

# VOYAGE

- PORTAGING TOGETHER -



- JOURNEYING WITH OUR PARTNERS -

# VOYAGE

- P O R T A G I N G T O G E T H E R -

The history of Portage College is marked by people coming together to keep the doors of education open. By collaborating and unifying with our communities and partners, we empower them to succeed.

In 1968, Alberta NewStart was established in Lac La Biche as part of the federal government's initiative to research basic adult education. NewStart offered instruction in areas as diverse as academic upgrading, trapping, wild fur management and oilfield management. However, in the winter of 1970, the government decided to close the facility and cease the research.

Faced with the pending closure of the school, a group of Indigenous students decided to challenge the government by staging a 26-day sit-in. The group was successful, and the government awarded a grant to continue the NewStart program. The school took on a new name "Pe-Ta-Pun" meaning "New Dawn."

From then until now, thanks to those individuals, the doors of Portage College have been open for adult education, serving the communities of the Northeast region.

This publication highlights efforts made by individuals, communities, industry, governments and Portage College to empower our students and communities to succeed.



- COLLABORATION WITH -  
EDUCATION,  
GOVERNMENT AND  
INDUSTRY

Our program areas strive to create experiential learning for students by partnering with diverse businesses and groups. From bringing industry professionals to speak to students, to having our students participate in real-world situations

in the workplace, the College is focused on preparing students for their future careers. Below are some examples of our most recent collaborations within the College program areas.

## Natural Resources Technology Program Partners

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The Natural Resources Technology (NRT) program prides itself on providing students with hands-on learning opportunities. Surrounded by boreal forest and 100 lakes within a 160 km radius, the College ensures that students get plenty of opportunities to spend time in the field honing their skills. Every spring for the past 20 years, the University of Alberta Faculty of Agricultural, Life and Environmental Studies students have also come to take advantage of the opportunities the region offers, staying in College housing, using College facilities and gaining invaluable opportunities to study outdoors.

NRT also partners with Alberta Environment on many different projects. For example, our students do ecosite mapping projects on provided study sites. In turn, the ministry receives free mapping, riparian health assessments, vegetation and wildlife inventories and help with management decisions. Another example is a partnership with Bobocel Lumber in Lac La Biche. The College, Alberta Forestry and Alberta Parks have allowed the company to log a portion of the College's forest (320 hectares of land) which provides access to logs close to their mill and creates an opportunity for students to study and track the progress of regrowth for the coming years. The program also receives new trails for access, a small building and \$30,000 from Bobocel Lumber.

## Trades and Technology Programs

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The Trades and Technology department strives to connect its programs to industry partners in order to benefit students. The Power Engineering (PENG) program works with industry partners to do field placements. Some of those partners include Alberta Pacific Forest Industries, the program's longest standing industry partner, as well as Athabasca Oil Corporation, Canadian Natural Resources Limited, Cenovus, Harvest, Husky, Imperial Oil Resources, MEG Energy, OSUM, Pembina Pipeline and University of Alberta Heating Plant. Field placements accommodate both 3rd and 4th Class Power Engineering students and lead to employment opportunities. Companies also contribute

by funding Albert Boiler Safety Association (ABSA) special examination sittings hosted at Portage College.

In addition, Portage Collage has also begun a new partnership with Women Building Futures. Working together, Portage and Women Building Futures are bringing the Journeywoman Start Program to Cold Lake, a 12-week program being hosted at the College's Cold Lake campus. The program provides practical and hands-on training to women in order to prepare them to enter the construction and maintenance industry.

## Culinary Arts and Pre-Employment Cooking Programs

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Culinary Arts and Pre-Employment Cooking programs are offered at our St. Paul campus in the Food Sciences Centre. Students have access to industrial kitchens that help them acquire knowledge and skills needed in the food service industry. In addition to lab time, our students also engage with local businesses and community events and have the opportunity to participate in field placements.

For example, the program recently served 185 guests at a spaghetti supper and raised \$1,384.89 for the local food bank. Students have also volunteered more than 140 hours in their first semester and will continue to volunteer in local events to support initiatives in the community. Second-year Culinary Arts students partnered with Lakeland Brewery in St. Paul to raise more than \$1,300 for a new bursary that will go towards first-year culinary students.

## Collaborating with School Divisions

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As a result of several grants of \$50,000 in start-up funding from Alberta Education, Portage College offers Dual Credit learning opportunities to school divisions throughout the region we serve. Our most recent Memoranda of Understanding will allow us to offer courses such as robotics, aesthetics and global issues to high school students.

