



Annual Charity Tribute Sustain

April 1, 2025–March 31, 2026



Northern Lights
College Foundation

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April 1, 2025–March 31, 2026

About this Tribute

The Northern Lights College Foundation has served our communities for years and continues to support our students, work with our donors, and support our institution and staff. We are excited to share our activities and accomplishments from the past 2025–26 year in this annual report.

On the Cover

For the second year, the Northern Lights College Foundation hosted its popular 50/50 draw and Mega Lottery at the Dawson Creek Exhibition and Stampede. This year's total jackpot reached \$134,095, shared between the Foundation and the lucky winners. Proceeds from initiatives like this directly support students through enhanced programming, financial assistance, and opportunities that strengthen communities across our region. We extend our sincere thanks to our communities, dedicated staff, volunteers, and Board of Directors for their continued support in advancing our mission.

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Pillars

In 2021, the Northern Lights College Foundation established the four pillars of our strategic plan. The pillars encompass the Foundation's intent to:



Expand financial support and access for students.



Ensure sustainable internal capacity and resources.



Broaden the scope of support for teaching and learning.



Cultivate and engage donors.

Mission Statement

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.



Objectives

Formed in 1981, the Northern Lights College Foundation has four main objectives:

- To support community projects and the promotion of higher education.
- To foster community interest in promoting higher education and training.
- To act as a recipient of trust funds in the form of monies or other properties.
- To grant monies to Northern Lights College for the designated use of scholarships and bursaries to be awarded to students.



Members of our Board



Lisa Ward
Chair
(Joined 09/2020)



Tony Zabinsky
Vice-Chair
(Joined 04/2016)



Todd Bondaroff
NLC President and CEO
(Joined 01/2022)



Sarah Canning
Ex-Officio NLC
Board Member
(Joined 09/2025)



Kathleen Connolly
Board Member
(Joined 09/2024)



Brenda Enax
Board Member
(Joined 11/2024)



Kristen Ghostkeeper
Ex-Officio NLC
Board Member
(Joined 03/2024)



Christian Larsen
Board Member
(Joined 09/2024)



**Chante
Patterson-Elden**
Board Member
(Joined 09/2022)



**Shawna-Marie
Phillips**
Board Member
(Joined 05/2015)



Aaron Powell
Board Member
(Joined 09/2022)



Mitchell Preuss
Board Member
(Joined 12/2024)



Gemma Sawchuk
Board Member
(Joined 09/2024)



Jody Schmidt
Board Member
(Joined 05/2022)



Dustin Stirling
Board Member
(Joined 03/2024)



Message from the Chair

“ This past year has been one of meaningful progress for the Northern Lights College Foundation. As we moved into 2025–26 with a focus on sustaining the momentum built in recent years, our work continued to be guided by a shared commitment to student success, community partnership, and long-term impact.

Thanks to the generosity of our donors and partners, we continued to provide vital scholarships, bursaries, and student support across all campuses. Each contribution represents more than financial assistance — it is a message of belief in our students and in the future of Northern BC.

We strengthened relationships with industry, alumni, and local organizations, ensuring our efforts remain aligned with the evolving needs of the region. Signature initiatives such as Giving Day, our 50/50 campaigns, and donor recognition events continued to grow, while new efforts like Trees of Tomorrow helped build a strong culture of philanthropy across NLC.

Through this work, we were honoured to be recognized as Non-Profit of the Year at the 2025 Business Awards by the Dawson Creek and District Chamber of Commerce—a meaningful acknowledgment of the care, collaboration, and commitment that underpin everything we do. This recognition belongs to our donors, partners, volunteers, Board, and staff, and to the students whose goals inspire our work every day.

As we look ahead, our priority is clear: to sustain the systems, partnerships, and programs that allow the Foundation to thrive. With continued collaboration and community support, we will keep expanding opportunities for students and strengthening the foundation of education in the North.

Thank you to our Board of Directors, staff, donors, volunteers, and community members for your continued support. Your dedication makes this work possible, and together, we continue to create bright futures. ”

With gratitude,

Lisa Ward

Chair,
Northern Lights College Foundation

Meet the Team



Lindsey Borek

Executive Director and Director of Alumni Engagement

As the Executive Director, my role is to provide visionary leadership and strategic direction for the foundation, ensuring alignment with the institution's mission and values. This role is responsible for developing and implementing strategies that grow foundation revenues, deepen donor and community engagement, and enhance the Foundation's profile and impact. The Executive Director works closely with the Foundation Board, senior institutional leaders, and external partners to advance fundraising, stewardship, and operational excellence. Key responsibilities include overseeing fundraising campaigns, managing major and transformational gifts, cultivating relationships with donors and stakeholders, ensuring sound governance practices and leading a high-performing team.

