



Responses to Fairview town hall questions

Question	Response
Trades Program Delivery and Equipment Stewardship	
Why are our labs being dismantled when they are some of the best in the province? Let us keep our labs intact as they are and build new one in GP - it is not a good use of public funds to dismantle perfectly good labs that are already functional and certified.	Advanced Education is overseeing equipment transfers between Northwestern Polytechnic and Northern Lakes College to support September 2026 programming at both institutions. Advanced Education and post-secondary institutions make decisions about the future use of labs and equipment based on what programs are being offered, where and when they will be offered, and cost considerations. If there is sufficient demand and funding available, Northern Lakes College could offer more apprenticeship education programs at Fairview in future academic years. For example, if Advanced Education approves Heavy Equipment Technician and Automotive Service Technician programs to be offered at Fairview in the future, funding for new equipment and installation will be provided to Northern Lakes College.
Will the tools and equipment and belongings including the artwork be returned to the Fairview Campus? If not, why?	The Fairview labs and equipment are legally owned by Northwestern Polytechnic, and it has responsibility and authority to decide how those assets are used to support Heavy Equipment Technician and Automotive Service Technician programs in Grande Prairie approved by Advanced Education for September 2026. Northwestern Polytechnic will move equipment it needs for apprenticeship programs to be ready for September 2026 and will transfer ownership of equipment required for programs continuing at Fairview and offered by Northern Lakes College in September 2026. In addition, Northwestern Polytechnic will leave equipment for the Veterinary Technician program at Fairview for use by a future provider. The cattle herd and farm equipment, and the Power Engineering Instructional Boiler will be transferred to the Fairview Regional College Society. Artwork that was originally purchased by the previous Fairview College will stay in Fairview and be transferred to the Town of Fairview.
Apprenticeship Programming Approach and Training Capacity	

Question	Response
Which apprenticeship trades will be offered in Fairview in fall of 2026?	At this time, Northern Lakes College will offer Carpentry, Welding, Motorcycle Mechanic, pre-employment Heavy Equipment Technician, and health programs in person at Fairview starting in September 2026.
Will the Finning Think Big program and Harley Davidson program stay? Is there any hope of continuing the Harley-Davidson Certificate program and the Harley-Davidson Factory classes?	Finning has confirmed with Advanced Education its intention to discontinue the Think Big program based on its own operational and strategic decisions. Similarly, the industry partner for the Harley Davidson program has confirmed the program will not continue at Fairview in its present form. Discussions on future Harley Davidson programming at Fairview are in progress.
Program Location Decisions and Regional Service Delivery	
Why are our northern students being disadvantaged in favour of Grande Prairie students? There is a high demand for trades across Alberta, and we have the capacity to absorb that demand - why are we being limited to our regional capacity? We have the labs and instructors here, all ready to go if Northern Lakes is able to take on the programming. There is a big demand here in Fairview for programs like heavy duty and automotive - why are these programs being moved to GP and not kept here if	The Minister of Advanced Education has authority over the entire post-secondary education system in Alberta to ensure it is managed efficiently and effectively. Under the "Made in the Peace Country" approach, the Fairview Campus will remain an active part of that regional network based on student and industry demand and cost. This approach will support the campus in continuing to serve learners in a way that is sustainable. The objective is to balance Peace Country regional access to post-secondary education with access for learners across all regions of northern Alberta. Provincial funding for apprenticeship education training is planned system-wide across Alberta to ensure consistency, quality, and sustainability. Decisions about where programs are offered are based on factors such as labour market demand, enrolment demand and trends, and cost of delivery. These factors informed Advanced Education's approvals for apprenticeship education programs in Grande Prairie and Fairview. Any future program offerings at Grande Prairie and Fairview will be assessed based on student and labour market demand and program delivery costs.

