



# The Philanthropic Times

Keeping you up-to-date with NLC Foundation news, events, and more!

The Northern Lights College Foundation is an organization dedicated to helping our students embark on their lifelong journey of learning. We create and build relationships with our donors – which in turn, creates unique opportunities for our students, college, and community.

## A message from the Chair, Lisa Ward

This quarter has been marked by significant momentum, building on the strategic pillars established in 2021: broadening support for teaching and learning, cultivating donor relationships, and ensuring sustainable internal capacity. Our efforts continue to directly impact student success and align with the College's mission of enriching lives and communities across Northern BC.

A key highlight of this period was the Foundation being named Non-Profit of the Year at the Dawson Creek & District Chamber of Commerce Community Awards. We were honoured simply to be nominated and are extremely grateful to everyone who voted for us. This recognition further motivates us to continue supporting students and strengthening our communities.

Our priorities for the upcoming quarter include deepening our relationships with donors, partners, and alumni, as

well as expanding program support informed by the success of events like Trees of Tomorrow and Giving Day.

Our Board has also expanded its capacity by attending two governance-focused educational sessions and working with the Board of Governors on ownership linkage. These opportunities were highly valuable, informative, and engaging.

I extend my deepest gratitude to our dedicated staff, generous donors, community partners, and the entire Board of Directors. I am incredibly proud of the progress made this quarter and deeply appreciative of the support received from every corner of the community. As I look ahead, I am energized by the opportunities to further grow program support and donor relationships, ensuring the Northern Lights College Foundation continues to thrive as a pillar of student success in Northern BC.



— Lisa Ward,  
NLC Foundation Board Chair

# A Night of Gratitude: CAEES Launch



The NLC Foundation and Northern Lights College proudly hosted a remarkable Night of Gratitude on November 5 to celebrate the launch of the new Centre for Applied Energy and Environmental Sustainability (CAEES).

The evening brought together community and industry partners, NLC Foundation donors and college leadership

for meaningful speeches and a compelling presentation showcasing how donor generosity is shaping the future of energy education in the Peace Region.

CAEES will work in partnership with industry and communities to develop the training and education necessary for alternative energy industries to thrive. It will offer an expanded curriculum that encompasses both traditional trades in natural gas extraction and emerging technologies in clean energy, including renewable energy, energy efficiency, and carbon capture and storage.

Thanks to the unwavering support of our community, CAEES has moved from vision to reality – positioning NLC as a leader in applied energy training for years to come. We are deeply grateful to everyone who joined us and helped make the night a tremendous success.

## NLC Foundation named Non-Profit of the Year



On November 6, the NLC Foundation attended the Dawson Creek & District Chamber of Commerce Community Awards, a celebration filled with uplifting conversations and well-deserved recognition of outstanding individuals and organizations.

We were humbled and excited to be named Non-Profit of the Year 2025. This acknowledgment means more than words can express. It reflects the trust our community places in us and reaffirms our commitment to supporting, uplifting, and strengthening the regions we serve.

Executive Director Lindsey Borek expressed her heartfelt gratitude for the award: "This award belongs to our community. It reflects every donor who has contributed, every volunteer who has shown up, and every student who has persevered. It reinforces that when we remove barriers to education, we change lives and strengthen the future of our communities in the north. We are honoured to do this work in our community. Having the opportunity to stand alongside so many amazing non-profits was truly a privilege and really solidified that the work we are all doing matters to our community."

# Tim Hortons Holiday Smile Cookies



From November 17–23, the NLC Foundation was thrilled to be the beneficiary of Tim Hortons Holiday Smile Cookies in Chetwynd. Executive Director Lindsey Borek, Development Officer Kayla Von Bargen, and Foundation Board Chair Lisa Ward spent the day of November 19 decorating and delivering cookies to community and local public schools – filling hallways, classrooms, and hearts with joy.

Thank you to Conuma Resources for sponsoring the local schools and Tim Hortons for their continued support. The week was full of smiles, community connection and generosity, and together we raised \$5,484 for NLC Foundation and Tim Hortons Foundation Camps. We are grateful for the opportunity to bring smiles to our campus communities.



# Trees of Tomorrow Dinner and Charity Auction



The First Annual Trees of Tomorrow Dinner and Charity Auction on November 20 brought together community members, supporters, and partners for a beautiful evening filled with warmth, generosity, and community spirit – all in support of Northern Lights College students. Guests enjoyed a magical atmosphere, beautifully decorated Christmas trees, and the excitement of friendly bidding to help transform futures by opening doors to education, opportunity, and brighter tomorrows.

NLC Foundation Communication and Events Specialist Sierra Shields was eager to recount her experience of the event:

“The success of our first Trees of Tomorrow event was extraordinary. Our team worked incredibly hard to bring this event to life and seeing it all come together with the remarkable generosity of our guests was deeply rewarding. Witnessing that level of community commitment was inspiring and I couldn’t be more grateful for the impact these contributions will make in the months and years ahead.”

