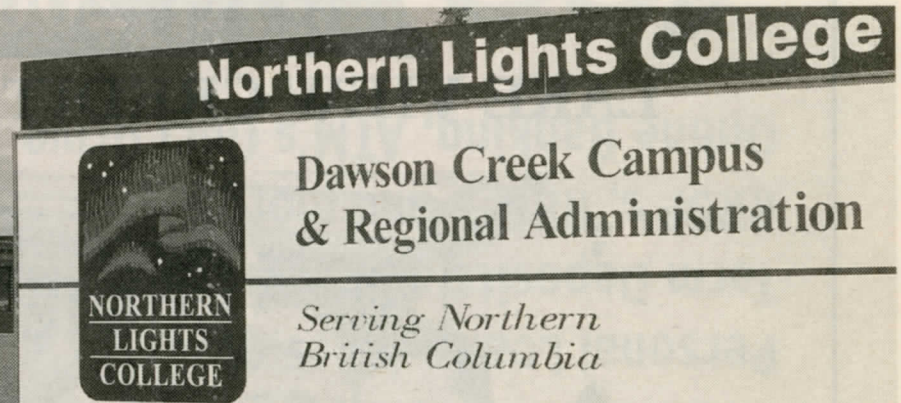
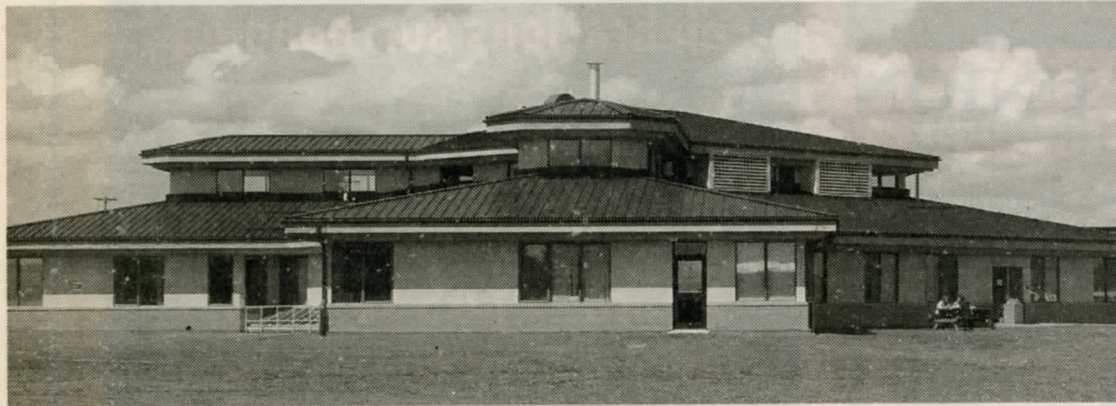


NLC

Northern Lights College serves students in an area covering more than 308,000 square kilometres in northern British Columbia. NLC offers a variety of programming in trades, technical, vocational, university arts and sciences, adult upgrading/ training, and Workforce Training/ Continuing Education. Staff members at NLC utilize a combination of in-person, videoconference, and online instruction models, as well as mobile training facilities to bring quality, affordable education to students throughout the northern third of the province.

Northern Lights College is an institution "where learning works", and it is an important resource for residents in northern British Columbia who would like to: learn skills needed in business or industry; earn a competitive wage; contribute to the economic growth of their communities; or change the quality of life for their families.

NLC has eight campuses: Atlin, Chetwynd, Dawson Creek, Dease Lake, Fort Nelson, Fort St. John, Hudson's Hope and Tumbler Ridge. For information on NLC or any of its programs, call the main switchboard at 250-782-5251 or toll-free 1-866-463-6652.



Northern Lights College - A history

Northern Lights College can trace its beginning to the time when the Canadian government built the Mid Canada Line, an electronic defence against airborne attack over the north.

The line's western-most Sector Control Station was constructed in Dawson Creek, and was operational from 1956-64. When this military station closed, it was purchased by the provincial government and converted into a vocational school.

The BC Vocational School-Dawson Creek opened in

A COLLEGE CHRONICLE:

- 1976: - • Programs started at the Chetwynd centre, which also served Hudson's Hope. Office space was rented in the Chetwynd Motor Hotel, and programs were conducted in the Native Friendship Centre and the high school.
- School District 60 voted to join the College, effective April 1, 1977.
- The Fort Nelson centre started education work with Prophet River First Nations.
- The Atlin facility opened, administered by the Fort Nelson centre.

1985:

- Regional Administration took over the former Business Careers building in Dawson Creek, after the Campus Centre opened.
- The Dease Lake centre opened in portables owned by SD a87.
- A new Chetwynd centre opened on SD 59 property, in portables that had been in Dawson Creek.

1986:

- The Cassiar facility moved into the town's administration building.

2001:

- A temporary drilling rig was erected at the Fort St. John campus as a training and demonstration facility.
- The Community Garden opened on the Dawson Creek campus.
- The Roy Cunningham Aboriginal Student Resource Centre opened on the Fort St. John campus.

