



**Indigenous Viewbook • Northern Lights College**







# It all begins with the land.

Northern Lights College acknowledges that our campuses are situated on the ancestral and traditional land of many nations, including the Dunne-Za, Cree, Tsáâ? Ché Ne Dane, Saulteau, Tse'Khene, Kaska Dena, Tahltan, and Tlingit. We also recognize Métis Nation members who share a deep history with this land. We, at Northern Lights College, commit to restoring and honouring the Truth and Reconciliation

calls to action; we strongly believe that truth must be acknowledged to move forward to reconciliation. We are grateful for the Traditional Knowledge Keepers and Elders who are still with us today and those who have gone before us. We acknowledge our hosts and honor their gracious welcome to those seeking knowledge.

**Səṇə jigə? nəyaah**  
(Dane Zaa)

**Tāwaw**  
(Cree)

**Goo Yee-eh Dee Claw**  
(Slavi)

**Miyoonakishkatoohk**  
(Michif – Métis)

**Welcome**

## Message from the President

Let me be the first to introduce you to Northern Lights College! As an NLC student, you will have the opportunity to earn an education that is not only close to home but helps open up the world to you. We have academic, social, and cultural supports in place through our Indigenous Education department, and student leaders that are ready to lend a hand — or an ear or shoulder if that's what you need.

We want you to feel like NLC is a place where you belong, where you can discover yourself and reach your potential. We're here to help you succeed, so don't hesitate to reach out. We're so glad to meet you.

**Todd Bondaroff**, President and CEO

## Message from the Director of Indigenous Education

On behalf of NLC's Indigenous Education team, I'm thrilled you're considering Northern Lights College for your education journey. It's important to us that you have a sense of belonging and community while attending NLC, and our team is here to provide numerous wrap-around supports for you. That support begins with our Indigenous Student Navigators, who are your first point of contact in overcoming any challenge that might arise on your journey; you can locate our navigators in our First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Gathering Places. We provide numerous cultural activities throughout the year, and we always look forward to sharing these experiences with our students!

Maarsii,

**Mike Calvert**, Director of Indigenous Education



○ Atlin

● Taku River Tlingit First Nation (Atlin First Nation)

○ Dease Lake

● Tahltan Central Government

Fort Nelson ○

● Fort Nelson First Nation

Prophet River First Nation ●

Halfway River First Nation ●

● Blueberry River First Nations

● Doig River First Nation

Saulteau First Nations ●  
West Moberly First Nations ●

○ Fort St. John

○ Chetwynd

○ Dawson Creek

Tumbler Ridge ○



## Gathering Places

Most NLC campuses house a First Nation, Métis, and Inuit Gathering Place. These spaces honour and celebrate Indigenous cultures and identities. They are places of respect and learning, a place where all are welcome to join in this learning, and a place to build community and relationships. Come to relax, study, or share in cultural events. Our spaces are located in:

- Chetwynd
- Dawson Creek
- Fort Nelson
- Fort St. John

### Outdoor Gathering Places

NLC's outdoor cultural areas provide a beautiful venue for all to learn and enjoy. Indigenous representation across our campuses reminds us that the First Nations people of Treaty 8 Territory have an incredibly long history and relationship with this land and that the Métis people also have a rich cultural history throughout Northeastern BC.

These areas are designed as places to gather in celebration and ceremony, to learn from teachers and Elders around the outdoor fire pits or sitting in the teepees, or to just relax and enjoy.



“I had access to Internet that I never had to worry about breaking down, a warm fireplace, fellow students. . . I used the TV once in a while for studying. It was integral to my education.”

— **Clayton Davis**, *NLC Alumni*,  
on the Dawson Creek  
Indigenous Gathering Space



# Indigenous Programming

We're focused on creating Indigenous curriculums based on traditional knowledge while actively Indigenousizing our current curriculums with guidance from our partner Indigenous Communities.

## Professional Cook Indigenous Content Direct Entry

The Professional Cook Indigenous Content program follows SkilledTradesBC prescribed course curriculum focusing on Indigenous content. Students will learn about the traditions and history of food sources, including foraging and gathering, and the preparation methods used in the Indigenous tradition. They will also explore medicinal properties of food, as well as food storage and preservation methods.

## Indigenous Human Service Worker Certificate

This program will prepare graduates for employment as a Human Service Worker, with a focus on serving Indigenous people on or off a reserve. Students will acquire culturally appropriate knowledge, skills, and values while working with individuals, groups, and communities.

Indigenous Human Service Worker (IHSW) Certificate graduates will earn course credits that can be applied to NLC's Early Childhood Education and Care Diploma, Education Assistant Diploma, and Social Service Worker Diploma. Conversely, graduates from these diploma programs may apply relevant course credits to completion of the IHSW Certificate.

