



Annual Charity Tribute

Evolve 2021-22

APRIL 1, 2021-MARCH 31, 2022



Northern Lights
College Foundation

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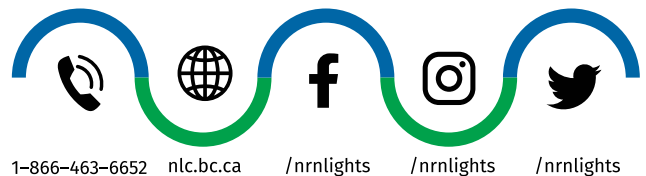
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About This Tribute

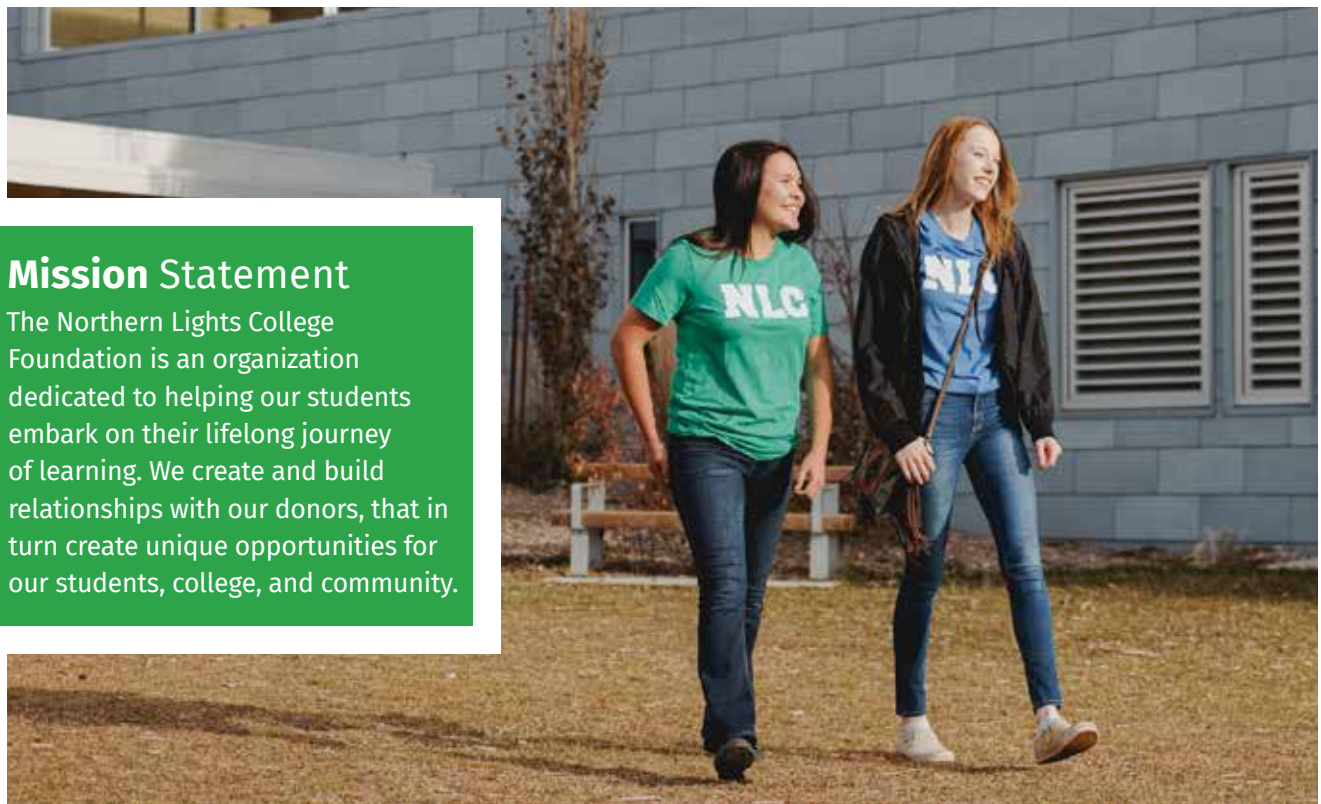
The Northern Lights College Foundation has served our communities for 47 years and continues to support our students, work with our donors and support our institution and staff. This is our first annual report for the Foundation that will recap our activities and accomplishments for the past 2021–22 year.