## Supporting Lakeland Catholic School Division through Dual Credit

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Lakeland Catholic School Division is proud to partner with Portage College on a number of exciting Dual Credit learning opportunities ranging from Hairstyling, Pre-Employment Heavy Equipment Technician, Driver Training and College and University Exposure.

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### Dual Credit Memorandum of Understanding Partnerships (2019-2020)

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Aspen View Public Schools

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Black Gold School Division

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East Central Francophone School Division

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Elk Island School Division

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Frog Lake Education Authority

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Lakeland Catholic School Board

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Northern Lights Public Schools

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St. Albert Public Schools

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St. Paul Education Regional Division #1

*“We are so grateful to our partner Portage College for their continued support in enhancing our programs. Through these partnerships, we can be assured that our students are fully prepared to successfully participate in twenty-first century society.”*

— Amanda Wildman  
CTS Coordinator  
Lakeland Catholic School Division



- COLLABORATION WITH -  
ALUMNI

- DONATION TO -  
THE PORTAGE COLLEGE MUSEUM  
BY STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION



*SAPC Vice President Academic Megan Shott presenting cheque to MOAPAA Museum Director Donna Feledichuk.*



*SAPC students present Eddy Cobiness painting to Joseph Sanchez, curator of the Museum of Aboriginal Peoples' Art and Artifacts at the 16th Annual Round Dance.*

## Students' Association Purchases \$15,000 Painting for College Museum

The Students' Association of Portage College (SAPC) recently made a generous donation to the Portage College Museum of Aboriginal Peoples' Art and Artifacts (MOAPAA). *Jessekan*, an acrylic painting by Eddy Cobiness, was purchased for \$15,000 and was presented to MOAPAA's museum curator Joseph Sanchez at the 16th Annual Round Dance, held on Saturday, March 16, 2019 in Lac La Biche.

Cobiness, who passed away in 1996, and Sanchez are two of the seven artists of the Professional Native Indian Artists Incorporated (PNIAI), also known as the Indian Group of Seven. Cobiness' painting has been added to MOAPAA's permanent exhibit of the PNIAI, the only museum in the world to feature works of the entire group in one exhibition.

*"I think it'll become a staple in the community as it grows, just as the College is a pillar of the community. If artists like Sanchez and [Alex] Janvier feel that Portage is the place to show their work, I would imagine that it will influence students of any age that want to showcase their art, too."*

— Meagan Shott  
Vice President  
Students' Association of Portage College



*Community Social Work students at the Lac La Biche campus.*

## Not Too Late to Change Your Career

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“Portage College was one of the best experiences of my life even though I thought I was too old to go back to school,” says Trevor Letondre.

He was in his 40s when he was accepted into the Community Social Work (CSW) program at Portage College. He spent 30 years working in the oil patch and as a truck driver, but in the back of his mind he had another calling—he wanted to help people.

Trevor enrolled in the two-year CSW diploma program at the Cold Lake campus. He admits he faced some challenges.

“I had never written a paper in my life and two of my classmates were the same age as my son,” he says. “[Program coordinator] Lyla Allan, [and instructors] Tracy Orr and Janet Auger—they helped me stay focused.”

Trevor graduated from Portage College in 2017 and is now a Youth Family Counsellor in central Alberta. He works with at-risk youth as well as families, helping them to re-unite. “I can relate with most of my clients,” he says. “I tell them what you see is what you get, and that I will do my best to help. I am proud that I have accomplished every goal I set out to do in my life.”



*“I thought about quitting, but because of the sacrifices that my kids had to make with not seeing me, I decided to keep going. I couldn’t have done it without the instructors.”*

— Trevor Letondre  
Youth Family Counsellor





— COLLABORATION WITH —  
COMMUNITY



*Portage College presenting framed 50th anniversary jersey to Lac La Biche County at the Canoe Fest concert, hosted by Lac La Biche County in partnership with Portage College.*

## Lac La Biche County Support of Athletics Leads to Community Volunteerism and Economic Impact

Lac La Biche County has been the official sponsor of Voyageurs Athletics since 2017. Student athletes have said “thank you” for this support by volunteering countless hours in the community.

In addition to playing hockey, golf, curling, futsal and soccer—not to mention concentrating on their full-time studies—our student athletes volunteered more than 450 hours in 2018-19. In 2019-20, our student athletes more than surpassed last year’s total, less than half-way through the academic year. By the end of December 2019, they had volunteered more than 725 hours.