Question	Response
we have a PSI like Northern Lakes willing to take it on?	
What direction would the college be looking to go, more of an agricultural school or continue with the same path it's in now?	Northern Lakes College will be the primary post-secondary education provider at the Fairview Campus beginning in September 2026. Northern Lakes will be offering in-person programming in apprenticeship and health programs at Fairview, which is similar to the type of programs previously offered by Northwestern Polytechnic at the Fairview Campus. Northern Lakes College has a proven track record in offering a wide variety of online courses and programs. Future post-secondary opportunities will be considered by Advanced Education once operations are stable and the community-led not-for-profit is established.
Does the minister see any regional or provincial gaps in education that he thinks would be a good fit for our campus?	Advanced Education invests in programs that respond to labour market demand, considering regional service gaps. At this time, Advanced Education is investing in the delivery of health, apprenticeship education, and online programs at the Fairview Campus through Northern Lakes College. Opportunities for new programming will be considered by Advanced Education using the standard program approval process.
Will practical nursing be offered in September? Will the first-year nursing students be able to finish their second year in Fairview in September?	Practical Nursing is planned for Fairview campus beginning in September 2026 for a new first year cohort leading to a Northern Lakes College diploma. Fairview practical nursing students entering their second year will not be studying at Fairview but can complete their Northwestern Polytechnic diploma in Grande Prairie based on the teach out plan.
Campus Sustainability	
Is Fairview campus going to receive more operational funding than it did while operated by Northwestern Polytechnic? If so, why wasn't it funded properly in the past? If not, how	Advanced Education funds post-secondary institutions appropriate to approved program delivery. Part of the responsibilities of post-secondary institutions in Alberta is to regularly review program sustainability. Institutions have the authority to suspend programs with low demand and introduce programs to meet growing demand, under the oversight of Advanced Education. Funding to Northern Lakes College will be aligned with approved programming, enrolment levels and

Question	Response
do you expect it to be viable for Northern Lakes College going forward?	proven long-term sustainability. Northern Lakes College will be funded for operations at Fairview to support their program delivery and their role as joint stewards with the future Fairview not-for-profit corporation to enable efficient, effective, and sustainable use of campus facilities as programming and partnerships evolve.
Why do you think another post-secondary will be successful when two others have failed?	The "Made in the Peace Country" solution is different because of a high degree of community input and opportunity to grow industry partnerships and foster economic growth in the region. The partnership with Northern Lakes College allows for proposals of new programming at the Fairview Campus, based on student and industry demand and cost of delivery.
What commitments, if any, are being considered regarding retaining existing staff, and how will you ensure operational continuity given the experience and institutional knowledge already in place? Many staff are holding off on finding other jobs until they know whether they will get to keep working at Fairview Campus. We will need to start looking soon though. When will jobs be posted? If staff retention is not guaranteed, what criteria will be used to determine who stays and who doesn't?	Fairview staff experience and institutional knowledge are valued. As a board-governed post-secondary institution, Northern Lakes College is responsible for making employment decisions in accordance with approved programming, operational needs, collective agreements, and applicable labour legislation. Northern Lakes College has already posted positions it anticipates hiring to support program delivery at Fairview for September 2026.
Future Programming Opportunities and Community Partnerships	
Will the agricultural operations program resume?	Agricultural programs will not be offered by Northern Lakes College in September 2026. Any future program offerings in agricultural topics will be assessed based on student and labour market demand

Question	Response
Will the transitional vocational program be reconsidered for resurrection at the college? What is NLC's commitment to continue fostering Agriculture on this campus? Will there be an Ag Diploma or equivalent? Will NLC be a Green Certificate testing facility?	and program delivery costs. Program offerings Beginning in September 2026, Northern Lakes College plans to offer a range of programs in person at the Fairview Campus, including health care programs such as health care aide and practical nurse, and trades programs in Carpentry, Motorcycle Mechanic, Welding, and pre-employment Heavy Equipment Technician. Northern Lakes College will also offer 20 online programs and various dual credit and continuing education non-credit programs. As for all post-secondary institutions in Alberta, Advanced Education will consider future program offerings based on student and labour market demand and program delivery costs.
Is Northern Lakes College and the minister willing to work with the local schools in Fairview and establish some small-scale agriculture projects that would utilize the specialized facilities on campus, e.g., greenhouses. EW Pratt in the High Prairie School Division currently has a program where students grow vegetables year-round and sell back into the community. It would be nice to get Treaty 8 involved in this initiative. I do know there is also a strong desire for First Nations from local reserves to learn how to grow their own vegetables but on a larger commercial scale.	Partnerships with local school authorities, First Nations and Metis communities, and community organizations are an important part of the "Made in the Peace Country" approach. Northern Lakes College has proven experience delivering dual credit programming with school authorities across a range of program areas, including apprenticeship education, health, human services, and university-transfer courses, and the college is exploring local partnership opportunities. Northern Lakes College also has established relationships with Treaty 8 communities across the region. Advanced Education will share the vegetable farm idea with Northern Lakes College for consideration once funding, governance and stewardship arrangements are in place.

Alberta