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About The Foundation

Creating unique opportunities for students, the college, and our community



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, that in turn create unique opportunities for our students, college, and community.

Formed in 1981, the Northern Lights College Foundation has the following three objectives:

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

Members of our Board



Karen Simpson
President (joined 04/18)



Tony Zabinsky
Vice President
(joined 04/16)



Katrina Hustak
Treasurer
(joined 09/21)



Todd Bondaroff
NLC President and CEO
(joined 01/22)



Lou Surerus
Board Member
(joined 11/09)



Shawna-Marie Phillips
Board Member
(joined 05/15)



Lisa Ward
Board Member
(joined 09/20)



Kayla MacDonald
Board Member
(joined 09/21)



(Olu) Donald Fajemisin
Ex-Officio NLC Board
Representative
(joined 10/21)



Jody Schmidt
Board Member
(joined 05/22)



Travis Hebert
Board Member
(joined 05/22)

Message from the President

Karen Simpson—President—NLC Foundation

Northern Lights College Foundation has been an anchor in northern British Columbia for 47 years and serves an area covering more than 324,000 square kilometres.

I am honoured to serve as President of the Northern Lights College Foundation, and to help lead it forward as we work to support students and the college at large. The Foundation was created in 1981 to provide and create opportunities beyond what public funding could do, and offer resources to Northern Lights College.

At the foundation, we provide scholarships, bursaries, and awards to deserving students. We also support a broad range of special projects involving education, training, trades, and economic development at the college and in the community, as well as provide emergency funding to our students who may be experiencing unforeseen circumstances or crises.

We are very proud of the impact that we have been able to have on our students and communities over the past 41 years, and continue to build our foundation and investments for our students, college, and community. Last year alone we helped over 221 students and provided over \$300,000 in financial support to our students here at NLC.

Thank you to all our donors for your ongoing commitment to our college and students. We are truly grateful for you and look forward to another great year.



Meet our Team



Lindsey Borek—Executive Director

As the Executive Director, I oversee the Northern Lights College Foundation’s Board of Directors, office team, stakeholder engagement, program management, strategic planning and donor recruitment. I also work with my team to ensure that we are meeting the expectations of our board and our institution, and that our roles are tailored to our strengths to ensure we meet and exceed our goals.



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, issuing support requests, preparing annual funding reports, 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.



Amanda Aven—Foundation Clerk

The newly created role of Foundation Clerk is evolving with the Foundation. A large function of my role is to construct marketing and promotional content for the Foundation’s newsletter and other social media and communication projects between donors, students, and community. I frequently collaborate with NLC’s Marketing team to promote Foundation awards, events and opportunities for current and perspective students! Other aspects of my role are Foundation event support and providing various administrative supports to the Executive Director.



5th Annual NIC Service Awards

Gala

Message from the Executive Director

Taking time to reflect and look back on 2021–22 truly shows many successes and steps forward for the Northern Lights College Foundation. As we continued to navigate the pandemic, we were able to move forward and continue to build and grow the Foundation.

Thank you to everyone who continues to help us along the way—from our stakeholders, to our donors, students, board and staff—we are truly grateful for each and every one of you and look forward to what the next year will bring.