Every year, Voyageur athletes contribute to the local economy. Each out-of-town athlete spends approximately \$14,500 in Lac La Biche County, including tuition, rent, groceries and other expenses. Visiting teams stay overnight in local hotels and eat at local restaurants. The College also hosts regional and provincial championships in the area, which attracts out-of-town visitors who spend money in the community.

We support jobs, are a large-scale consumer of goods and services, and our students benefit local businesses with their living expenses. We are also the primary source of post-secondary education in the region, graduating a steady stream of skilled workers.



**100%**

of employers surveyed say they would hire another Portage College graduate



approximately 375 students relocated to attend school at Portage College

**70%**

of our graduates are employed in the region



**Student Athlete Volunteer Tracking – September to December 2019**

Event	Number of Student Athletes	Number of Volunteer Hours
CARE Event – Lac La Biche	9	25
Community Volunteer Recognition Event – Lac La Biche County	8	32
Country Proud BBQ	4	14.5
Cribbage at Aurora Middle School	1	1
Knights Hockey Camp	23	91
Lac La Biche Soccer Society Kick-Off	9	22.5
Lac La Biche Soccer Society Soccer Coaching	15	84.5
Light Up the Night	5	15
Minor Hockey Coaching	4	18
Portage College Athletics Association Casino	6	104
Plamondon Hockey Practice	5	12.5
Plamondon Volleyball Club and Lac La Biche Soccer Society Legion Suppers	9	39
Santa's Helpers	6	24
Soccer Game Set-Up – Hockey Athletes	8	24
Terry Fox Run	10	10
Vera M. Welsh Reading Celebration	7	7
World Archery 3D Championships	37	106
World of Words	12	30
*Other	3	65.5
	Total Volunteer Hours	725.5

*\*Includes coaching soccer, coaching volleyball, SAPC meetings, youth summit meetings, finance committee meetings, Chamber of Commerce meetings and PCAA meetings.*

All possible due to generous support by:

- Boom 103.5
- Britton's Your Independent Grocer
- BCMInns
- Lac La Biche County
- Lac La Biche Sporting Goods
- Lac La Biche Transport
- Smiley's Furniture and Electronics
- The Stitchin' Man



*Environmental Sciences building illuminated by the purple hue from the greenhouse.*

## Lac La Biche County Water Program Partnership

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Construction of the new Environmental Sciences building started in June 2017 and was completed in February 2018. The energy-efficient facility features increased lab and classroom space, a greenhouse and a water simulation lab.

The \$1.75 million facility was made possible by a \$752,460 federal Strategic Investment Fund grant as well as \$600,000 from Lac La Biche County and \$400,000 from Portage College. In addition to housing the Natural Resources Technology program, the Environmental Sciences building will also be home to current and future Water and Wastewater programming.

*“Portage College and Lac La Biche County have worked together for years, and the Water and Wastewater Management project is a valuable partnership between our two organizations. I’m pleased to see the provincial government supporting post-secondary programs and infrastructure in our area. Given our location in Alberta’s Lakeland and Lac La Biche County’s commitment to environmental responsibility, it’s hard to overstate the importance of water management.”*

*— Omer Moghrabi  
Mayor of Lac La Biche County*



*Natural Resources Technology students completing lab work for their water studies.*

## Frog Lake First Nation Partnership

In June 2008, the College was very pleased to be invited to leave our one-room trailer and move into the Norm C. Quinney Careers Centre, a locally-owned facility in Frog Lake First Nation.

Together, Portage College and Frog Lake First Nation have provided significant training and educational opportunities for the needs of community members. The partnership has helped learners to advance into other training and educational opportunities. Incorporation of safety training, exposure to computers and a focus on hands-on learning

have all provided students with opportunities to explore potential careers, as well as enhance their job-readiness skills and strengthen their employability.

The programming positively influenced student lives and allowed them to re-engage in their learning, leading to a stronger academic foundation and a brighter future.

Portage College is pleased to have a great working relationship with individuals in the community who place high value on post-secondary education.

