



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.

NLC Foundation Board Member Spotlight

I currently serve as the Dean of Workforce Training and Continuing Education at Northern Lights College, where I work closely with industry, communities, and Indigenous partners to develop education and training that supports workforce development across Northern British Columbia. I hold a Master of Arts in Leadership from Royal Roads University and have dedicated my career to building partnerships that strengthen communities and create opportunity. Prior to joining NLC, I spent more than 30 years with the City of Dawson Creek in recreation and facilities leadership roles focused on community development.

Having lived and worked in the Peace Region for most of my career, I am proud to serve on the Northern Lights College Foundation Board and have been involved since Fall 2022.

What inspires me most about the Foundation is the direct impact it has on students through scholarships, trades training opportunities, and community partnerships. As board members, we also help connect the Foundation to partners within our circles of influence to strengthen support for students and the future workforce of our region. Outside of work, I live on a farm with my family where we raise cattle and horses and remain deeply connected to the land and community that have shaped my life. I am looking forward to be spending more time in the near future with my grandchildren.

“When we invest in students, we invest in the future of our communities and ensure opportunity continues for the next generation.”



— **Chante Patterson-Elden**
Dean of Workforce Training and Continuing Education at Northern Lights College



To learn more about the NLC Foundation and how it supports our students, go to nlc.bc.ca/nlc-foundation/

Northern Resilience Memorial Fund


The Northern Lights College Foundation, with support from its Board, has established the Northern Resilience Memorial Fund in tribute to those whose lives were lost and in solidarity with the community of Tumbler Ridge. With a shared history dating back to the community's founding in the 1980s, NLC has grown alongside Tumbler Ridge, supporting students through both challenges and successes.

Created as an endowment, the fund provides ongoing financial support for Tumbler Ridge residents—past and present—who are attending or planning to attend NLC. Beginning with an initial \$1,000 contribution from the Foundation, annual earnings will fund scholarships and awards for local students for years to come.

“This fund transforms heartbreak into hope, helping local students pursue their education and build brighter futures, carrying forward the strength and spirit that define this

community,” said Lindsey Borek, Executive Director of the NLC Foundation.

Standing alongside local recovery efforts, the fund serves as a lasting source of support and a reminder of what can be built through community. Donations from individuals, businesses, and alumni will help grow this legacy and ensure continued opportunities for Tumbler Ridge students.



To contribute to the Northern Resilience Memorial Fund and support the future of Tumbler Ridge Students, visit the Canada Helps page at <https://www.canadahelps.org/en/dn/144464> or contact the Northern Lights College Foundation for more information.

Astra Workshops January 2026



In January, the NLC Foundation team hosted four Astra Workshops to support students interested in applying for awards. During these sessions, staff provided guided demonstrations of the Astra platform and offered one-on-one assistance to help students navigate the application process. By answering questions and providing hands-on support, the workshops helped ensure students were well prepared to submit their applications ahead of the January 25 award deadline.



Awards

Applications for the NLC Foundation's general award cycle closed on January 25, marking another successful season of student support. In this award cycle, the NLC Foundation was proud to distribute 217 awards and more than \$116,000 to 125 students, helping recognize achievement and ease financial barriers to education.

To celebrate these accomplishments, a full list of this year's award recipients will be displayed across our Fort St. John, Dawson Creek, Chetwynd, and Fort Nelson campuses throughout the months of May and June.

Northern Lights College Awards Ceremony Recognizes Excellence in AMT Program



Northern Lights College Aircraft Maintenance Technician (AMT) students recently gathered to celebrate three classmates who were selected to receive NLC Foundation memorial awards.

Kayla Von Barga, Development Officer of the NLC Foundation, hosted the event and was accompanied by presenters Donations Coordinator Billie-Jo Crandall, and guest Bonnie Lehmann. NLC President Todd Bonderoff joined in the celebration along with Trevor Wulff, Person Responsible for Training for the AMT program, along with all the AMT instructors.

Bonnie Lehmann presented both the August Lehmann Memorial Endowment and the Erich Lehmann Memorial Award.

The August Lehmann Memorial Endowment was created to honour the memory of August Lehmann, a long-time supporter of the NLC Foundation and an alumnus of the Aircraft Maintenance Engineering (now Aircraft Maintenance

Technician) program. The award supports deserving students pursuing careers in aviation and is presented to an individual who demonstrates high achievement in the practical skills of the AMT program. It was awarded to Aiden Maher.

The Erich Lehmann Memorial Award commemorates the life of Erich Lehmann, who was fatally injured in an industrial accident at the age of 19. Erich's passion for aviation began early and remained a driving force throughout his life. As an elementary school student, he won first prize at a science fair for a project on how different wing shapes affect lift. The award is presented to a student who displays strong AMT practical skills along with a commitment to safety and professionalism in the workplace. It was awarded to Bryson Hogan.



Billie-Jo Crandall then presented the Duane Sunderman Memorial Award to Charles Johnson.

This award honours Duane Sunderman, an alumnus of the AMT program who passed away in a helicopter accident in 1995. It is awarded to a student with a personal interest in helicopter maintenance who shows strong potential in both practical and theoretical aspects of the AMT program.

The NLC Foundation annually distributes more than \$300,000 in awards through its ASTRA platform and students can apply throughout the school year.

To learn more or to become a donor, visit <https://www.nlc.bc.ca/nlc-foundation/>



DCSS Career Fair

On March 11, members of the NLC Foundation team attended the Dawson Creek Secondary School Career Fair, where they connected with more than 200 students to discuss post-secondary pathways and the many awards and scholarship opportunities available through Northern Lights College. It was a great opportunity to share how financial support can help students pursue their educational goals and plan for their future.



If you are interested in becoming a donor, please contact the NLC Foundation today.

Dawson Creek Trade Show 50/50 Raffle

On April 17 and 18, the NLC Foundation will be on site at the Dawson Creek Trade Show, held at the Oviniv Events Centre, hosting the 50/50 raffles each day in support of Northern Lights College students. Proceeds from the raffle will go directly toward student supports and programming at NLC.

Members of the Northern Lights College Foundation team will be attending the event to connect with community members, raise funds, and share more about the work of the NLC Foundation and its ongoing initiatives in support of student success.

50/50 RAFFLE

2 draws!
ONE DRAW EACH DAY
Friday, April 17 and
Saturday, April 18, 2026

Help support our students!
1 for \$5 | 10 for \$20
50 for \$50 | 200 for \$100

Scan QR code for tickets

Dawson Creek TRADE SHOW
April 17th - 19th, 2026 | Oviniv Events Centre

Northern Lights College Foundation
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