As the Director of Alumni Engagement, I am responsible for developing and executing comprehensive strategies to foster lifelong relationships between the institution and its alumni. This role oversees alumni communications, events, volunteer programs, and engagement initiatives designed to strengthen alumni loyalty and support. The Director collaborates with the foundation, communications, and academic teams to create meaningful opportunities for alumni involvement — including mentorship, networking, and philanthropy.

I am especially grateful to work with a talented team and a dedicated board to help drive philanthropy forward and create meaningful impact in our communities and for NLC.



Billie-Jo Crandall

Donations Coordinator

As the Donations Coordinator, I am responsible for the receiving and processing of all donations and revenue generated for the Northern Lights College Foundation. Some of my duties include maintaining the NLC Foundation's donor database and award programs; preparing annual funding reports; managing our new award application platform, Astra; and working in partnership with our valued donors. One of the most rewarding parts of my job is providing scholarships and bursaries to successful NLC award applicants, easing some of their financial responsibilities, and aiding them throughout their educational journey.





Kayla Von Barga

Development Officer

As the Development Officer, I am proud to support the advancement of student success through meaningful donor and alumni engagement. In this new role, I get to work closely with individuals, businesses, and community partners to secure funding for student awards, program support, and special initiatives across all NLC campuses. Whether coordinating Giving Day, supporting the Fall Fair 50/50, or working on new campaigns, the goal is to create lasting impact through strong community relationships. A key part of my role is maintaining donor relationships and expanding alumni connections. We're recognizing local alumni and businesses that employ NLC grads, and we've enhanced our digital tools to better manage outreach and engagement. From event planning to donor communications and campaign strategy, every effort is grounded in ensuring that students feel supported and that our donors know just how valued their contributions are. I'm grateful to be part of a small but passionate team working to grow the Foundation's reach and deepen its impact in the North.



Sierra Shields

Communication and Events Specialist

As the Communication and Events Specialist, I support the Foundation's mission by strengthening connections through strategic communications and meaningful events. In this role, I work closely with community partners, alumni, and campus teams to share stories that highlight student success, donor impact, and the value of giving across all NLC communities. From coordinating events and supporting campaigns to developing content and managing communications, my work is focused on creating engaging experiences and maintaining a strong, consistent presence for the Foundation. A key part of my role is ensuring that our donors feel recognized and appreciated, while also helping to grow awareness and engagement through thoughtful storytelling and outreach. I'm grateful to be part of a dedicated team working to build lasting relationships and expand the Foundation's impact throughout the North.



Galateya Medcalfe

Projects and Partnerships Facilitator

As the Projects and Partnerships Facilitator, I have the privilege of supporting fundraising initiatives that make a meaningful difference for Northern Lights College students and communities. My work involves coordinating events, managing project details, and helping bring Foundation initiatives from concept to completion.

This year, I worked alongside community partners, volunteers, sponsors, and college teams to strengthen connections and support the Foundation's efforts. From facilitating 50/50 fundraisers to recognizing sponsors and sharing stories of impact, I am grateful to contribute to projects that showcase the generosity, collaboration, and community spirit that make our region so special.

Message from the Executive Director

“ As the Northern Lights College Foundation reflects on the past year, a clear theme emerges: Sustain. This year was about sustaining momentum, sustaining partnerships, and sustaining the systems, supports, and relationships that make student success possible across our region.

The Foundation's work continues to be grounded in a simple but powerful purpose: removing barriers and expanding opportunity for students. That purpose was advanced in meaningful ways this year through student awards, donor engagement, strengthened internal systems, and strategic investments in programs and initiatives that support teaching, learning, and community connection.

Over the past year, the Foundation made important progress in expanding financial support and access for students. Award cycles continued to create direct impact, with \$369,514 being distributed to 264 students, helping more learners access and continue their education. Student facing support also remained a priority through ASTRA sign-up events across campuses and a strong Foundation presence at orientations and student engagement opportunities, ensuring students were aware of the resources available to them.

This was also a year of sustaining and strengthening internal capacity. Major work continued implementing Almbase and Raiser's Edge NXT, two important platforms that will improve donor stewardship, alumni engagement, campaign management, and reporting capacity for years to come. The Foundation also built an advancement model for NLC with a five-year staffing strategy, secured Canada Summer Student funding for a Project and Partnership Facilitator role, and moved forward with recruitment to expand development capacity adding a Development Officer to the team.

Donor and community engagement remained central to the Foundation's success. The second annual Giving Day exceeded its \$12,000 goal for Trades support, while events such as Night of Gratitude created meaningful opportunities to recognize donors and celebrate. Additional community momentum was built through presentations to local organizations, the development of a legacy giving package, and the continued growth of a broader giving strategy designed to deepen relationships and sustain long-term philanthropic impact.

