



Northern Lights  
College Foundation



*Annual Charity Tribute*

# Transformation

APRIL 1, 2022–MARCH 31, 2023

2022–2023



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*Annual Charity Tribute*

## Transformation

APRIL 1, 2022-MARCH 31, 2023

2022-2023

### ABOUT THIS TRIBUTE

The Northern Lights College Foundation has served our communities for 48 years and continues to support our students, work with our donors, and support our institution and staff. We are pleased to share our second annual report for the Foundation – to recap our activities and accomplishments for the past 2022-2023 year!

### ON THIS COVER

Warren Robb recipient of the Nathan Smith Memorial Award, presented by Lindsey Borek, NLC Foundation Executive Director.

[nlc.bc.ca/nlc-foundation](http://nlc.bc.ca/nlc-foundation)



## 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.

## ABOUT THE FOUNDATION

### Foundation Objectives

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

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



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# MEMBERS OF OUR BOARD



**Tony Zabinsky**  
Chair  
(Joined 04/2016)



**Lou Surerus**  
Vice-Chair  
(Joined 11/2009)



**Katrina Hustak**  
Treasurer  
(Joined 09/2021)



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



**(Olu) Donald Fajemisin**  
Ex-Officio  
NLC Board Rep.  
(Joined 10/2021)



**Travis Hebert**  
Board Member  
(Joined 05/2022)



**Kayla MacDonald**  
Board Member  
(Joined 09/2021)



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



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



**Aaron Powell**  
Board Member  
(Joined 09/2022)



**Jody Schmidt**  
Board Member  
(Joined 05/2022)



**Lisa Ward**  
Board Member  
(Joined 09/2020)

# MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

**Tony ZABINSKY**  
Chair



Most people know a little about the Northern Lights College Foundation and what we support.

As the Chair of this great Foundation, in collaboration with our Board, we lead the development and execution of the Foundation strategies, ensuring they align with the Foundation's mission statement. We look at various approaches to identify long and short-term needs and opportunities of Northern Lights College students. Our successes come from joining with local donors, partnerships, and alumni to successfully attain these goals.

The Northern Lights College Foundation is available to any individual, group or company who would like to contribute to Northern Lights College and its students. These generosityes make the College stronger and more vibrant! At the Foundation, we want to ensure all stakeholders can create a legacy that supports

our students for today, tomorrow, and for the future.

I enjoy the Peace Region and what it provides to the local communities within it. We are fortunate to have Northern Lights College in our region, and I am committed to the students it supports. I continue to work with our Board in order to ensure we make a profound difference to our students' journey with this institution. This organization relies on the support of our contributors to remain strong and engaged.

Thank you to existing Foundation supporters! I look forward to working with you and future donors in building our Foundation. We want you to be a successful part of our solutions.

*Sincerely,* Tony Zabinsky  
Chair



# MEET OUR TEAM

Executive Director



## Lindsey BOREK

As the Executive Director, I oversee the Northern Lights College Foundation's Board of Directors and our office team. My other areas of focus include stakeholder engagement, project management, strategic planning, as well as recruitment and retention of alumni and donors. I also collaborate with my team to ensure that we are meeting the College's expectations to streamline the student journey. The implementation of Astra, our award application platform, has simplified the application process for awards, scholarships, and bursaries; and has proven to be a valuable tool for donor reporting. This past year, the roles and responsibilities of the Foundation have truly transformed — allowing us to learn and grow while connecting with stakeholders and supporting our students through their educational journey.

Donations Coordinator



## Billie-Jo CRANDALL

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. The implementation of Astra has transformed the award application process and increased award accessibility for our students. 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

As the Communication and Event Specialist, I oversee the Foundation's communication and event logistics. The quarterly newsletter, features and story-telling pieces, donor and award recipient interviews, and presentation creation are part of my duties that help the Foundation succeed in achieving our goals and have a strong presence in the NLC communities! I work closely with NLC's Marketing and Communications department, collaborating on media, design, and reporting projects. There are many new and exciting events occurring at the NLC Foundation all the time, and sharing the experiences of our students, donors, and staff connections is very fulfilling!