2003:

- The Tumbler Ridge campus moved into joint facilities with Tumbler Ridge Secondary

September 1966, serving primarily the Peace River region. The curriculum for the new school was divided into two areas: pre-employment and pre-apprenticeship.

In 1974, a Regional Advisory Committee was formed by the provincial government to investigate creating a community college in the north. The college would serve the areas of Dawson Creek, Fort St. John, Fort Nelson, Chetwynd, and the Stikine/ Cassiar region (that area was serviced by the Alaska Highway, and by air from Fort Nelson).

In May 1975, a new "Northeastern Community College" was created through an Order-in-Council. The legislation authorized School Districts 59, 81, and 87 to participate in establishing a college that would be based in Dawson Creek and would serve the northern third of the province.

The name "Northern Lights College" was selected from entries in a name the college contest, and was announced on June 3, 1975.

Northern Lights College opened officially in September 1975.

The first president of the College was Dr. Barry Moore (1975-1979), who had been a senior administrator at Grande Prairie Regional College.

Dawson Creek was the College's main centre, due to the existing facilities from the vocational school. Dawson Creek offered academic, vocational, career and continuing education courses. As programs and staff expanded, it was determined that a separation was needed between the Dawson Creek centre and regional administration.

Fort Nelson was the first location outside of Dawson Creek to offer courses. The Fort Nelson centre (which also administered the Stikine region) started in the SD 81 board office, and there were 115 people enrolled in the first year of programs. Over the ensuing three years, enrollment went up to 800.

In Fort St. John, the College originally rented space in the basement of city hall, and then eventually moved to other temporary facilities.

In Cassiar, the first term started in November 1975, with 94 people enrolled in continuing education courses.

1977:

- With the addition of SD 60, the College undertook a regional plan for 1978-82, identifying pressing needs, including establishing permanent facilities in each centre.
- The Colleges and Provincial Institutes Act was passed, declaring the College a Crown Corporation. The College could now own land and have borrowing power.

1978:

- Chetwynd expanded to a new location in the Professional Building.

1979:

- Chetwynd moved again, this time to a former store, tripling the amount of available space.

1980:

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- Jim Kassen started what would be a 25-year tenure as President of the College.

1981:

- In Fort Nelson, a new 14,000 square foot building was constructed.
- The Aircraft Maintenance Engineer and Early Childhood Education programs opened at the Dawson Creek campus.

1982:

- In Fort St. John, a new 50,000 square foot centre opened.

1983:

- Title to the Dawson Creek centre land was formally transferred to the College, including the Mile Zero Farm property.
- Dawson Creek's Campus Centre was completed.
- A separate budget, run by the Chetwynd centre, was created for a Tumbler Ridge facility.

1984:

- A mobile learning unit was purchased for the Stikine, and a new position created to administer the Stikine region.

1988:

- Daycare facilities opened at the Dawson Creek centre.
- The College leased space in the Atlin courthouse.
- The Tumbler Ridge centre opened in leased space in the Rescan Building.

1989:

- An assistant principal position was created at the Tumbler Ridge centre.

1990:

- Hudson's Hope opened a main street location, offering office administration and adult basic education.
- The Cassiar mine closed, and as a result the town and the college centre eventually closed as well. The College buildings were moved to Dease Lake to create a new centre.

1991:

- In Fort Nelson, a 3,500 square foot addition was opened.

1992:

- In Fort St. John, an 8,750 square foot addition opened. As well, the College entered into a sharing arrangement with the University of Northern British Columbia.

1993:

- A new centre in Chetwynd was opened.

1994:

- Renowned performer Ben Heppner was awarded the College's first Honorary degree, after a homecoming performance organized by the College's Music Department.

1999:

- The College launched a mobile learning centre to serve remote communities.

2000:

- The new residence at the Dawson Creek campus opened.
- Paul Dampier's "Highways of Learning: The Northern Lights College Story", was published.

2004:

- The new Regional Administration building was opened in Dawson Creek.

2005:

- The Fort St. John campus added temporary space at the Totem Mall, while awaiting the completion of the Industry Training Centre.
- Construction to double the size of the Aircraft Maintenance Engineering hangar was completed.
- D. Jean Valgardson was hired as only the third president in the 30-year history of the College, following the retirement of Jim Kassen.

2006:

- New residence facilities opened at the Fort St. John campus.
- The Atlin campus moved from its courthouse location to a School District 87 facility.

2007:

- The Totem Mall location closed in Fort St. John, as Continuing Education programs were moved back to the main campus.
- The Industry Training Centre/ Oil and Gas Centre of Excellence opened at the Fort St. John campus.
- Funding announcements by the federal government and BP Canada were made for the Energy House, which is to be constructed at the Dawson Creek Campus.

(Much of the information contained in this history of the College was excerpted from Paul Dampier's "Highways of Learning: Northern Lights College Story", published in 2000.)