Frog Lake First Nation Students taking Credit Training in Bonnyville, Cold Lake, Frog Lake, Lac La Biche, Saddle Lake and St. Paul						
	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	Total
Total Credit Training Student Numbers	112	79	76	75	95	437
Frog Lake First Nation Students taking Continuing Education Training in Bonnyville, Cold Lake, Frog Lake, Lac La Biche, Saddle Lake, St. Paul and Online						
	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	Total
Total Con Ed Training Student Numbers	167	118	212	92	53	642
<b>Total Training Student Numbers</b>	<b>279</b>	<b>197</b>	<b>288</b>	<b>167</b>	<b>148</b>	<b>1,079</b>

*Note: 2018-2019 figures are year-to-date as of January 21, 2019. Students either listed Frog Lake First Nation as their home community or have a mailing address of Frog Lake with no home community listed.*



*Frog Lake students in the Small Engine Repair program.*



Portage College presenting paddle to Buffalo Lake Métis Settlement to commemorate their ongoing partnership.



Portage College presenting paddle to Saddle Lake Cree Nation to commemorate their ongoing partnership.

## Buffalo Lake Métis Settlement and Saddle Lake Cree Nation Pathways to Employment

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Portage College made a commitment in 2014 to Indigenous community access for the Buffalo Lake Métis Settlement (BLMS) to establish a local educational centre. The College was honoured to provide \$50,000 in resources towards the Adult Learning Centre in BLMS and to take part in their grand opening on March 1, 2019.

It was the goal of BLMS and Portage College to create a learning space for the community to gather and access training without having to leave the community. The new Pathways to Employment program, developed by Portage, will now have a location for training, scheduled to begin in fall 2020.

The Pathways to Employment program is versatile and will be used to support other communities. This program will also run in the Saddle Lake Cree Nation community in the fall of 2020.

*“The greatest benefit to our community would have to be the easy access to resources for schooling or attending courses for both young and old, such as the adult computer course and the learners pre-course. Buffalo Lake has had a long standing relationship with Portage College and we look forward to continue working with Portage College on future projects.”*

— Priscilla Auger  
Strategic Training Initiatives Coordinator  
Buffalo Lake Métis Settlement

## History of Goodfish Lake Open Campus

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In the spring of 2013, the Whitefish (Goodfish) Lake First Nation #128 community approached Portage College to discuss a concern. They were looking for a way to meet the needs of young people who were not receiving their certificates/diplomas and/or choosing to drop out of high school. Portage College program and student support staff met with council members to discuss the educational needs of the youth in the community. This was followed by several meetings that included students, parents, elders and the community at large.

The Goodfish Lake Open Campus opened August 2014 as a learning environment to support students aged 15 years and older. Its purpose is to incorporate foundational learning techniques to build on students' strengths and initial career interests. Students are given the support to engage in their own learning and to develop and work through learning plans. This holistic and experiential learning environment allows students to build on essential, career and life skills, extending beyond the four walls of the classroom.

## St. Paul & District Chamber of Commerce and Portage College

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In early 2017, the St. Paul & District Chamber of Commerce experienced a flood at their office. Portage responded by offering space within the business incubator offices at the St. Paul campus. These offices are fully furnished to support entrepreneurs and startups in the St. Paul region. The gesture proved to be favourable for the community as it entrenched the economic development partnership opportunities, for now the Chamber is one of the incubators.

The College has supported the Chamber with various initiatives such as the Conference Ready Community Project, hosting and sponsoring Business Support Network meetings and other events, and providing support to the Chamber's Labour Market Scan and Plan. In return, the Chamber has promoted the College and the business incubator offices, provided input on the College advisory board, held events at the College to increase community awareness and use

of the facility. By request of the Chamber, the College recently offered Excel and SAGE 50 courses in the spring of 2019, and hopes to work together to provide another round of training in this regard.

*“The College is an important part of our business community and our community overall. The benefits of having post-secondary institutions in our community is a driver for our economy, retention of our youth and advancement of our citizens.”*

— Linda Sallstrom  
Executive Director  
St. Paul & District Chamber of Commerce

## Community Futures St. Paul – Smoky Lake and Portage College

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Community Futures St. Paul – Smoky Lake (CFSPSL) office is a non-profit organization staffed by business professionals and guided by a volunteer Board of Directors. CFSPSL has been an excellent partner, starting with the establishment of the Food Sciences Centre.

Some initiatives that Portage CFSPSL have shared include:

- Alberta Farm Days: The College is involved on the planning committee and is a Farm Day host on the tour.
- Northeast Alberta Food Marketers Association (NAFMA): The College is an active participant in the various initiatives that this group organizes.
- Power Up North: The College is the host location for this regional event and shares staff and expertise.
- Entrepreneurship Challenge: The College hosts this competition with the help of a judge, provided by Community Futures.