The Foundation also saw encouraging success in signature events and community visibility. The CAEES launch drew more than 70 attendees, Trees of Tomorrow generated strong engagement and support, and the Foundation was honoured as Non-Profit of the Year at the Dawson Creek Community Awards, reinforcing the growing recognition of its role in the region. These milestones not only celebrated achievement but also

strengthened awareness of the Foundation's mission and the value of investing in students and education.

Support for teaching and learning was further broadened through several notable initiatives. Progress continued on the barn build project with it coming to completion; Tread for Trades continued for the third year supporting trades through our local business group Bannister; support from Shell was secured for summer camps through Continuing Education; Conoco Mobile Trades Training Trailer was created and launched to bring training to the communities; upgraded our boiler lab thanks to Birchcliff Energy's donation of a steam separator; all reflecting the Foundation's commitment to enhancing the student experience beyond traditional awards and bursaries. Significant donor support also helped advance specialized projects and student-focused needs, including healthcare support, food security, trades initiatives, and equipment and program development.

This year demonstrated that sustainability is not about standing still; it is about building the structures, partnerships, and confidence needed to carry progress forward. The generosity of donors, the commitment of board members, the collaboration of college partners, and the resilience of students and staff have all helped position the Foundation for continued impact.

With gratitude, the Foundation looks ahead with confidence. The work of this past year has created a stronger base from which to sustain student support, sustain community trust, and sustain Northern Lights College's ability to transform lives through education. Looking into 2026/2027 we will look to THRIVE by strengthening donor and alumni engagement, expanding strategic fundraising, and building on the momentum of the past year to create lasting impact for students and communities.

Thank you to every donor, partner, volunteer, board member, staff member, and student who contributed to this past year's success. Because of that shared commitment, the Northern Lights College Foundation is not only growing its impact, but sustaining it for the future of students, communities, and the North and looking to Thrive in the future.