To recap 2021–22 here are a few things we have been doing at the Foundation:

- **Mission Statement** - was created that truly reflects the work of the Foundation and what we hope to accomplish and attain.
- **Strategic Plan** - completed a three-year Strategic plan for the Foundation to provide us with a clear direction that we can work towards. Staff were able to sit and operationalize this plan to start in 2022, and move it forward.
- **Staffing** - hired a new staff member, Amanda Aven, as the Foundation's Clerk.
- **Board** - recruited and onboarded four new board members.
- **Rebrand** - worked with our marketing team to create a new look for the Foundation that better aligns with Northern Lights College and the Foundation.
- **Donor Recognition Wall** - secured the funding and design for the donor wall which will be completed fall 2022.
- **Virtual Awards Ceremony** - worked with marketing and created a virtual award ceremony for our



students to recognize all their achievements throughout the year. In light of the pandemic, we took this virtual and engaged our students, donors and staff along the way.

- **AwardSpring** - started working on a new awards platform for our students, to streamline the application and adjudication process. This should be launched in fall 2022.
- **Award Agreements** - worked with our legal team to update our award agreements and templates for the Foundation.

Taking time to reflect is key and helps us to pause amongst the chaos, untangle and sort through, and create meaning. Reflecting on this past year, the word that defined the Foundation was “Evolution”. We recognized the value and impact the Foundation has in our communities, and built on this through different avenues while working on evolving the Foundation in the forward direction.

Looking to next year, having all this in place and continuing to evolve, the word that will best define our journey would be “transformation”. In 2022–23 the Foundation will start to transform and adapt while rolling out our strategic plan and goals, and implementing our new platforms and policies.

Thank you for being part of our journey and helping us along the way. We look forward to another year filled with successes and transformation.

Sincerely, **Lindsey Borek**
Executive Director
Northern Lights College Foundation

Reflections on 2021–22

New Awards Created: 14 

.....
Endowments: 3 

.....
Annual Awards: 9 

.....
One-Time Projects: 2 


.....
TOTAL VALUE:
\$225,500.00 

.....
New Donors: 5 

.....
Students Assisted: 200+ 

Funds Distributed to Students:
\$297,528.67 

.....
Emergency Funding Distributed:
\$35,935.16 

.....
One-Time Project
Funding Received **\$26,500.00** 

Recognizing Our Recipients—Each year, the NLC Foundation aims to recognize our donors and students with a celebration of achievements! In light of the pandemic, the 2021–22 celebratory events were held virtually. NLC campuses boasted a month-long display noting Foundation donors and their award’s recipients. We look forward to in-person events in the 2022–23 year!



In 2021, the NLC Foundation established the four pillars of our strategic plan to fulfill—2022 through 2025.

The pillars encompass the Foundation’s intent to:



expand financial support and access for students;