The partnership is a strong one because both groups are about helping students, entrepreneurs and community.

*“We feel the College is a vital part of our community. They are open to sharing their ideas and expertise and to working with us and in the community to benefit the experiences of their students or in community building activities.”*

— Penny Fox  
General Manager  
Community Futures St. Paul – Smoky Lake

In May 2017, the Government of Alberta announced an investment of \$1.1 million to create long-term facility plans for the College including the expansion of the Cold Lake campus. Increased program capacity and student study spaces are greatly needed in Cold Lake. Increased new program offerings in high-demand areas such as pharmacy technologist, trades and continuing education are included in the planning. The Cold Lake campus expansion is one of 13 capital and planning projects for Alberta's post-secondary system over the next four years.



*Portage College presents paddle to commemorate partnership with the City of Cold Lake.*

## Boyle Campus and Research Collaboration

The Portage College Boyle campus offers a camp-life experience. Onsite facilities include a classroom, dorm-style residences and high-tech computer equipment simulators. The main program on site is Heavy Equipment Operator.

Portage has also partnered with Athabasca University (AU) to explore opportunities for collaboration on pipeline research and education in the development of the pipeline training and research centre in Boyle. Portage and AU will work together to position the Boyle campus for pipeline training and research for Alberta. This will be a phased project, starting without major capital infrastructure.

*“While we’ve been partners for decades, this is about taking a purposeful strategic play to work together to create something. Further to just being transactional, we can create something that wouldn’t otherwise exist.”*

*— Dr. Neil Fassina  
AU President*



*Waskatenau School tour of the Boyle campus, Heavy Equipment Operator program.*



## Community Adult Learning Program Funded by Government of Alberta

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The Community Adult Learning Programs (CALPs) at Portage College allow adults to learn meaningful skills, using delivery methods and scheduling to meet each learner's needs. All services and supplies are available free of charge for qualifying participants. Portage College believes this program will help open doors for individuals.

The program allows adult learners to identify and learn the skills they need to improve their quality of life, whatever that may mean to each learner. CALP sites provide welcoming and safe services for all types and levels of learners, and connections to other resources in the community.

*"This program provides access to pathways of learning that may not exist for some people in the communities. We are happy to help provide service to those in need of resources for lifelong learning."*

— Nancy Broadbent  
President and CEO, Portage College

CALPs operated by Portage College:

- Bonnyville
- Cold Lake First Nation
- Elk Point
- Frog Lake First Nation
- Kehewin Cree Nation
- St. Paul Family Literacy
- Whitefish (Goodfish) Lake First Nation #128

CALPs in our region:

- Buffalo Lake Métis Settlement
- Cold Lake Community Learning Centre
- Community Association for Lasting Success (Vegreville)
- Elizabeth Métis Settlement
- Fishing Lake Métis Settlement
- Kikino Métis Settlement
- Lac La Biche Regional Awasisak and Family Development Circle Association
- Lac La Biche Canadian Native Friendship Centre Association
- Lac La Biche Community Learning
- Smoky Lake County Community Learning Council
- St. Paul Community Learning Association
- VegMin Learning Society (Vegreville)

## Community Advisory Committee on Mental Health

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The Community Advisory Committee on Mental Health – Lac La Biche Region has been established as a result of a community engagement to enhance coordination. Alberta Advanced Education, in partnership with Alberta Health Services (AHS), provided grant funding to Portage College with the intent that community steering committee(s) be formed to work in a collaborative manner with community services like the Homelessness Task Force in Lac La Biche. AHS Mental Health will act in a consultative role to the committee, providing access to information, training and resources for the development and delivery of specialized and evidence-based best practice mental health services.

*"We are creating synergy and teamwork through this committee as we work collaboratively for the good of our community and the health of individuals who struggle with mental health."*

— Bev Moghrabi  
Vice President, Student and College Services  
Portage College

## Portage College and Community Futures Lac La Biche Partnership

Portage College and Community Futures Lac La Biche have been partnering together with several initiatives recently.