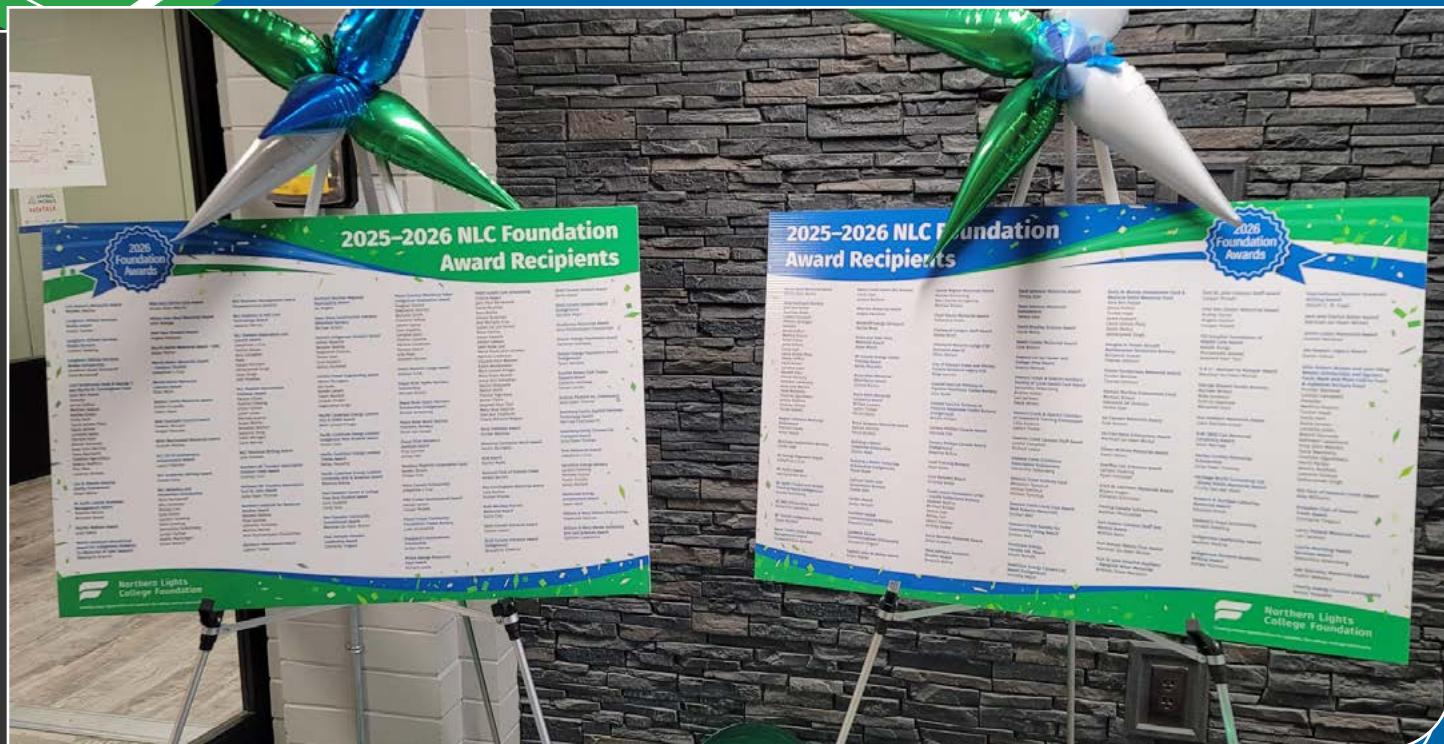
Sincerely,

Lindsey Borek

Executive Director,
Northern Lights College Foundation



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Reflecting on 2025–26

Each year, we look forward to celebrating our students' achievements with displays across our campuses. We are grateful for our donors, whose generosity continues to make a significant impact to our students. Congratulations to all award recipients in the 2025-2026 year!

💰	Number of New Donors	5
👤	Number of Students Assisted	264
💰	Total Funds Distributed to Students	\$369,514
💰	Emergency Funding Distributed	\$13,200

Number of New Awards Created

🏆	Total of New Awards Created	8
🏆	New Endowments	2
📅	New Annual Awards	4
💰	New One-Time Projects	2

New Awards Contribution Values

💰	Endowments	\$22,357
🏆	Annual Awards	\$46,780
📅	One-Time Projects	\$66,825
🏆	Total Contribution Values of New Awards	\$135,962

👤	Applicants	1,989
✅	Completed	914
📈	Increase in Number of Applications From Previous Year	23.51%
💰	Capital Projects and Program Funding	\$19,800
💰	Student Support Funds	\$5,000
💰	NLC Intercollegiate Rodeo Sponsorship	\$44,750
💰	NLC Giving Day Campaign Fund	\$12,279
💰	Fundraising	\$48,567



Dalton Haney

Valedictorian, Dawson Creek
Program: Social Service Worker Diploma
(SSWD)

Why did you choose Northern Lights College?

I chose the Northern Lights College mostly out of convenience. I appreciate that the Northern Lights College services many communities in the North and this helped me because I did not have to relocate or sell my house to pursue post-secondary education.

What award did you receive?

Peace Country Petroleum Sales Indigenous Graduation Award

How did receiving the award impact your learning journey?

I was able to attend the Canadian Association of College & University Student Services Conference (CACUSS) in Halifax, Nova Scotia. Although the CACUSS conference was paid for by a separate bursary, the bursary I won through the NLC Foundation helped me with other costs associated with the trip.

“ Testimonials

“These awards have helped me to continue pursuing different avenues of education. It made a significant impact on reducing my financial anxiety, with being a full-time student and a single parent.”

- Lorraine Shields, Recipient of seven Foundation Awards during her time as a student at NLC

“This award has helped me be able to budget more towards better food to fuel my body and brain. It has made a huge difference in my quality of life.”

- Sarah Slater, Recipient of the Shell Canada Student Award

Student Stories

Fueling Futures: The Impact of Awards at NLC

How has receiving the award impacted your interest in continuing your education in the future?

I am excited to continue my education. I recently received an acceptance letter to the University of Northern British Columbia's Bachelor of Social Work Program. Receiving awards and bursaries has helped me see the amount of support the community gives to its students.

What are your future career aspirations?

I have just completed my SSWD at the Northern Lights College, and I want to continue my education to become a social worker. I am currently employed at my local friendship centre to help develop and build a new childcare centre. I am excited to apply my education to this project as it is rooted in trauma informed care and holistic family programming.

What message would you share with the donors who funded the award you received?

Thank you so much for your support during my time at the Northern Lights College. Your support has alleviated some of the financial stresses many students experience. Your support helped me to attend the CACUSS conference in Halifax, N.S, and that helped me realize the importance of professional development.

Do you have any words to share with current or future NLC students?

Build connections and relationships and enjoy your time in college. Find out what supports the Northern Lights College offers and learn how and when to use them. I built relationships with my classmates, faculty, student service workers, facility workers and administrators, and these relationships have been an immense help and support these last two years.

COMPLETE YOUR ASTRA APPLICATIONS! *I know it's hard to sit down and spend an hour or two completing bursary and scholarship applications, but when you take a step back and look at it with a different perspective, that one to two hours of work could help you receive hundreds to thousands of dollars.*

Student Stories

Fueling Futures: The Impact of Awards at NLC



Josephine Lovella Cruz

Fort St. John

Program: Land and Water Resources/
Environmental Restoration

Why did you choose Northern Lights College?

I chose Northern Lights College because of its small, welcoming community and supportive people. The cost of living is more affordable compared to major cities, and the tuition fees are lower than many other colleges. Fort St. John, known as the oil and gas capital of British Columbia, also offers a unique setting that aligns with my interest in the environment and resource industries.

What awards did you receive?

