



MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Slave Lake, AB

Creating Crisp, Clean, and Free Solar Power at NLC

NLC 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 Lundy and David Douillard built a portable, four-panel 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 explains 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 Lundy is from Forestburg, Alberta. He found his way to NLC because it is one of the few Alberta colleges offering the Pre-Employment Electrical program. David Douillard of Slave Lake is a First Period Electrical student and 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.



Students Kurtis Lundy and David Douillard stand before the solar panel.

Northern Lakes College (NLC), located in northern Alberta, provides quality programs through distributed learning to over 6,000 students annually. NLC offers certificate and diploma programs in Business, Health Sciences and Allied Health, Human Services, Technology, Trades, University Studies, and Academic Upgrading. The College collaborates with partners to offer degree completion opportunities, including a Bachelor of Education and a Bachelor of Social Work. NLC provides professional accreditation and certificate programs through its Continuing Education and Corporate Training Department.

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