The NLC Foundation wishes a heartfelt thank-you to our live auction sponsors: Jessica Kulla, Toyota, CEDA, Curtis York Trucking, Bold Promotions, LMV, and Urban Systems. We are equally grateful to the Dawson Creek Golf & Country Club for hosting the evening, and to Dawson Creek Moving & Storage Ltd. for ensuring each tree arrived safely at its new home.



# Powering up trades: a Giving Day success



We are proud to share that we surpassed our \$12,500 Giving Day goal, thanks to the generosity and community spirit across our campuses. On December 2, Northern Lights College staff and NLC Foundation team members and board members were celebrating Giving Day at campuses in Chetwynd, Dawson Creek and Fort St. John, as well as at our Dawson Creek Co-op Food Store. We are grateful to Co-op for their dedicated partnership, and to everyone who purchased Goodie Boxes, participated in campus activities, or stopped by to show support for our students. We extend a special thank-you to Commotion Creek Contracting Ltd. for joining

**A special thank you to:**



Giving Day as a matching donor with a generous \$1,000 contribution.

Development Officer Kayla Von Barga expressed her excitement over Giving Day:

"Wow! Our second annual Giving Day did not disappoint! It was wonderful to see so many people participate in every capacity. We love days like this where we can celebrate our students, our campuses, and our campus communities. Thank you to everyone who helped make it happen!"

The success of our Goodie Boxes was a highlight of the event, with over 100 boxes sold between Chetwynd, Dawson Creek and Fort St. John. Professional Cook Training students baked more than 1,000 gingerbread cookies and prepared a mountain of icing to fill the boxes, which were adorned with handcrafted NLC ornaments donated by Ryan Mayoh (Chair of Trades) and Stephen Janssen (Carpentry Instructor). The Millwright Foundation students crafted beautifully detailed





area we are always trying to come up with creative ways to acquire materials for projects.”

Every dollar donated to Giving Day will go directly to our Trades programs, providing NLC students with essential resources to elevate their learning experience and strengthen their path forward.



steel icicle ornaments, each one a unique example of their skills and creativity.

Chris Poulin (Millwright Foundation Instructor) shared his thoughts: “The Millwright Foundation class is always looking for fun projects like this. Material is expensive, so that is one

## Tread for Trades drives students forward



This year marked the NLC Foundation’s third annual partnership with Bannister Automotive for Tread for Trades. For every tire purchased during the event, \$5 was donated to support NLC students.

Thanks to this continued partnership and the generosity of the community, we raised \$10,500. Our sincere thanks to Bannister for once again driving this initiative forward. Your ongoing support makes a real difference.

## Cafeteria vouchers donated to students



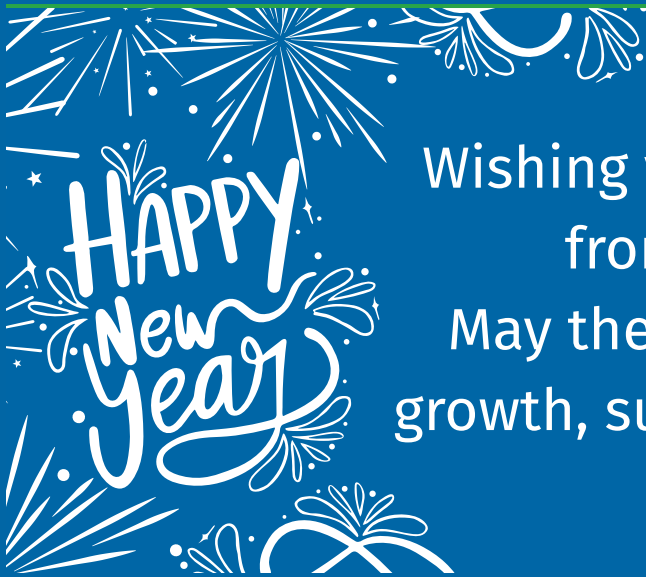
The Dawson Creek Hospital Auxiliary donated \$1,000 to the NLC Foundation, designated for \$10 student vouchers to the cafeteria. To many students, this gift offers practical support, helping to ease day-to-day costs, and the reminder that their community truly cares about their success. We are deeply grateful to the Auxiliary for their continued kindness and dedication to lifting up learners in our region.

# Celebrating the season together at Rotary Manor



Rotary Manor was filled with warmth and holiday cheer on December 15 as NLC Foundation team members joined residents for an afternoon of gingerbread cookie decorating. Thank you to Dawson Creek Dance Co. who sponsored Giving Day Goodie Boxes for the visit, setting the stage for a joyful gathering full of smiles, conversation, and festive spirit. It was a heartwarming visit that reminded us of the magic found in community connection.

## Happy Holidays from Northern Lights College Foundation



Wishing you a bright and joyful 2026  
from the NLC Foundation.  
May the coming year be filled with  
growth, success, and new possibilities.

As we reflect on this past year, our hearts are full of gratitude. Thank you to our donors, partners, staff, students, and community members for your unwavering support and belief in our mission.

From all of us at the NLC Foundation, we wish you a joyful holiday season and a bright, promising New Year. Together we are building a stronger future for our students, and their success is possible because of you.