- Morris Bahm Memorial Award Outdoor Studies
- Petro Canada Scholarship
- BC Energy Regulator Award
- NLC Student Association and Council Award
- Teck Resources Award

How did receiving the awards impact your learning journey?

Receiving the awards made me feel proud of my achievements and motivated me to strive for excellence. It encouraged me to work harder and continuously improve my performance. The financial reward also helped support my studies, reducing some of my burdens. Overall, the recognition inspired me to keep aiming for the best in my learning journey.

How has receiving the awards impacted your interest in continuing your education in the future?

Receiving these awards has strengthened my motivation to continue my education. It reassures me that my hard work is recognized and encourages me to keep striving toward my goals. This support inspires me to stay committed to my studies and pursue my future career with confidence.

What are your future career aspirations?

My goal is to become a licensed agrologist in BC. I plan to continue my studies, gain experience, and work in environmental restoration and sustainability.

What message would you share with the donors who funded the awards you received?

I sincerely thank the donors for funding awards. Your support motivates students like me to continue working hard and pursuing our education. Because of your generosity, I am inspired to achieve my goals and make a positive impact in my future career.

Do you have any words to share with current or future NLC students?

Don't settle for mediocrity, always strive for excellence. When things get challenging, don't be afraid to ask for help. Growth comes from perseverance and the willingness to learn from others.

Testimonials

“It helped me a lot with my financial situation. Knowing that there are organizations that are willing to help students achieve their goals is very inspiring.”

- John Paul Barrameda, Recipient of the PRRD Health Care Scholarship

“I am very grateful for the awards. There are days when I am contemplating if I could still make it through the remaining semesters financially. Receiving the awards had a big impact on me to continue to push through, no matter how hard it is sometimes.”

- Emerald Anida, Recipient of the CanWest Global Communications Bursary, Core Partners Award, and the Howard & Dorteia Calverley Memorial Award

Student Stories

Fueling Futures: The Impact of Awards at NLC

Alyssa Bond

Chetwynd

Program: Social Services Worker Diploma

Why did you choose Northern Lights College?

I chose NLC because it is local and has the program I wanted to take. NLC has also been great with accommodations for my disabilities.

What award did you receive?

Chetwynd Campus Staff Award

How did receiving the award impact your learning journey?

This award has helped me tremendously. I am a single mom of three who is not working, so money is incredibly tight. This award will be used for textbooks for my September 2026 semester.

How has receiving the award impacted your interest in continuing your education in the future?

Receiving the Chetwynd Campus Staff Award was a major boost in my life. I have never received or "won" a scholarship/bursary before and have had an incredibly difficult semester due to personal life. The support of the staff in Chetwynd has been paramount to my continuation of study. Studying at NLC has made learning fun and has encouraged me to continue in my studies.

What are your future career aspirations?

I chose Criminology as my electives for the SSWD program and discovered a passion I didn't know I had. I am hoping to land a job in youth probation or with Ministry of Children and Family Development, working directly with children.



What message would you share with the donors who funded the award you received?

I would like to thank everyone who was part of this award; the donors, the staff, and everyone else that I may have missed. This award has really impacted me in such a wonderful way, and I sincerely appreciate it. NLC has been amazing to me, and the staff in Chetwynd has been so supportive, encouraging, and they are always celebrating my "wins" along with me. Jenn, Brenda, Steve, and Taiya have made me feel welcome and as if I "belong" here. Chetwynd is a close-knit community, and I feel as though I have made friends with all the staff here, along with several of my professors. Thank you once again to everyone who participated in this award and thank you for choosing me to receive it.

Do you have any words to share with current or future NLC students?

If you have options for electives, choose what you think you will enjoy, rather than other electives. I changed from Indigenous studies as my electives to Criminology at the last minute, and I am so grateful that I did, because without that, I would not have discovered a new passion. If you are unsure what to do, make sure you meet with a Program Advisor so they can assist you in course planning to ensure you have all your classes needed for graduation.

“ Testimonials

I was able to pay part of my remaining school fees and be out of stress of pending payment. I would like to pass my sincere gratitude [to the donors] for their kindness.”

- Arop MacHol, Recipient of the John Robert Belyea and Joan Elise Belyea Scholarship and Bursary Fund, Mark and Phae Collins Fund & Ingledow Bursary Fund, Lord Strathcona Fund & George T. and Myrtle W. Cunningham Fund and Alma VanDusen Bursary

Donor Stories

Shell Canada donates \$30,000 to support youth summer camps across the region



Thanks to a generous \$30,000 investment from Shell Canada, youth across the Peace Region had the opportunity to explore future career paths through hands-on summer camps at Northern Lights College. Delivered in Fort St. John, Dawson Creek, and Chetwynd, the camps welcomed students aged 12–16 into engaging, interactive environments where they could experience a range of fields firsthand — including esthetics, carpentry, trades, and nursing.