Communications and Event Specialists

## MEET OUR TEAM

## Kayla VON BARGEN

As the Foundation Clerk, I am typically the first point of contact for various inquiries from donors, students, and staff to the Northern Lights College Foundation. A large function of my role is to provide administrative support to the Executive Director. This role is transforming as the Northern Lights College Foundation grows, so each day offers an opportunity for learning and working with our team!



Foundation Clerk



# MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



## Lindsey BOREK

### Executive Director

Looking back on 2022/2023, it feels like time flew by – so taking this time to breathe and reflect is truly a testament to all we have accomplished and overcome here at the Foundation.

This would not have been possible without the support from our stakeholders, donors, students, board, and amazing staff. We are so honoured and humbled to have such amazing partners that help make this journey a success.

To recap 2022/2023, here are a couple things we have been doing at the Foundation:

#### Students

- Launched Astra, our new online award application platform for our students, and saw a significant increase in applications for our January 25 General Award application deadline.
- Participated in multiple student orientations to share information about the Foundation.
- Recognized award recipients on each campus for 2022/2023.

#### Athletics & Recreation

- Signed a MOU (Memorandum Of Understanding) with the Dawson Creek Kodiaks to support Junior B hockey in Dawson Creek and create a partnership that is mutually beneficial for the Foundation, NLC, and the Kodiaks.
- Supported Northern Lights College and Engage Sport North in hosting BC's first Intercollegiate Rodeo held October 8 and 9, 2022 and attained sponsorship funding to help create a successful event.

#### Staffing

- Created, posted, and filled a Communication and Event Specialist position within the Foundation. Amanda Aven transitioned from Foundation Clerk into this new role.
- Hired a new Foundation Clerk – Kayla Von Bargaen.

#### Policy

- Completed an Asset Management Review for NLC and built out a Naming Policy for NLC and the NLC Foundation.

#### Alumni

- Agreed to take on the Alumni portfolio and started working to build out the Alumni program for NLC.

Pausing in the middle, and taking time to look back at how far we have come, is one of the most important things we can do and the best way to grow. It helps us to identify our struggles, celebrate our successes, and identify our path forward. Reflecting on this past year, the word that defined the Foundation was transformation. We truly have made a conscious decision to invest in and diversify the Foundation in many ways from processes to platforms, and staff, in turn transforming the Foundation.

“Transformation is an ongoing process that tends to appear ordinary, when in fact, something extraordinary is taking place.”  
– Suzy Ross

Looking to 2023/2024, having all this in place and continuing the transformation – the word that would best define our journey would be diversify. In 2023/2024, the Foundation will start to diversify our business and explore new pathways for success.

Thank you for being an integral part in our transformation this past year. We look forward to another great year.

*Sincerely,*

**Lindsey Borek**

Executive Director

Northern Lights College Foundation





# REFLECTING ON 2022-2023

Recognizing Our Recipients — Each year, the NLC Foundation aims to recognize our donors and students with a celebration of achievements! NLC campuses boasted a month-long display noting Foundation donors and their award's recipients. Congratulations to all award recipients in the 2022-2023 year.

## Number of New Awards Created



New Endowments: 1



New Annual Awards: 7



New One-Time Projects: 2



Total of New Awards Created: 10

## New Award Contribution Values



Endowments: **\$16,005.00**



Annual Awards: **\$12,550.00**



One-Time Projects: **\$2,545.00**



Total Contribution Values of New Awards: **\$31,100.00**



Number of New Donors: 5



Number of Students Assisted: 233



Total Funds Distributed to Students: **\$292,430.99**



Emergency Funding Distributed: **\$ 25,630.00**



Capital Projects and Program Funding: **\$50,900.00**



Number of Applicants for Awards: 493



Increase in Number of Applicants From Prior Year: 56.01%

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.