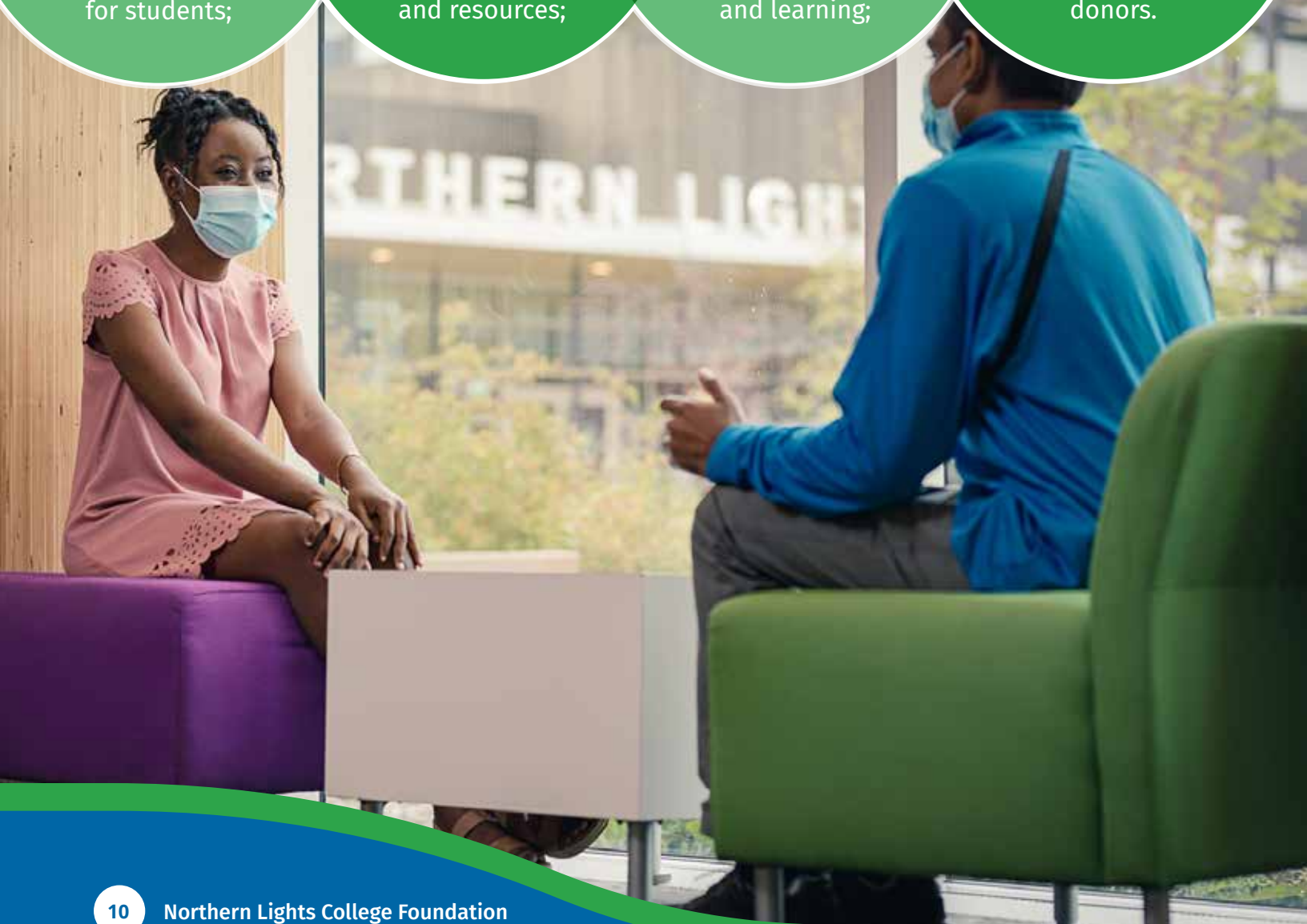
ensure sustainable internal capacity and resources;



broaden the scope of support for teaching and learning;



cultivate and engage donors.



Capturing Donation Impacts with Students



Meesha Beaulieu - Current Student

What program did you enrol in?

Please specify anticipated graduation.

I am currently enrolled in the Social Services Worker Diploma Program. I will be completing my course in April 2023, so anticipate having my graduation ceremony in June 2023.

Why did you choose Northern Lights College?

I chose Northern Lights College because it offered the Social Services Worker Diploma Program and allowed me to continue living and working in Dawson Creek. NLC also offered many resources that were available to help me attend.

What awards did you receive?

I received the following awards in the 2021–22 year:

- BC Oil & Gas Commission Indigenous Education University Arts and Sciences Scholarship
- Northern First Nations Health Partnership Committee Health and Wellness Award
- Ovintiv Indigenous Student Award
- Pacific Canbriam Energy Limited University Arts & Sciences Award
- Storm Resources Education Award for Indigenous Women
- Indigenous Student Academic Writing Award

How did receiving the awards impact your learning journey?

Receiving these awards has been tremendously helpful to my learning journey as they helped pay for many additional expenses. I am a homeowner, and they helped

pay for some large expenses—such as home insurance and property taxes—that I could not have paid for otherwise, as I was only able to work part-time during this program. Receiving them was also great for my confidence; it reminded me that my hard work in this program is noticed, and the struggles are worth it.

What are your future career/education aspirations? Has receiving the award(s) impacted your interest to continue education in future?