These camps are designed to do more than teach skills — they open doors. By introducing youth to in-demand careers at an early age, the program helps build confidence, spark curiosity, and encourage students to imagine their future in new ways. Shell's support ensures that these opportunities are accessible to more young people across the region, strengthening the connection between education, community, and workforce development.

Throughout the summer, Shell Canada representatives connected directly with participants, sharing insights into their own career journeys and reinforcing the importance of education in shaping future opportunities. Their involvement added depth to the experience, helping students see the real-world possibilities tied to what they were learning.

This initiative reflects Shell's ongoing commitment to investing in northern communities and supporting the next generation of skilled professionals. With growing demand across sectors — including healthcare, trades, and energy — early exposure to these pathways is more important than ever.

The Northern Lights College Foundation is deeply grateful for Shell Canada's continued partnership and dedication to education. Their support not only made these camps possible but also helped inspire the next generation of learners, leaders, and community builders in Northeast BC.



Donor Stories

Birchcliff Energy donates \$8,500 equipment and creates FOS-HR Scholarship



Northern Lights College students are benefiting from enhanced, real-world training opportunities thanks to a generous \$8,500 in-kind donation from Birchcliff Energy. The contribution — featuring a steam separator and valve installed in the Fort St. John campus boiler lab — has strengthened a key training environment for students in the Field Operator Specialist – Hydrocarbon Resources and Power Engineering programs.

More than a simple equipment upgrade, this investment directly supports the quality of hands-on education at NLC. The newly installed components, including upgraded piping, valves, and steam separation equipment, play an integral role

in how students learn to operate and understand complex systems they will encounter in the field. With access to modern, industry-relevant tools, students are better prepared to transition confidently into the workforce.

This kind of support reflects the strong partnership between industry and education in Northeast BC.

By contributing equipment that mirrors what is used in real-world operations, Birchcliff Energy is helping bridge the gap between classroom learning and career readiness — ensuring students graduate with both the knowledge and practical experience employers are looking for.

Birchcliff's commitment extends beyond equipment. The company is also investing in future learners through the creation of a scholarship for a prospective student entering the Field Operator Specialist – Hydrocarbon Resources program, further expanding access to education and opportunity.

The Northern Lights College Foundation is grateful for Birchcliff Energy's continued partnership and commitment to student success. Contributions like this play a vital role in strengthening trades and apprenticeship programming, empowering students, and building a skilled workforce for the region.



BIRCHCLIFF
20
YEARS

Donor Stories

ConocoPhillips Canada Partnership



Northern Lights College and the NLC Foundation worked with ConocoPhillips Canada (CPC) to get a trailer ready to take learning on the road. The Mobile Training Unit has all the tools and safety equipment to run on-location training opportunities.

Currently, the trailer is in use with the facilities maintenance program running through NLC Workforce Training and Continuing Education. It has the potential to run summer camps, remote youth trades samplers, maker space activities, and much more.

Tristan Howes, the manager for Montney Operations at CPC, emphasized how important it is for training to be accessible for everyone.

“ConocoPhillips Canada is proud to help make trades training more accessible in Northern B.C. through our sponsorship of the Northern Lights College Mobile Training Unit,” he said. “Strong, sustainable communities start with access to education and skills development, and we’re committed to helping open doors for people to learn and grow close to home.”

NLC Trades has used a mobile training trailer before. However, with new programs and the building of the Trades Training Facility at the Dawson Creek Campus, the equipment has stayed on campus.

Rod Cork, Dean of Trades and Apprenticeships, is excited to see the return of mobile education.

“NLC has had opportunity to travel to community in the past, with a trailer full of exciting things. As our programs evolved and expanded, we migrated that equipment into the delivery of our on-campus Youth Explore Trades programs,” he said. “And now, once again, we are proudly partnered with ConocoPhillips Canada who have supported our vision to again have an amazing trailer full of tools and safety equipment ready to bring learning to you. [Their] support of our programs has a long history, and we are grateful to them for their continued support.”

The Northern Lights College Foundation facilitated the donation on behalf of NLC, which Executive Director Lindsey Borek believes is the perfect example of how partnerships between NLC and industry benefits everyone. “Partnerships are at the heart of Northern Lights College’s mission — they enable us to respond to the evolving needs of our communities, strengthen our programs, and open new doors for students,” said Borek. “By working together, we are building a stronger, more resilient future for Northern British Columbia.”



A Night of Gratitude

CAEES Launch

The launch of the Centre for Applied Energy and Environmental Sustainability (CAEES) represents a powerful example of what is possible when community, industry, and philanthropy come together with a shared purpose. The NLC Foundation was proud to celebrate this milestone alongside our generous donors, whose support continues to expand opportunities for students and strengthen the future of Northeast BC.