For more information, go to [nlc.bc.ca/programs](https://nlc.bc.ca/programs) or contact [indigenous@nlc.bc.ca](mailto:indigenous@nlc.bc.ca).



## Hear from our Students

"As an Indigenous student at Northern Lights College, I am greatly appreciative of the many opportunities that this institution has supplied for me.

As a busy mom/wife, I find the programs and classes fit my lifestyle and are easy to work around with everyday tasks and responsibilities. Our instructors are thoughtful, realistic, and very understanding which makes each course less stressful and more fun to learn. I also enjoy the calm atmosphere and gentle work environment that each classroom creates, it's always a delight to come to class!

I enjoy the Indigenous gathering space for socializing, studying, or just taking a break. The atmosphere for Indigenous students is something I feel very comfortable with, giving you a place to belong. There is always something to keep you grounded and informed as well as engaged and included. Northern Lights College is an amazing place to learn no matter where you are in your journey."

— Jody Ryan, NLC Student



### ***NLC has a program for you!***

Explore our program offerings and learn more at [nlc.bc.ca/programs](https://nlc.bc.ca/programs).

### **Business**

- Accounting Diploma
- Applied Business Technology Certificates:
  - Administrative Assistant
  - Financial Assistant
  - Office Assistant
- Business Management (Certificate or Diploma)
- Executive Assistant Diploma
- Management Advanced Certificate

### **Education**

- Alaska Highway Consortium on Teacher Education (AHCOTE)
- Early Childhood Education and Care Diplomas in:
  - Inclusive Education
  - Infant/Toddler Education
- Education Assistant (Certificate or Diploma)
- Education — Associate of Arts Degree
- Pre-Education Certificate

### **Environmental**

- Environmental Restoration Diploma
- Environmental Science — Associate of Science Degree

### **Health and Human Sciences**

- Access to Practical Nursing Diploma
- Health Care Assistant
- Health Studies — Associate of Arts Degree
- Indigenous Human Service Worker Certificate
- Northern Baccalaureate Nursing Program
- Practical Nursing Diploma
- Social Services Worker Diploma

### **Information Technology**

- Computing and Information Science — Associate of Science Degree
- Interactive and Digital Technologies Diploma

### **University Arts and Sciences**

- Associate of Arts Degree
- Associate of Science Degree
- Criminology (Certificate or Diploma)

- General Arts and Sciences Certificate
- Psychology — Associate of Arts Degree

### **Trades and Apprenticeships**

- Aircraft Maintenance Technician Diploma
- Automotive Service Technician
- Carpenter
- Cosmetology Diploma
- Electrician
- Esthetician Certificate
- Hairstylist Certificate
- Heavy Mechanical Trades
- Indigenous Professional Cook 1
- Millwright
- Power Engineer (4th Class) Certificate
- Professional Cook 1 and 2
- Welder
- Welder-Fabricator

### **Upgrading and Access**

- British Columbia Adult Graduation Diploma ("Dogwood")
- Career and College Preparation
- English as a Second Language



# Decolonization in Action at NLC

In addressing truth and reconciliation, NLC is committed to sharing the truths of Canada's history while working toward a shared vision for the future. An integral step of this journey is the creation of the Council for Innovation in Indigenous Education (CIIE).

## Council for Innovation in Indigenous Education

This community-based advisory council provides guidance to NLC in decolonizing the work we do. This includes the ongoing support for Indigenous representation, educational opportunities, cultural events, access and retention projects, and relevant Indigenous programming.

## Indigenization Committee

The Indigenization Committee at Northern Lights College is a collaborative effort between NLC and BCGEU to create inclusive policy and processes that recognize the importance of decolonizing the institution. This includes a number of initiatives, from job-posting language to culturally appropriate ways of doing our work together.

## Indigenous Representation on Campus

- Murals
- Language signage
- Teepee installations
- Medicine gardens
- Traditional food plants in landscaping







# Elders in Residence

We're thrilled to have many First Nations and Métis individuals as part of the leadership at NLC. This includes members of our Recruitment team, Indigenous Education team, NLC Faculty, Leadership team, members of the Board of Governors, and our Elders in Residence program.