Initiative	Goal/Outcome
<p><b>Economic and Business Improvement Summit</b> <i>September 2018</i></p> <p>The College was an active participant in this summit, which attracted approximately 60 participants.</p>	<p>Three possible community initiatives were identified and the College expressed interest in exploring each of them: a Multicultural Village, Aquaculture project and the “Revitalize and Beautify” Initiative.</p>
<p><b>Kick-Off of the Business Leaders’ Breakfasts</b> <i>February 2019</i></p> <p>The College hosted Business Leaders’ Breakfasts to gather local entrepreneurs, leaders and business owners to discuss concerns common to all and to highlight some best practices for community businesses. Economic development ideas with partners Community Futures, The Resource One Aboriginal Business Association, and Portage College were also discussed. The College is partnering to be the testing ground for a new business app that Community Futures is developing.</p>	<p>The Business Leaders’ Breakfasts were part of a Rural Business Support Initiative assisted by the Ministry of Labour. The Business Breakfasts were successfully launched and are now self-sustaining and continue to be supported by Portage College with attendance, collaboration and marketing. Attendees network, listen to and participate in discussions on monthly topics and voluntarily participate in collaborations.</p>
<p><b>Power Up North Conference</b> <i>Third Annual in 2020</i></p> <p>The College has been the host and provided presentations for the Conference which features keynote speakers and training sessions for local businesses. The College will be hosting the third annual conference in 2020 at the St. Paul campus.</p>	<p>Portage was a founding partner bringing Power Up North to the Lac La Biche Region in 2019. This year, the initiative brought 37 partners and 22 resource tables together to offer support to businesses and entrepreneurs.</p>
<p><b>Northern Alberta Hemp Den</b> <i>November 2019</i></p> <p>The College and Community Futures along with some local leaders hosted a Hemp Den to bring together producers and product specialists.</p>	<p>This project demonstrated the keen interest in the Industrial Hemp community and their willingness to share and support each other. The opportunity to create a collaboration and information-sharing hub is something the College supports.</p>
<p><b>Youth Strategy Planning</b> <i>February 2019</i></p> <p>The College was an active partner in a dialogue with several community stakeholders about how to increase youth retention in the LLB Community.</p>	<p>A youth summit will occur May 7, 2020 in the Bold Center, consisting of resource tables and a “Game of Life” exercise that was piloted in the Northwest Territories entitled “Reality Check.” The youth summit will be a kick-off event to a long-term initiative with the goal of engaging youth aged 13-29 in a way that both retains and attracts them to our communities.</p>

A serene landscape of a lake with lily pads and a forest in the background. The water is calm, reflecting the sky and the surrounding trees. In the foreground, there are tall grasses and lily pads floating on the water. The background shows a dense forest of tall trees under a clear sky.

- COLLABORATION WITH -  
POST-SECONDARY  
INSTITUTIONS

## NAIT Bachelor of Business Administration – Management Degree at Portage College

Representatives from NAIT and Portage College met on April 30, 2019 at the College's Lac La Biche campus to formally announce the details of a Memorandum of Agreement which adds new career and learning opportunities for local students at their home campuses.

Students who have completed Portage College's two-year Business Administration Diploma program are now admitted directly to the 3rd year of the NAIT Bachelor of Business Administration degree. There will be a rotating delivery of year three and year four courses that will allow the degree program to be offered continuously at both campus locations, eliminating "wait" times for diploma students in any year.

Dennis Sheppard, Dean, JR Shaw School of Business at NAIT, says that "staff at of the school of Business at NAIT are incredibly proud of the hands-on and industry engaged education we provide our students. We are so excited to also offer Portage College graduates an opportunity to leverage their business diploma education into a baccalaureate degree right here in their own communities."



*Dennis Sheppard, Dean, JR Shaw School of Business at NAIT with Robin Tizzard, Dean, Portage College.*

*"I am so pleased to see our province's post-secondary institutions working together to serve the needs of Alberta. We are not only proud to offer this degree program to students in the Lac La Biche and Cold Lake areas, but also to have a strong partnership with Portage College that supports the broader initiative of sharing high-quality teaching and curriculum throughout the province."*

*— Dr. Sue Fitzsimmons  
Vice President Academic, NAIT*

Business Management Diploma student Keally McDermott is very excited by the opportunity. "Students here get lots of one-on-one support from the instructors, and we really get to develop great working relationships with them in the two years of the diploma program. Being able to complete the NAIT BBA Management in my home town really makes the transition to the degree so much easier for me."

## University of Alberta Bachelor of Education Degree Offered at Portage College

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Students in communities from across northern Alberta will benefit from a partnership between Portage College and the Aboriginal Teacher Education Program (ATEP) at the University of Alberta in the fall of 2022.