Developed over more than two years, CAEES was created to address evolving workforce needs and support the growth of both traditional and emerging energy sectors. Through partnerships with industry and communities, the Centre is advancing training and education that will help alternative energy industries thrive — while continuing to support expertise in natural gas and hydrocarbon resources.

Today, CAEES offers an expanding curriculum that includes programs such as the Field Operator Specialist – Hydrocarbon Resources and the Environmental Site Assessment Technician certificate. These programs reflect a balanced approach to energy education, combining hands-on training with a strong focus on environmental sustainability, renewable energy, and innovations like carbon capture and storage.

For students, this means access to relevant, career-ready education that aligns directly with labour market demands. For industry, it means a skilled workforce prepared not only to meet current needs, but to innovate and adapt as the sector continues to evolve.

Donor support plays a vital role in making this vision a reality. Contributions to the NLC Foundation help ensure that initiatives like CAEES can grow and respond to the changing landscape — supporting applied research, enhancing learning environments, and creating meaningful pathways for students.

As CAEES continues to develop — through expanded programming, industry collaboration, and strategic planning — it stands as a testament to the impact of donor generosity. Together, we are investing in solutions, in people, and in the long-term sustainability and success of our region.



CAEES

Centre for Applied Energy and
Environmental Sustainability

Annual Highlights

■ Dawson Creek and District Community Awards



On November 6, the NLC Foundation attended the Dawson Creek & District Chamber of Commerce Community Awards — an evening celebrating the people and organizations that make our region stronger. We were honoured to be named Non-Profit of the Year 2025, a recognition that reflects the trust and support of our community. Executive Director Lindsey Borek shared, “This award belongs to our community. It reflects every donor, volunteer, and student who is part of this work. When we remove barriers to education, we change lives and strengthen the future of the North. We are honoured to stand alongside so many incredible organizations making a difference.”



■ Giving Day



Our Giving Day campaign started on November 1 with the launch of the 50/50 draw. The campaign continued through the month securing community partners, and a matching donor with Commotion Creek Contracting. They offered to match all donations up to \$1,000.

December 2 was the official Giving Day, with the Foundation team set up at both Fort St John and Dawson Creek campuses to offer cookie decorating, bracelet making, and games and prizes. We also sold cinnamon buns donated by the North Star Grill, and ornaments made by our millwright students. At the end of the day, we surpassed our \$12,000 goal. There was also a lucky winner of the 50/50 who walked away with \$2,572.50.



Annual Highlights

■ Fall Fair



For the second year, the Northern Lights College Foundation hosted the 50/50 raffle and Mega Lottery at the Dawson Creek Exhibition and Stampede. This year's total jackpot reached \$134,095 and was split evenly between the Foundation and the lucky winners. Kayla Von Bargen, Development Officer for the NLC Foundation, expressed her excitement about the event's success. "We're truly grateful to DCEA for having us back again and for the incredible community spirit we experienced at the Fall Fair! Every ticket we sold helps our students, college, and campus communities, and seeing so many people come together to support the NLC Foundation reminds us why this work matters." The Foundation extended its heartfelt thanks to the Dawson Creek Exhibition Association for hosting them, as well as the volunteer groups who provided essential support with ticket sales.



■ Trees of Tomorrow



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, recounted 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.

The Northern Lights College Foundation was recognized at the Canadian Council of Advancement in Education (CCAEE) Prix d'Excellence Celebration for this event. Trees of Tomorrow won bronze in the Best Fundraising Event category.



Annual Highlights

■ DCEA Barn Construction Project



In December of 2024, NLC Trades students began lending their skills to a project that will serve Dawson Creek for generations: building a new horse barn for the Dawson Creek Exhibition Association. Rod Cork, Dean of Trades and Apprenticeship Programs, shared: "Building this barn will create a legacy visible for years. They'll be used for rodeo and community events and provide emergency shelter for animals during evacuations. Our students can take pride knowing they've given back to the community."



■ Race Against Hunger



At Dawson Creek Co-op, the Foundation's Sizzle Squad won first place in the Race Against Hunger, sponsored by Ovintiv and Dawson Creek Co-op. This year's squad included Executive Director Lindsey Borek and board members Aaron Powell, Kathleen Connolly, and Chante Patterson-Elden. All food and funds raised went to Networks Ministries, St. Mark's, and the Pouce Coupe Food Bank. These groups help families, students, and community members who need support. This year, NLC and the NLC Foundation were proud to contribute \$1,000 to help these food banks continue their important work.



Annual Highlights

■ Browns Charity Scramble Golf Tournament



The NLC Foundation was thrilled to be invited back for a second year to participate in the 27th Annual Browns Charity Scramble, where we raised \$8,915 through activities like the Ball Drop and Pick-A-Tee game, made possible by generous sponsors and local businesses. More than a fundraiser, the tournament created space to connect with community partners and highlight the impact of donor support. The Foundation is grateful to the organizers, sponsors, and participants whose continued commitment helps create opportunities for NLC students.



