



ALBERTA
ADVANCED EDUCATION

*Office of the Minister
MLA, Calgary-Fish Creek*

AR 74882

June 11, 2026

His Worship Gord MacLeod
Mayor
Town of Fairview
P.O. Box 730
Fairview AB T0H 1L0

Mr. Barry Sharkawi
Board Chair
Northern Lakes College
1201 Main Street SE
Slave Lake AB T0G 2A3

Dear Mayor MacLeod and Mr. Sharkawi,

I am writing to acknowledge the continued work underway to support the Fairview campus as part of the Made in the Peace Country solution, and to provide direction on the stewardship model as this work moves from transition planning to implementation.

I appreciate the ongoing collaboration between Northern Lakes College (NLC) and local partners, including the newly established Fairview Regional Campus Society (FRCS), to advance shared priorities of sustaining post-secondary access, strengthening regional workforce pathways, and supporting long-term community success.

Following careful consideration, I have approved a phased approach to stewardship for the Fairview campus. This approach is intended to support successful long-term community stewardship while ensuring continuity of operations, timely program delivery, and stability for students, staff, and regional partners. The phased approach is not intended to delay or limit the role of FRCS; rather, it is intended to provide the conditions and supports necessary for long-term success and sustainability.

Government remains committed to a community-led stewardship model, with FRCS as the intended long-term steward of the Fairview campus. The objective of this approach is to ensure that all partners are positioned for success:

- students and learners continue to have uninterrupted access to programming.
- NLC can continue delivering post-secondary programming and campus operations smoothly and effectively.
- FRCS is supported in building the organizational capacity required for long-term stewardship responsibilities.

Under this model, NLC will initially manage operations of the Fairview campus and serve as the primary leaseholder with Alberta Infrastructure. NLC's established governance, operational capacity, and experience managing facilities and lease arrangements will support immediate implementation and enable continuity of programming for the 2026/27 academic year. At the

same time, this phased approach is intended to enable FRCS time to build the governance, financial, operational, and organizational capacity required to assume full stewardship responsibilities over time.

To support this work, NLC, FRCS, and Advanced Education will enter into a three-way agreement that establishes a clear pathway for the transfer of stewardship responsibilities from NLC to FRCS and the readiness milestones FRCS must achieve to effect the transfer. The transfer is expected to occur by May 2027, unless FRCS demonstrates it has met all readiness milestones earlier. High-level expectations for stewardship readiness milestones are set out in the attached document, including those related to governance and organizational capacity, financial sustainability, operational readiness, and lease and campus responsibilities. The three-way document will be developed and signed by all parties in the coming weeks.

I expect both NLC and FRCS to work collaboratively during this period to support a smooth and deliberate transition of responsibilities. This includes clear planning, knowledge transfer, and alignment on roles and responsibilities that will position FRCS for long-term success as the community-based steward of the campus. Throughout this process, it will be critical to minimize disruption to students, campus operations, and the delivery of post-secondary programming.

This phased approach to stewardship does not limit FRCS' ability to continue advancing partnerships, pursuing opportunities, and building community and regional support for the long-term success of the campus. My expectation is that NLC will support FRCS to implement partnerships and community engagement activities on the campus that align with the shared objectives of the Made in the Peace Country solution.

Advanced Education will continue to support implementation of the Made in the Peace Country solution through a range of measures intended to support both immediate continuity and long-term success. This includes retention of several assets for FRCS to use in revenue-generating ventures, such as the cattle herd, farm equipment, and instructional boiler, as well as ongoing funding to NLC to support delivery of priority programming at Fairview. These supports are intended to help ensure continuity of learning, stable campus operations, and a sustainable path toward long-term community stewardship.

I also expect surrounding communities and regional partners to actively support the Made in the Peace Country solution through tangible contributions that advance the long-term success and sustainability of FRCS. Achieving a successful transition will require continued regional collaboration and community-driven action to strengthen the future of the campus.

A key objective of the phased approach to stewardship is supporting FRCS to build the organizational capacity and operational readiness required for long-term stewardship success. To support this effort, Advanced Education is prepared to provide a one-time matching grant of up to \$500,000 for FRCS operations, contingent on community-led funding contributions. This support is intended to assist FRCS during its initial capacity-building phase as it works toward assuming full stewardship responsibilities. Decisions on long-term capital costs will be addressed through the upcoming government budget process.

Looking ahead, successful implementation of the Made in the Peace Country solution will require strong collaboration and a shared commitment to outcomes. I encourage FRCS to

continue advancing the Made in the Peace Country solution in collaboration with municipalities, industry, First Nation, Métis, and Inuit communities, and regional stakeholders, and I expect NLC to support this transition in a manner that reflects its role as an anchor institution in the region.

Thank you for your continued leadership and commitment to advancing a sustainable and locally responsive future for the Fairview Campus.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Myles McDougall', with a stylized, circular flourish at the end.

Honourable Myles McDougall, ECA
Minister of Advanced Education

Attachment

cc: Honourable Martin Long, ECA
Minister of Infrastructure

Honourable Todd Loewen, ECA
MLA, Central Peace-Notley

Daryl Greenhill
Chief Administrative Officer, Town of Fairview

Dr. Glenn Mitchell
President and CEO, Northern Lakes College

Shannon Marchand
Deputy Minister, Advanced Education