*“We are thrilled with our partnership with Portage College — the impact of offering ATEP in the communities that Portage serves will have long standing positive outcomes for students and community.”*

— Angela Wolfe  
Associate Director, ATEP

ATEP is for college students ready to complete their third and fourth year of university studies toward their Bachelor of Education degree.

This is a proven and successful partnership between Portage College and the University of Alberta, and it is the third time ATEP is offered in the region.

The ATEP curriculum has a strong focus on Aboriginal histories, worldview, perspectives and culture, alongside the rigour of the requirements of an Elementary Education degree. This prepares teachers to take up the Alberta Teaching Quality Standards in their classrooms, and this foundation will be beneficial to all students.

## Campus Alberta Partners to Improve Pathways for Business Students

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In 2018, 15 post-secondary partners in Alberta signed a Memorandum of Understanding that further enhances education options for students pursuing a business certificate, diploma or degree.

The agreement allows students who have successfully completed the equivalent of at least one academic term (15 credits) with an Alberta Partner Institution to receive full credit toward any other Ministry approved business certificate, diploma or degree program with the Campus Alberta partners.

*“Our post-secondary system is stronger when we work together to provide high-quality education options to prospective students. These new pathways mean greater access and reduced barriers for students participating in business-focused post-secondary education.”*

— Susan Banskrope  
Vice President Academics and Research  
Grand Prairie Regional College

## Insurance Consortium in Alberta

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The Insurance Consortium is made up of 15 members, which include colleges, universities and technical institutes from northern and southern Alberta. By banding together as one, they are able to have one broker who works on behalf of the group to purchase streamlined coverages from insurers at a better rate. They also obtain broader coverage because of the group buying power. Individual needs are always addressed and, should one college require

specific needs, such as coverage for overseas instruction, they can then get it in addition to the basic coverages. The Consortium has a sub-committee that meets throughout the year to address any concerns the group may have, be it broker assistance or certain coverage needs. The sub-committee is also charged with making the buying decisions for the entire group.

## College Consortium for Benefits

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The College Consortium has been in place since July 1, 1998. The members of the Consortium are: Portage College, Norquest College, Northern Lakes College, Bow Valley College and Red Deer College. The College Consortium benefit plan has the members working together to take advantage of volume discounts for administrative and claims charges, and also spreads the risk by pooling basic life and long-term disability claims experience amongst all Colleges.

The College Consortium benefit plan providers are: Sun Life Financial (life and disability coverage), Alberta Blue Cross (health and dental coverage) and Industrial Alliance (accidental death and dismemberment coverage). The benefit consultant for the plan is Morneau Shepell, who ensures the plan is receiving valued benefits at reasonable costs.

*“For Portage College to be a member of the College Consortium for benefits is very beneficial for all parties involved. If we were not part of the consortium, the cost of benefits would be considerably more for Portage College.”*

— Wendy Webb  
Benefits and Employee Relations  
Portage College



- COLLABORATION WITH -

EMPLOYERS

- H I G H L I G H T S -  
O F T H E 5 0 T H A N N I V E R S A R Y



*Sonia Bouvier, 1977 alumni, shaking hands with Randolph Benson, Board Chair of Portage College, at the 50th Alumni Event.*

## Working with Funders to Support Communities and Students

In 2018, more than 8,000 people attended 27 different events marking our 50th anniversary. These events, along with the 2019 Student Scholarship Fundraising Dinner, have increased the Spirit of Community Partnership Endowment by \$188,160. Without support by our partners

and industry, we wouldn't have been able to raise money towards the scholarship or get out into the communities to recruit students. We are now only approximately \$81,600 away from our scholarship goal of \$500,000.

Sponsor	Donation
<b>Devon Energy</b> <i>Golden Jubilee Sponsor</i>	\$75,000
<b>Lac La Biche County</b> <i>Voyageur Sponsor</i>	\$50,000
<b>Canadian Natural Resources Limited</b> <i>Events Sponsor</i>	Over \$41,000
<b>MEG Energy</b> <i>President Sponsor</i>	\$30,000
<b>Stingray</b> <i>President Sponsor</i>	\$25,000
<b>Xerox</b> <i>Dean Sponsor</i>	\$10,000
<b>City of Cold Lake</b> <i>Friends of Portage College Sponsor</i>	\$5,000



## BBQs Sponsored by Canadian Natural

During Portage College's 50th Anniversary year, we visited the region's communities, hosting free BBQs sponsored by Canadian Natural Resources Limited (Canadian Natural). The events demonstrated our commitment to partnerships. In each community, we also presented a paddle, hand carved by Native Arts and Culture Program Coordinator Ruby Sweetman.