■ Co-op Contractor Expo



On September 18, the NLC Foundation was honoured to volunteer their time and grilling expertise at the annual Co-op Contractor Expo. Serving up more than 250 burgers and hot dogs to contractors and community members, the Foundation was proudly represented by staff and board members. We are grateful for our strong partnership with Co-op and look forward to continuing this valued community connection.

■ NLC Fall Rodeo



September 27 and 28 marked the fourth Annual Intercollegiate Rodeo in Dawson Creek. The weekend was a grand success thanks to our sponsors, athletes, and volunteers. The NLC Foundation hosted the 50/50 draw for the weekend, with NLC staff volunteering their time to sell tickets. The total jackpot for Saturday was \$2,275 with Sunday reaching \$1,320.

Annual Highlights

■ Tread for Trades



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.

■ Tim Hortons Holiday Smile Cookies



From November 17–23, the NLC Foundation was proud to be the beneficiary of Tim Hortons Holiday Smile Cookies in Chetwynd. Foundation staff and board members helped decorate and deliver cookies to local schools, sharing moments of connection and community spirit. With support from Tim Hortons and Conuma Resources, the initiative raised \$5,484 for the NLC Foundation and Tim Hortons Foundation Camps. The Foundation is grateful for the generosity that made this week of smiles possible.

■ Spreading Holiday Cheer at Rotary Manor



On Monday, December 15, the NLC Foundation, with DC Dance Co., braved the blizzarding weather to head up to Rotary Manor and decorate cookies with the residents. DC Dance Co. purchased the cookie boxes through Giving Day and provided them along with the decorations for the dancers and seniors to decorate together.



Giving Back: The Northern Resilience Memorial Fund



The Northern Lights College Foundation, with support from its board, has created an endowment to support the community of Tumbler Ridge. They have named the endowment the Northern Resilience Memorial Fund.

Northern Lights College has been part of Tumbler Ridge since the community's creation in the early 1980's. NLC has adapted and changed along with Tumbler Ridge over the last four decades, supporting students as they navigate both challenges and successes in the community.

Because of our shared history, this fund was created in tribute to those whose lives were lost on February 10, 2026, and in solidarity with the community of Tumbler Ridge. It will give ongoing financial help to Tumbler Ridge residents looking to attend or already attending NLC. All Tumbler Ridge residents, past and current, will be able to apply for these awards when attending NLC.

The Foundation began the fund with a \$1,000 contribution. Starting next year, the earnings will support scholarships and awards for students coming from Tumbler Ridge and attending NLC. The Foundation looks forward to seeing it grow and supporting local students for years to come as they pursue their post-secondary education.

"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.

The Northern Resilience Memorial Fund stands alongside local recovery efforts as a permanent source of support, and an enduring reminder of what can be built when people come together. Community members, businesses, community groups, and alumni are invited to contribute to this legacy. Every donation, large or small, helps build a lasting foundation for Tumbler Ridge students to thrive today and for generations to come.

DONATE TODAY

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

Ways to Donate to the Foundation

The NLC Foundation values donations that promote the success of students and the College. We have many opportunities for donors in a variety of donation types. Our donors can contribute by way of One-Time Awards, Annual Awards, Endowment Awards, Legacy Gifts, and Gifts-In-Kind.

One-Time Award

Award (Minimum contribution of \$500) – A one-time donor's contribution would be awarded once.

Annual Award

(Minimum contribution of \$500) – Annual donors make a contribution once a year in support of a specific interest at Northern Lights College.

Endowment Award

Award (Minimum contribution of \$10,000) – Endowment donors make a gift of capital, which is held in trust, and the return rate (currently 4%*) from the capital donation affords an annual award in perpetuity.

Legacy Gift

You can make a difference for future generations of students with a gift in your will to Northern Lights College Foundation. Your legacy will have a powerful impact — increasing access to education, enhancing teaching and learning, and helping students succeed in our communities. For more information visit nlc.bc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/NLC-Foundation-Next-Steps.pdf.

Gifts-in-Kind

Gifts-in-Kind donors contribute equipment, materials, and services to any program at Northern Lights College.

Giving Day

Giving day is an annual campaign that takes place on Giving Tuesday to raise funds for our students.

**Rate subject to change. Please contact the NLC Foundation to discuss current applicable rate of return on Endowment donations.*





Thank You to our Donors

The Northern Lights College Foundation would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to our generous donors for their continuous support. Your contributions play a crucial role in enhancing educational opportunities and fostering student success at NLC.

We look forward to continuing to work together to assist students on their lifelong journey of learning!

Annual report created in collaboration with the Northern Lights College Marketing and Communications Department.



Northern Lights
College Foundation