# STUDENT STORIES

## **Why did you choose Northern Lights College?**

*I love that Northern Lights College has a small class size for optimized learning, dedicated instructors, and reliable learning support services. The involvement of the student council and student leaders makes NLC a conducive learning community.*

## **What award(s) did you receive?**

- Jim Kassen Legacy Award
- NLC Student Association and Council Award
- Alma VanDusen Bursary

## **How did receiving the award(s) impact your learning journey?**

*Receiving the awards provided a relief knowing that part of the tuition fees were already raised through the awards. It made me feel so grateful to the generous efforts of the donors and NLC Foundation.*

## **What are your future career/education aspirations?**

*I am exploring to pursue the accounting option diploma program and perhaps be an instructor someday.*

## **Do you have any words to share with current or future NLC Students?**

*I only read names from the award list before, it is awesome to actually see my name on the list! I just spent time to apply, did the essays, and answered truthfully. You can do it too! Let nothing be in the way in pursuing your educational goals.*

## **If applicable, how has receiving the award(s) impacted your interest to continue education in future?**

*It inspired me to pursue my learning goals all the more, knowing that awards are available and accessible. I will definitely continue my educational goals in the near future.*



## **Rosemarie LEE**

**Graduate of Business Management  
Certificate in June 2023,  
Fort St. John Valedictorian**

# STUDENT STORIES



**Grettel VILLA**

Graduate of Social Services Worker  
Diploma in May 2023

## **Why did you choose Northern Lights College?**

*Northern Lights College stood out for its strong community support and significant international student population. NLC has one of the most affordable tuitions among colleges in Canada while also offering a wide number of programs with promising career options and easy transferability to universities for further studies.*

## **What award(s) did you receive?**

- Aaron Good Memorial Award
- Kinsmen Club of Dawson Creek Award
- Alma VanDusen Bursary

## **How did receiving the award(s) impact your learning journey?**

*Receiving the award validated the hard work I have put in for my studies while balancing all the other roles I needed to fulfill. It made me feel valued and supported as a student of NLC. It is an affirmation that I made the right choice of school and program. It is also an encouragement to keep pushing toward my dreams and inspire others to pursue theirs.*

## **What are your future career/education aspirations?**

*I plan to pursue a career supporting children's and women's mental health.*

## **Do you have any words to share with current or future NLC Students?**

*NLC values you! The college wants you to succeed in your chosen program and has many support services in place for students. Go ahead and explore these services. The foundation, in particular, has made it easier for students to apply for awards through Astra. Take advantage of these opportunities.*

## **If applicable, how has receiving the award(s) impacted your interest to continue education in future?**

*It has definitely opened my eyes to possibilities. I am considering furthering my education toward a bachelor's degree in Social Work sometime in the future, to be better qualified in helping others.*

# STUDENT STORIES

## What award(s) did you receive?

- Conoco Phillips Canada Award (Indigenous)
- Dawson Creek Campus Staff Award
- Dominion Energy Canada Ltd. Award (Indigenous)
- Eileen McKone Memorial Award
- NLC Student Association and Council Award
- Alma VanDusen Bursary
- Dawson Creek Society for Community Living Award
- Paul Dampier Student Leadership Award

## How did receiving the award(s) impact your learning journey?

Receiving the awards that I did helped me a tremendous amount with significant homeowner expenses and other living expenses that I could not afford to save for while in school full time and working a minimum wage part-time job. The awards that I received, and was nominated for, also helped me with my confidence. It felt amazing to be recognized for all the hard work that I put in and challenges that I faced while pursuing my studies.

## What are your future career/education aspirations?

My future education aspirations are to obtain my bachelors, then masters degree, in Social Work, Indigenous specialization. I hope to continue the work of decolonizing the Social Work practice and help empower Indigenous people to heal through culture and reclamation of their unique identities.

