

## **Northern Lakes College Mandate**

Northern Lakes College is a public, board-governed college operating as a Comprehensive Community Institution under the authority of the *Post-secondary Learning Act* of Alberta.

Northern Lakes College is a dynamic college that contributes to continuous improvement in the lives of students in rural communities. Innovative program and service delivery models are designed to overcome access challenges for students in remote communities. As a member of Campus Alberta, Northern Lakes College offers and facilitates programs and educational services in a large rural region of Northern Alberta that includes many First Nations and Métis communities. Working within the framework of Campus Alberta allows Northern Lakes College to provide opportunities from other educational institutions, to reach out to other regions where requested, share services, improve transfer options for students and participate in applied research, typically with partner institutions.

The College contributes to community development, leadership capacity and vibrant communities through a unique partnership with a network of local Community Education Committees. The Board recognizes the Council of Community Education Committees as the principal advisory body of the College through a statement of mutual respect. The committees and their council identify program and service needs for their communities and regions, support individual students and advise each other about best practices in community education. The College plays an important role in the communities by providing facilities, leadership and activities that contribute to the educational, social, cultural, recreational, and economic development of the region.

The College offers certificates and diplomas leading to careers in health and human services, education, information technology, technical occupations, culinary arts, business, creative fine arts and resource-based industries. The College also offers pre-employment programs and apprenticeship training. A University Studies diploma is offered which leads to degree completion opportunities in partnership with degree-granting institutions. Preparatory programs include second language instruction, adult basic education, adult high school, life management and employability preparation. Preparatory programs are a key factor in preparing students for post-secondary education and long-term meaningful employment.

The College also responds to workforce development and cultural awareness needs. Non-credit offerings include supervisory and safety related certificates, contract and in-service training and customized employability programs. The College sponsors Aboriginal cultural events and offers educational programming from the Native Cultural Arts Museum.

The College is committed to student support services that reflect the communities served and the needs of local students. Student success is encouraged by providing a supportive learning environment and strong counselling services in Community Learning Centres and regional campuses. All sites are equipped with technology for online learning and additional student

support. Family support is available when the College delivers education close to home or in regional campuses where student housing is available. As a partner in Alberta-North, student support infrastructure extends across northern Alberta and into the Northwest Territories.

As a Comprehensive Community Institution within the post-secondary system, Northern Lakes College is a regional steward with a defined role: to provide or facilitate access to a range of adult learning services and opportunities across the College's geographic service area. The College collaborates with industry, agencies, community groups, local governments, school divisions and post-secondary institutions to provide access to quality programs, services, and courses. This collaboration includes post-secondary programs offered through Campus Alberta partners and high school courses offered jointly with public schools. The College is a member of the Woodland Operations Learning Foundation, an industry-driven partnership which aims to standardize quality training for forest occupations.

*Approved by the Deputy Premier and Minister of Advanced Education and Technology,  
June 24, 2010.*