My future education aspirations are to continue my education by enrolling in the Bachelor of Social Work Degree program at the University of Northern British Columbia and eventually go on to earn a Masters in this field. My goal is to work with Indigenous people and communities post-graduation. I am extremely passionate about my Indigenous culture, and feel I can make a positive difference in being an advocate and voice for Indigenous people. Some fields that I would like to pursue are mental health and addictions, helping people to gain various life skills, and working with Indigenous women and youth. I intend to incorporate the skills



and knowledge learned from this program with traditional modalities of healing learned from elders that I meet along this journey.



Capturing Donation Impacts with Students

Laurenz Sandoval - 2022 Graduate

**What program did you enrol in?
Please specify anticipated graduation.**

My program was Land and Water Resource Diploma. I began in September 2020, and finished in June 2022. I recently graduated on June 13, 2022, in Fort St. John and was also selected as the Class Valedictorian of 2022.

Why did you choose Northern Lights College?

I chose Northern Lights College because they offer an affordable tuition fee compared to other colleges in Canada. I also did some research and found that the cost of living in Fort St. John is much cheaper compared to cities like Vancouver and Toronto. Another reason is that my former colleague was studying at Northern Lights College at that time, and she helped me in the process of coming here to Canada.

What awards did you receive?



I received three awards, which were applied during the 2021–22 school year. The awards include the BC Oil and Gas Commission Award, the NLC Student Association and Council Award, and the Paul

Dampier Student Leadership Award. I applied for the BC Oil & Gas Commission Award and the NLC Student Association and Council Awards, while I was nominated for my Paul Dampier Student Leadership Award by my Student Experience Officer, Teresa.

How did receiving the awards impact your learning journey?

The awards encouraged me to study more so I can qualify for other awards that require a much higher grade. The awards that I received helped my financial situation because I was struggling with money at the time. The money was used to get tickets for my Occupational First Aid and H2S Alive training which is required for my work practicum.

What are your future career/education aspirations? Has receiving the award(s) impacted your interest to continue education in future?

I want to pursue a career opportunity in the field I studied, which is what really happened. I was hired as a Junior Project Scientist at SNC-Lavalin Fort St. John. The awards I received, such as the BC Oil & Gas Commission Award, helped me land the job because they work on various BCOGC projects. Right now, I am handling 12 BCOGC sites for which I am doing an electromagnetic survey. The awards I received have influenced me positively to be more proactive and perform well more during the time of my studies.

One-Time Projects

Importance of this lab and overall impact on the program?

With Power Engineering, the chemistry, cleanliness and testing of the boiler water and steam throughout the steam cycle is one of the mainstays of the Power Engineers' daily job activities. It is of utmost importance that each individual responsible for maintaining water treatment be well-versed and knowledgeable in the sampling and testing of the boiler water. The chemical lab needs to be current and set up safely, to maintain the integrity of the program.

How many students use this lab?

Normally we have an intake of 16 students per term. There will be four students in the lab at any one time and there will always be two that are participating in boiler water sampling and testing in the chem lab.

Longevity of the lab?

Due to the current age of the boiler lab and its associated equipment, NLC is choosing to upgrade each section in a chronological order. Since the boiler lab and its chemistry is vitally important to the program, and due to the fact that most of the equipment and chemicals were dated (spent), we needed to put the chem lab as a high priority item. With this past upgrade, the lab chemicals and equipment in this section have a new life cycle which will last for years to come.

Benefits of project funding for our programs?

Project funding provides a safer place for the students to work in and reflects newly-revised course materials to ensure that the students are receiving quality education in their field. It also keeps students current to new processes being introduced to industry— especially with electronic testing analyzers. Project funding also helps aid in KPI's and assessments, and esthetically in the overall look within our facilities and program areas.



The NLC Foundation connects donors to classrooms with one-time project opportunities. Projects of any scale are monumental to the educational experiences of NLC students! Donors may choose to contribute funding to improve program equipment (to acquire new equipment, or update well-worn resources), gift-in-kind materials or equipment in a program of their choosing, and even services that touch on the educational scope!

