



December 20, 2023

City of Fort St John
10631 - 100 Street
Fort St. John, BC V1J 3Z5

Attn: Sarah MacDougall;

Thank you for taking time to meet with Jessie Drew, VP of Community Relations and Institutional Strategy for Northern Lights College (NLC), and myself this morning. We truly appreciated your time and your genuine care for the people who call Fort St John 'home'.

NLC strives to enrich lives, communities, and industry in northern British Columbia and the world through accessible, applied, and academic learning (NLC Strategic Plan 2023-2028, p. 4). One of the priorities recognized by NLC is to support the entire student learning journey, encouraging, and assisting in educational, personal and career success. The City of Fort St John is essential to fostering student success, and we are incredibly grateful for their heartfelt and generous welcome.

Student success includes providing safe, affordable housing and reliable transportation. Students attending NLC from outside the City of Fort St John often choose to live in student housing on campus. They report that they appreciate the ability to walk to their classes because many students do not own a vehicle. Students also often work in community to help pay for their education and living expenses and rely on public transportation to get to work.

Students share that they are struggling to live on campus while successfully connecting with community because access to public transportation ends around 7pm each day. Providing extended bussing hours would support the student learning journey by;

- Allowing students to continue to work in community, often in the service industry, filling employer labor gaps and financially sustaining their ability to complete their education.

- Connecting students to community recreational opportunities and resources, and therefore providing opportunities for students to build relationships in community and make Fort St John their home.
- Allowing students living off campus to attend evening classes in person, engaging with other students and successfully completing their studies.
- Ensuring students complete their studies in Fort St John and in turn, serve the community in their field of study after graduation, instead of leaving Fort St John to complete their studies in larger communities.

Thank you for taking time to meet with us today, we truly value working closely with the City of Fort St John.

Sincerely,

Linda Mueller, MA, GCert HRM

Director of Ancillary Services

Northern Lights College, Fort St. John Campus

250.787.6214

