices and behaviours.

### ACCESSIBILITY

Students and employees will succeed in their learning, employment, and personal endeavours when provided with accessible and effective educational services and supports.

### COLLABORATION

Working together with community, business and educational partners is fundamental to the success of our learners and our college.

### COMMUNITY

Students and the College receive support from the community. Community capacity grows from the success of students. Engagement with community stakeholders contributes to increased access, quality, and sustainability.

### EXCELLENCE

Learners will participate and succeed if they receive fair, reliable services and relevant, timely, and credible programs.

### LIFELONG LEARNING

Lifelong learning is essential to the growth of students, employees, families, communities, and organizations.

### RESPECT

Adults are entitled to learning services that respect their culture, abilities, and circumstances. Northern Lakes College celebrates diversity and values the celebration of Aboriginal history, cultures, and languages.



# ACCESSIBILITY





# Northern Lakes College will increase access to programs and services through Supported Distance Learning.

Accessible, community-based learning opportunities will be inherent in the design of Northern Lakes College programs and services. Supported Distance Learning will maximize accessibility for rural, remote, and underrepresented learners.

Student-centred services will be easily accessible to Northern Lakes College students, including:

- Library Services, including access to digital materials
- Awards, bursaries, scholarships, and tuition and emergency bursaries
- Student tutoring service
- Learning accommodations and learner support
- Home-based placement testing
- Wellness initiatives.

Foundational learning opportunities will be accessible to all those who seek them, including:

- Academic Upgrading
- Adult Basic Education
- Community Adult Learning Program support
- College and Career Preparation
- English as an Additional Language
- Integrated Foundational Pathways – Stepping Forward
- Life Skills.

Northern Lakes College will ensure access to Indigenous content and learning opportunities, including:

- Indigenous studies courses in University Studies
- Culturally relevant content in Academic Upgrading, Health Careers, Human Service Careers, University Studies, and other programs
- Relevant physical and digital library resources.

New programs will be delivered or existing programming expanded to meet the emerging needs of the economy, including:

- Medical Administration certificate
- Indigenous Administration extension certificate
- Cooking
- Pre-Employment
- Expanded apprenticeship training.



# COLLABORATION



## NLC will collaborate with CampusAlberta partners, Community Adult Learning Programs, and other organizations to enhance access to programs.

Through CampusAlberta partnerships, Northern Lakes College will offer programs to meet labour market demand, including:

- Community-Based Bachelor of Education
- Academic Upgrading and Practical Nurse to communities served by Lakeland College
- Business diplomas pathway expansion in partnership with Portage College
- Programming in Drayton Valley, Hinton, and Whitecourt
- Explore opportunities to offer a Bachelor of Arts, Registered Nurse, and Paramedicine degree.

Northern Lakes College will offer cohort-based offerings of Early Learning programs to local community childcare centres.

Accessibility to Community Adult Learning Programs (CALP) will include:

- Operation of eight approved CALP locations
- Hosting of CALPs within our campuses, where requested
- Partnering with CALPs to offer Life Skills.

Access to industry-specific training will be secured through partnerships with industry-based organizations, including:

- Woodland Operations Learning Foundation (WOLF) for forestry-related training
- Class 1 driver training
- PEMAC Asset Management Association of Canada for asset and maintenance management training.



# COMMUNITY





## The College will strengthen community, business, and industry partnerships to ensure programs and services support the labour market.

Northern Lakes College will support Community Education Committees to identify educational needs in communities and increase access to non-credit programming to increase employability and community capacity.

Through engaged regional stewardship, relationships, and partnerships, customized training opportunities will be identified, including:

- Targeted safety training in the Mackenzie Region
- Pre-Employment training opportunities.

Program Advisory Committees (PACs) will ensure program content aligns with current labour market requirements:

- Active engagement of PACs in all Business, Health Careers, and Human Service Careers
- Establishment of a PAC for Pre-Employment programs.

Northern Lakes College will renew or replace facilities to provide learners with access to the appropriate learning environment to develop the skills required for the labour market, including:

- Peerless Trout Lake Campus
- Various new campus projects
- Various facility renewal projects.



# EXCELLENCE



# NLC will enhance learner experiences through quality academic programs and services.

The student experience and quality of service will be enhanced through the work of the Core Business Committee and Strategic Enrolment Management Committee, including:

- Provision of courses and sessions to provide students with the skills and knowledge to be successful online learners
- Provision of opportunities to develop proficiency in test-taking, use of technology, citations, etc.
- Provide assistive technology and support for students who require learning accommodations
- Recognizing and responding to the needs of at-risk students
- Program referral of at-risk students to Student Success for support
- Provision of specific support for success to home-based Foundational Learning students.

A new Academic Plan and Strategic Enrolment Plan will guide the development of quality academic programs and services to meet the needs of learners.

Work Integrated Learning (WIL) opportunities will be available:

- All new programs will include WIL opportunities, if appropriate
- Business, Health Careers, and Human Service programs include required practical elements
- WIL opportunities will be added to Pre-Employment programs.

NLC will maintain effective and efficient processes with controls to generate timely and accurate financial, facility, enrolment, and health & safety reporting.

Northern Lakes College will ensure relevant and robust curriculum in all programs, by:

- Regularly-scheduled review of program courses to ensure adherence to academic quality standards
- Regular curriculum development, redesign, and revision.

The College will regularly review its learning management systems and platforms to ensure they meet student and faculty needs.





# LIFELONG LEARNING





# The College will provide opportunities throughout the learning continuum for students, employees, and community members.

Northern Lakes College will provide comprehensive, community-based learning opportunities spanning foundational learning, including numeracy and literacy, to certificate, diploma, and degrees.

NLC will enhance employee professional development opportunities, including:

- Ed Talks
- Coffee Shops sessions
- Instructional Skills Workshop
- Online teaching and learning courses
- Live helpdesk support and training in educational technology and best practices in teaching and learning for faculty
- Monthly newsletter from Centre for Teaching & Learning.

The College will provide mental health and wellness courses and opportunities to students and employees.

The College will seek opportunities to engage with secondary school-aged learners, including:

- Dual credit opportunities in Business, Health Careers, Human Service Careers, Pre-Employment, and University Studies.



**RESPECT**



## Northern Lakes College will celebrate and increase cultural awareness through College programs and services.

Northern Lakes College will engage in learning and celebrating culture, including:

- Métis Week
- National Day for Truth & Reconciliation
- Elders-in-Residence program
- Employee engagement in learning about cultures, inclusivity, and sensitivity.

NLC will ensure access to Indigenous learning resources and language programming, and integration of Indigenous topics into curricula, including:

- Culturally relevant content in Academic Upgrading, Business, Health Careers, Human Service Careers, University Studies, and other program areas
- Inclusion of Aboriginal Days in Social Work Diploma
- Indigenous Studies specialization in University Studies
- Indigenous Administration extension certificate
- Implementation of BEL 301 Cree Language course.

The College will maintain an Indigenous Advisory Council to work toward implementation of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada: Calls to Action relevant to post-secondary institutions.

Counting our success one student at a time.



**NORTHERN LAKES**  
**COLLEGE**

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