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

Do not be afraid to be who you are, and if you are unsure, start your journey to reclaim that. Be proud of who you are and where you come from. Create space for those who will come after you. Always lead with, listen to, and follow your spirit. Show up for yourself everyday and just keep going because it will all be worth it once you get there.

## If applicable, how has receiving the award(s) impacted your interest to continue education in the future?

Receiving these awards encouraged me to keep going in my education journey because it was a reminder that hard work is recognized. When you put in the work to achieve your goals, money is not as large of a barrier as it seemed to be at the beginning. There are ways to achieve your dreams — if you start on that path, the help will come along the way.



## Meesha BEAULIEU

Graduate of Social Services Worker  
Diploma in 2023,  
Dawson Creek Valedictorian

# CONNECTING WITH DONORS: PACIFIC CANBRIAM ENERGY LIMITED

## What award(s) have you created with the Northern Lights College Foundation?

Since becoming a sponsor in 2012, Pacific Canbriam Energy Limited has been delighted to sponsor six award categories in partnership with the Northern Lights College Foundation.

These awards include:

- New Student Aboriginal
- HCA & SSWD
- Oil & Gas Field Operations
- Oil & Gas Field Operations - Aboriginal
- Trades
- University Arts & Sciences.

## Tell us a bit about you/your company.

Pacific Canbriam Energy Limited is a leading exploration and production company focused on finding and developing over-pressured, liquid rich natural gas resources in the Western Canadian Sedimentary Basin. This distinguished certification confirms Pacific Canbriam's leadership in the use of innovative and transparent practices and processes to produce some of the world's most sustainable and responsible natural gas. Pacific Canbriam will supply BC's Woodfibre LNG project, which will liquefy the natural gas that will be shipped overseas to help supply a growing demand for lower emission sources of energy.

## Why did you choose NLC Foundation for your donation?

With our field operations in Northeastern BC, partnering with the NLC Foundation seemed like a natural fit for Pacific Canbriam Energy Limited. By supporting education initiatives in the communities in which we operate, means we can help play a part in developing a skilled local



**PACIFIC**  
CANBRIAM ENERGY

workforce. We believe that identifying opportunities for community education is key to ensuring long-term sustainable and inclusive training.

## What do you hope the recipient gains from your award?

We hope that each student feels valued and recognized upon receiving these training awards. One of the primary reasons we got involved with the NLC Foundation is to support local students in the community. We hope that being selected for each award helps to lessen some of the financial pressures that come with college education, therefore allowing students to focus more on their education and family commitments.

## Do you have any words/advice for students?

Never give up on your training and education. While it might be very challenging at times, the rewards you will reap in return for education will speak for themselves once your training is complete.

# WAYS TO GIVE



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

### **One-Time Award (Minimum contribution of \$100)**

A one-time donors' contribution would be awarded once.

**Annual Award (Minimum contribution of \$100)** Annual donors make a contribution awarded on an annual basis in support of a specific interest at Northern Lights College.

### **Endowment Award (Minimum contribution of \$2,500)**

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.

### **Gifts-in-Kind**

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

All donations are gratefully acknowledged.

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



In the spring of 2023, the Enbridge Trades Support Fund assisted in sending seven students to Skills Canada BC Competition in Abbotsford, BC.

*Enbridge's generosity and commitment to education has enabled our students to be present on the national stage. Northern BC has a wealth of talent and ability that Skills Canada, Enbridge and NLC wanted to see showcased across — not only our region, but all of Canada. Competitors who attended the national Skills competitions this year performed well above the national average and brought home experiences and achievements which will last them a lifetime!*

*There are few opportunities which expand the capacity of an individual as much as a high-level practical skills competition. From Carpentry to Esthetics, our competitors brought their "A" game and showed the country what we were made of. Thank you, Enbridge, and the Enbridge Trades Support Fund, for helping make dreams and experiences come true!*