Our **Elders in Residence program** draws on local Elders' knowledge and vast experience in order to help integrate Indigenous teachings and ways of learning. They also provide additional support and connection for our Indigenous learners. The program creates a pathway for Elders to share their knowledge with students, staff, and faculty through events such as:

- Welcome Feasts
- Crafting
- Storytelling
- Hands-on projects
- Bannock making, and more

## Meet the Elders who have shared their gifts

- Malcolm Supernault (*Métis Nation*)
- David Rattray (*Talhtan First Nation*)
- Ken Cameron (*Saulteau First Nations*)
- Dean Dokkie (*West Moberly First Nations*)
- Clarence Apsassin (*Blueberry River First Nations*)
- Della Owens (*Saulteau First Nations*)
- Gerry Attachie (*Doig River First Nation*)
- Vera Nicholson (*Fort Nelson First Nation*)
- Bernadette Cardinal (*Fort Nelson First Nation*)





# Your Community

## Student Leadership Program

The Indigenous Student Leadership Program provides leadership and mentorship opportunities for Indigenous students who have completed their first year of studies. These students support events hosted by the Indigenous Education department and make time to mentor other Indigenous students who are coming into post-secondary education for the first time.

Being an Indigenous student leader is a great way to enhance your education, add to your resume, and give back to your community. Please reach out to the Indigenous Education team if you'd like to apply to be a mentor.



"I value my culture and plan to work hard to reclaim what has been lost and also to keep the traditions of my ancestors."

— **Wadeen Badine**  
Business Management Diploma



"My goal is help those that suffer from inter-generational trauma, loss of identity, self-worth, and addiction to regain security, love, and truth through healing and understanding."

— **Jody Ryan**  
Social Services Worker Diploma



"My hope is that I can do my share through the Indigenous Mentorship program to support other Indigenous students to have similar positive outcomes."

— **Janine Hora**  
Indigenous Human Service  
Worker Certificate





## Language Symposium

What started as an idea floating around a kitchen table led to two days of dedicated learning and building connections with Indigenous communities and organizations. Drawing over 250 avid attendees, the Reawakening our Language Gathering demonstrated the urgency to revitalize local Indigenous languages in Northeastern BC.

Amongst those in attendance were Chiefs, council members, Elders, and Knowledge Keepers intent on sharing and learning how best to do this vital cultural work. Northern Lights College partnered with Doig River First Nation's Cultural Heritage and Language Department to support the initiative, with the hopes of creating an annual event in Treaty 8 territory.

## Events in your Communities

- Doig Days
- Doig River Rodeo
- Saulteau First Nation Pemmican Days
- West Moberly First Nation West Mo Days
- Spirit of the Peace Powwow
- Halfway River First Nation Rodeo Roundup
- Fort Nelson First Nation Annual Celebration
- Prophet River First Nation Youth Art Camp
- Blueberry River First Nation Cultural Camp
- Other Community events and Cultural Camps

# Funding Opportunities

## Financial aid

Paying for your education can be a challenge, but we can help. There are many options available to you such as scholarships, bursaries, awards, and loans. Our Financial Aid team is ready to assist you! Reach out to [finaid@nlc.bc.ca](mailto:finaid@nlc.bc.ca). Our Financial Aid Officers are available on each campus and can help navigate loans or other funding needs.

## The NLC Foundation

The Northern Lights College Foundation was founded in 1981 and is an organization dedicated to helping our students embark on their learning journey. Through the Foundation, students can apply for scholarships and bursaries. Check out some of the Indigenous specific awards by visiting the Astra Awards Platform at [nlc.awardspring.ca](https://nlc.awardspring.ca).

Some notable awards include:

- **\$5,000** BC Hydro Trades and Skilled Training Award (Indigenous)
- **\$5,000** Peace Country Petroleum Sales Indigenous Graduation Award
- **\$2,000** Shell Canada Entrance Award (Indigenous)
- **\$1,800** Storm Resources Education Award for Indigenous Women

## Irving K. Barber

[old.ikbbc.ca/web/aboriginal/eligibility](https://old.ikbbc.ca/web/aboriginal/eligibility)

## Former Youth in Care

You may qualify for full tuition coverage at Northern Lights College! The Provincial Tuition Waiver Program offers tuition-free education to eligible former youth in care. Additional financial support, including grants for textbooks and living expenses, is available through programs like SAJE (Strengthening Aboriginal Journeys to Education). Our Financial Aid team is here to help you apply – confidentially, and without affecting any other funding you might have.

[nlc.bc.ca/former-youth-in-care/](https://nlc.bc.ca/former-youth-in-care/)

## Indspire

[indspire.ca/programs/students/bursaries-scholarships](https://indspire.ca/programs/students/bursaries-scholarships)

## Community funding opportunities

Northern Lights College is committed to our partnerships with Indigenous communities and organizations such as the North East Native Advancing Society (NENAS), and to the success of our students. We encourage you to reach out to our Indigenous Education and Recruitment teams to learn about — and connect with — other funding opportunities that may be available to you.