Portage College and Canadian Natural realized the positive impact of building relationships through the community BBQs and have joined together to host for another two years. In 2019, we served up more than 4,400 free burgers at 14 community BBQs. For 2020, there are plans to visit 15 communities while connecting with Chiefs, Chairs, Councils, Administrators in Social Development, youth programs, secondary schools, alumni and potential students.



*Beaver Lake Cree Nation community BBQ sponsored by Canadian Natural to celebrate partnerships on Portage College's 50th anniversary.*

## Pembina Pipeline Donations Top \$15,000

Pembina Pipeline Corporation boosted its three-year funding support of Portage College's Spirit of Partnerships Endowment Fund to a total of \$15,000 in 2019. The company hosted a charity golf tournament for employees and contractors at the Riverbank Golf & RV Park near Wandering River on September 14, 2019. Generous participants raised \$3,400, which was then matched by Pembina for a total of \$6,800. Added to the past two years' donations, the golf tournaments have raised more than \$15,000 for the endowment fund.



*Pembina presents \$6,800 cheque to Portage College for the Spirit of Community Partnerships Endowment.*

*"I want to give a big thank you to all the contractors and Pembina staff who participated in the golf tournament this year. At Pembina, volunteering is a vital part of our culture, and that's why we're excited to donate to the Spirit of Community Partnership Endowment that encourages students to get involved, volunteer and make a difference within their communities."*

*— Kevin Mosich  
Supervisor, Pembina Pipeline Corporation  
Fort McMurray Area*



*Community Social Work student Dante Quinney on practicum in Frog Lake.*

## **Community Social Work Program in the Communities**

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The Community Social Work program and its students are dedicated to serving their communities. Over the two-year diploma, students in the program are on practicums for 840 hours. They also receive micro-credentials for Mental Health First Aid, Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training and Indigenous Cultural Awareness. The program sends the students to as many professional development opportunities available to assist in building their portfolios.

Staff are involved in external advisory committees and employers in human services agencies are brought in as guest speakers to ease the transition to employment.

The program faculty and staff attempt to provide as many practical work-integrated learning experiences as possible. A highlight of the program's experiential learning is the trip the whole group takes every second year to Edmonton to visit and tour the inner city and actually see and experience the challenges clients may face. Students also become aware of the services and supports available to clients in the city.

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**Community Social Work Program Project Partners**

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Lac La Biche

Agency Partner	Project Type	Outcome	Total Hours
Road to Hope	Grant writing and walking for pledges	Raised \$1,161.00 from the walk; still waiting to hear if grant was successful	20
Pioneer Youth Camp	Gift card survivor fundraiser	Raised \$845	20
Out of the Elements Shelter	Freezing for a Reason fundraiser	Raised \$4,156	35

Cold Lake

Agency Partner	Project Type	Outcome	Total Hours
Bonnyville Food Bank	Dodgeball Tournament	Raised \$1384.05 and ~75lbs of food	165
Lakeland Centre for FASD	Trivia Night	Raised \$261	24.5
Bonnyville Humane Society	Fundraising for kennels	Letter sent	21
Cold Lake Humane Society	Drop off boxes fundraiser	Collecting cleaning supplies (amount to be determined; runs until the end of April)	42
Cold Lake FCSS	Connecting with seniors	Cold Lake Age-Friendly Visiting Program	93.25
Celebrate Life	Grief and loss groups for children	Information to implement a Rainbows program in Cold Lake	38

- A MESSAGE -  
FROM THE PRESIDENT AND CEO



Portage College is dedicated to providing opportunities for students to develop work and life skills and connect to employers after graduation. The partnerships we have cultivated over the past 50 years have been integral in sustaining our model. We have been fortunate to receive support from industry and communities in our region.

For communities, the benefit is having diverse experiences in rural Alberta that would not be available without the College presence. Our partners share in the pride we have for our students' successes and are the benefactors of the vibrancy our graduates bring to their communities.

On behalf of Portage College, a sincere thank you to all our partners.

— Nancy Broadbent  
President and CEO, Portage College



Portage College staff watch as Executive members Carrie Froehler and Guy Gervais compete in a log sawing competition at Staff Welcome Back Day 2019.

From its humble beginnings, the College has steadily grown  
to become the successful institution it is today.



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