**Rodney Cork**  
Associate Dean, Trades and Apprenticeship, Northern Lights College

# THE LAUNCH OF ASTRA

The NLC Foundation launched our virtual award application platform “Astra,” in December 2022. The platform introduced revolutionary convenience and streamlined processes for both students and NLC staff! Astra automatically matches applicants to all awards fitting eligibility. Previously, our students had to read through and decipher which of the Foundation’s 200+ awards they were (at the time of investigating) eligible to apply for. Students then completed paper applications for each and every award they intended to apply for. Following the award deadline, NLC’s Financial Aid and NLC Foundation teams collaborated to adjudicate and award students each award cycle, reading through every paper application — a lengthy process, which would delay deserving students from life-changing financial support!



“ *I feel Astra has made a big difference in the lives of our students. Digital award application has saved them time, and time is precious for all students! Award applicants no longer have to search hundreds of possibilities — Astra does it for them! It has improved efficiency for staff, saving time by eliminating scanning paper award applications, making spreadsheets, and tracking students and data. I love the ease of having everything on one screen, and the information we need to support students is smooth to navigate. This platform has been great — I really love how user-friendly and attractive the whole platform is!* ”

**Rochelle Galbraith**  
Financial Aid Officer, Northern Lights College





# COMMUNITY PROJECT FUNDING



The NLC Foundation has funding available to support events happening in the NLC communities!

**2023 National Indigenous Day**  
**Peace Valley Folk Fest**



# EVENTS OF NOTE



## **Kodiaks Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Signed**

– In November 2022, the NLC Foundation created a partnership between NLC and the Dawson Creek Kodiaks hockey team to increase recruitment and awareness of NLC scholarships available, while supporting the Kodiaks team.



## **Intercollegiate Rodeo**

– The NLC Foundation worked with sponsors who contributed a total of \$58,000 to the event. The NLC Intercollegiate Rodeo was BC's first intercollegiate rodeo and was a huge success! The 2023 rodeo will be held September 30 and October 1, at the Lakota Agriplex in Dawson Creek.

# TRANSFORMING NLC FOUNDATION MEDIA



Over the past year, the NLC Foundation has been more visible on social media and has communicated more with our students, college community, and donors. As part of our regular communications plans, we now issue a quarterly newsletter, participate in both in-person and virtual orientation for new students, issue award campaigns, promote Foundation Fact Fridays on socials (bi-weekly), publish our annual report, and feature donors' and students' sharing stories. At the Foundation, we believe it is beneficial to all areas of the NLC community to share more in-depth accounts of the journey for award recipients, and donors; as well as general updates on what we are doing! This year, we observed record awareness of the award opportunities for students at our institution with the increased presence in various media. In the upcoming year, we will continue to work in partnership with NLC's Marketing and Communications Department to create vibrant and purposeful content. We strive to continue this important aspect of supporting NLC communities in consideration of feedback we receive from our donors, students, and staff! We look forward to sharing with you in the 2023-2024 year!



To stay up to date on all things "Foundation," follow us on social media!



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## Coming to the Foundation:

The NLC Foundation continues to work toward achieving the pillars of our strategic plan! As we look toward the 2023–2024 year, there are many exciting projects.

- The NLC Foundation has launched a new fundraising tool! Supporters will have the opportunity to purchase 50/50 tickets at various NLC Foundation events. Proceeds of each draw will go to numerous projects and areas of need. If you would like to explore the option of a NLC Foundation 50/50 raffle to support an award or event, please reach out to our team.
- Alumni is moving to the NLC Foundation! We are working on expanding NLC's alumni community and communications in the upcoming year.
- Our donor wall is in the works! The NLC Foundation will be announcing the unveiling of our donor wall in the 2023–2024 year. We truly value our donors and look forward to showcasing this amazing piece in the upcoming months!

## THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS

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, or receive the encouraging recognition that reflects the efforts through their education journey!

We look forward to sharing with you how the Northern Lights College Foundation continues to diversify in the 2023-2024 year!

## LOOKING TO THE FUTURE





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



Northern Lights  
College Foundation