For more information reach out to the Indigenous Education team at [indigenous@nlc.bc.ca](mailto:indigenous@nlc.bc.ca) or the Recruitment team at [info@nlc.bc.ca](mailto:info@nlc.bc.ca).









# Student Services on Campus

## Learning Support and Access Services

NLC promotes equitable access for students with ability status by arranging reasonable accommodations. These accommodations can include exam assistance, scribes, extended testing time, access to a quiet room for exams, books and materials in alternate formats, and more. Our qualified learning support specialists are on campus and ready to assist students.

## Housing

Housing options are available at our Fort St. John and Dawson Creek campuses. Living on campus is a great way to connect with other students. It's affordable and convenient. Both campuses have dedicated areas for studying and socializing. All suites are furnished and move-in ready.

Units are available in 1, 2, 3, or 4 bedroom options with full kitchen and appliances. Washers and dryers are located on every floor for student use, and the units are fully furnished and move-in ready. Apply for housing at [www.nlc.bc.ca/prospective-students-housing](http://www.nlc.bc.ca/prospective-students-housing).

Priority placement in student housing will be given to students who self-identify as Indigenous learners and former/current youth in care.

## Bookstores

Our bookstores are open all year long and carry your textbooks as well as stationary, office supplies and NLC swag. We also offer a selection of local arts, crafts, and snacks.



## Cafeterias

Cafeterias are open for breakfast and lunch on the Fort St. John and Dawson Creek campuses and offer a variety of tasty and healthy food at competitive prices. There is always a bargain priced lunch special to keep lunch affordable for students. Cafeterias are also open to community members to enjoy.

## Library

Our library boasts a large selection of books on decolonization and the history of Indigenous Peoples in Canada. The library also offers computers, printers, and scanners, as well as library staff who are happy to help you navigate the resources available to you as a student of NLC.

All community members are welcome in the library and can get a free library card by presenting a piece of photo ID with a current address.



## Meet our Indigenous Education Team

- **Indigenous Student Navigators** are available on the Fort St. John and Dawson Creek campuses to help you navigate the admissions and course selection process; you can reach them by emailing [indigenous@nlc.bc.ca](mailto:indigenous@nlc.bc.ca).
- The **Indigenous Cultural Guide** is available on the Fort St. John and Dawson Creek campuses to help ensure all members our NLC community have access to Indigenous cultural events and activities, Elders' teachings, and workshops.
- The **Director of Indigenous Education** is located on the Fort St. John campus and is always happy to have a conversation with our learners.

## Meet our Recruitment Team

- **Student Recruiters** are available on the Fort St. John and Dawson Creek campuses and can be reached at [info@nlc.bc.ca](mailto:info@nlc.bc.ca).
- **Career Advisors** are available on the Fort St. John and Dawson Creek campuses to help you pick the right career and education path; they can be reached at [career.advice@nlc.bc.ca](mailto:career.advice@nlc.bc.ca).

### *Not at the Dawson Creek or Fort St. John campuses?*

No problem, our Recruitment Team travels and is always happy to book in-person appointments when possible.

# Start your learning journey

## 1. Discover the right program for you

- Talk to our Indigenous Education team at [indigenous@nlc.bc.ca](mailto:indigenous@nlc.bc.ca) or the Recruitment Team at [info@nlc.bc.ca](mailto:info@nlc.bc.ca).

## 2. Apply for your program

- Complete your application online at [nlc.bc.ca/apply-now/](https://nlc.bc.ca/apply-now/) or in person at any of our campuses.
- Be sure to apply for housing if applicable.
- Connect with Financial Aid by email at [финаid@nlc.bc.ca](mailto:финаid@nlc.bc.ca) or by phone at **1-866-463-6652** if applicable.

## 3. Accept your program seat

- To accept your seat, a deposit is needed and will be credited towards your total tuition.

## 4. Register for your courses

- Need help? Connect with our program advisors at [advising@nlc.bc.ca](mailto:advising@nlc.bc.ca) or by phone at **1-866-463-6652**.
- You can also connect with Access Services for assistance at [accessservices@nlc.bc.ca](mailto:accessservices@nlc.bc.ca) or by phone.

## 5. Join us for Student Orientation

- Dates and times vary by program and start date, so keep an eye on your email and our social media channels.

11401 – 8th St, Dawson Creek  
British Columbia, Canada, V1G 4G2

[www.nlc.bc.ca](http://www.nlc.bc.ca) • **1-866-463-6652** • [indigenous@nlc.bc.ca](mailto:indigenous@nlc.bc.ca) • [info@nlc.bc.ca](mailto:info@nlc.bc.ca)