In 2021, the Foundation tethered one-time project funding to the water treatment lab in the Power Engineering program! William Sambrook (NLC's Power Engineering instructor) speaks highly of the educational benefits this lab will provide for current and future students for years to come!



Connecting With Donors

A bit about the company: Peace River Hydro Partners (PRHP) holds the main civil works contract for the Site C Dam Clean Energy Project. PRHP has completed two river diversion tunnels, an RCC buttress (which includes 1.7 million m³ of roller compacted concrete), and is working to complete the earthfill dam.



Why you donate: PRHP values being a part of the local Peace region community, and is honoured to be part of a legacy project as big as Site C. We are proud to be a good neighbor, and part of that is supporting the community in which we live and work—both now and for the future. PRHP supports education initiatives as part of our corporate values, as we know that sometime education can be challenging to access. If we can help open up access to education programs, or remove some of the barriers to entry, then we can help to get more students into the construction and trades industries, which benefits everyone.

PRHP raises funds for our community investment program through our site-wide recycling program, which is driven by our workers. Many of our workers grew up in families that benefited from community and charitable programs. Their dedicated support of our recycling program to help raise these funds for donation, allow them to pay forward some of the support they themselves received as children, which creates a very full-circle experience. We feel that we have a responsibility to uphold corporate values that are an extension of the values of our workforce, and we are incredibly proud of the teamwork and effort that goes into our recycling program—and also our

community investment program. It is an honour to be able to donate and help others.

What made you pick the NLC Foundation for your donation? PRHP has a wonderful relationship with Northern Lights College. We have worked together on many occasions, whether for recruiting, or developing apprentice or training programs, or for the Youth Changing Tomorrow Conference. Working with the foundation was a natural extension of our work with the college. PRHP was very appreciative of the Foundation for allowing us a high level of control with our scholarships so that we could really customize the structure to align with our corporate values, and focus on making the scholarships as inclusive as possible (to maximize the number of students who could apply). It was also very important to PRHP that we could structure the scholarships in such a way that they would contribute to the legacy of PRHP and the Site C project, and continue on in perpetuity.

What do you hope the recipients gain from your award? Committing to an education program is a big life decision, and completing it a big milestone. We want the recipients to know that we believe in them, we support them, and we want them to succeed in building a better tomorrow for themselves and their families.

Coming soon to the Northern Lights College Foundation - *AwardSpring!*

The Northern Lights College (NLC) Foundation is excited to announce that *AwardSpring* will be introduced to NLC students in the 2022–23 academic year! *AwardSpring* is a digital award management platform that streamlines the award application and adjudication process for NLC students and staff by matching students to all available awards, scholarships, and bursaries they are eligible to apply for from the NLC Foundation. During each award cycle, students simply sign in to the *AwardSpring* software and complete their online application. Going digital not only increases the

visibility and efficiency of awards held with the Northern Lights College Foundation, but this is also a significant step toward paper-free processes and increasing the number of eligible applicants!

The benefits of *AwardSpring* come full circle—by reducing the time spent on award applications, students will be able to focus on their studies and school/life balance, while utilizing the platform to maximize and expedite their application process. Overhead costs are reduced with the removal of paper applications, leaving more funds available

for improvements and other projects! A step-by-step tutorial will be available to students year-round, simplifying the process for applicants of all technical capabilities! *AwardSpring* has been an ongoing project behind the scenes at the foundation for a while, and it promises many benefits for the NLC community!





The Northern Lights College Foundation would like to thank our donors for their contributions that greatly improve the educational experiences of students at NLC. Without your support, many students would not be able to enroll in their studies, access modern and relevant equipment, and receive the encouraging recognition that reflects the efforts through their education journey!

We look forward to sharing the successes of our transformation in the 2022-23 year!

Annual report created in collaboration with the Northern Lights College Marketing department.