APPENDIX A

Part 6 Supplementary Health Service Information and Education Baseline

1 INTRODUCTION

This appendix provides supplementary health service information including vital statistics, additional health care expenditure data, hospital visit data, and data on dentists and optometrists registered with their professional associations. This appendix also provides supplementary education baseline data for the Peace Region. Baseline data on elementary and secondary school numbers, enrolment, student and district funding, average class size, as well as secondary school dual credit programming are provided. Baseline data on enrolments, program and the role of post-secondary institutions in the LAA was obtained from representatives of University of Northern BC, and Northern Lights College in Fort St. John. The purpose of this appendix is to support Volume 4 Section 30 Community Infrastructure and Services of the Site C Clean Energy Project EIS.

2 VITAL STATISTICS, TRENDS IN PRACTITIONERS, HEALTH CARE SERVICES AND EXPENDITURES AND DENTIST AND OPTOMETRIST DATA

2.1 Vital Statistics

The Local Assessment Area (LAA) for Community Infrastructure and Services for health and social services is the Local Health Area (LHA) boundaries of LHA 059 and 060. Table 1 presents vital statistics for the LAA (LHAs 059 and 060), and compares these to the entire the Northern Health Region and the province. In 2009, the LAA had a younger population when compared to both Northern BC and the province. In addition, birth rates were 15.4 live births per 1,000 population in the LAA, which was noticeably higher than the 13.0 live births per 1,000 population for Northern BC and 10.1 per 1,000 population at the provincial level. However, the LAA does have lower life expectancies for both men and women when compared to the province, but higher life expectancies for both men and women than observed in Northern BC.

Table 1 Vital statistics for Peace Region LHAs, communities and B.C., 2009

Community/LHA	Gender	Population	Live Births	Deaths	Marriages	Average Age	Life Expectancy (2005–09)
Peace River South (LHA 059)	M	13,885	158	92	N/A	37.2	77.0
	F	13,091	178	84	N/A	38.3	80.5
	Total	**26,976**	**336**	**176**	**146**	**37.7**	**78.7**
Chetwynd, DM	M	N/A	25	11	N/A	N/A	N/A
	F	N/A	29	9	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Total	**2,676**	**54**	**20**	**16**	**N/A**	**N/A**
Dawson Creek, C	M	N/A	90	48	N/A	N/A	N/A
	F	N/A	90	45	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Total	**11,514**	**180**	**93**	**72**	**N/A**	**N/A**
Pouce Coupe, VL	M	N/A	7	11	N/A	N/A	N/A

Community/LHA	Gender	Population	Live Births	Deaths	Marriages	Average Age	Life Expectancy (2005–09)
	F	N/A	8	17	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Total	**746**	**15**	**28**	**12**	**N/A**	**N/A**
Tumbler Ridge, DM	M	N/A	10	6	N/A	N/A	N/A
	F	N/A	20	5	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Total	**2,450**	**30**	**11**	**14**	**N/A**	**N/A**
Peace River North (LHA 060)	M	18,109	332	83	N/A	33.3	76.8
	F	16,704	284	59	N/A	33.4	82.6
	Total	**34,813**	**616**	**142**	**160**	**33.4**	**79.5**
Fort St. John, C	M	N/A	192	51	N/A	N/A	N/A
	F	N/A	183	45	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Total	**19,457**	**375**	**96**	**79**	**N/A**	**N/A**
Hudson's Hope, DM	M	N/A	7	5	N/A	N/A	N/A
	F	N/A	1	2	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Total	**1,051**	**8**	**7**	**3**	**N/A**	**N/A**
Taylor, DM	M	N/A	17	5	N/A	N/A	N/A
	F	N/A	13	3	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Total	**1,480**	**30**	**8**	**15**	**N/A**	**N/A**
LAA (LHA 059 & 060)	M	31,994	490	175	N/A	35.0	76.9
	F	26,795	462	143	N/A	35.6	81.7
	T	61,789	952	318	306	35.3	79.2
Northern Health Total	M	146,454	1,905	995	N/A	37.1	76.4
	F	139,039	1,812	727	N/A	37.5	81.2
	Total	**285,493**	**3,717**	**1,722**	**1,241**	**37.3**	**78.6**
BC	M	2.21 M	23,179	15,991	N/A	39.5	79.2
	F	2.24 M	21,729	15,236	N/A	41.3	83.6
	Total	**4.45 M**	**44,908**	**31,227**	**22,469**	**40.4**	**81.4**

SOURCE:
BC Vital Statistics Agency (2011)

The geographical distribution of deaths is an important indicator for the administration of health care in the province. Table 2 compares the standard mortality ratio of the LAA with two neighbouring Northern Health LHAs and the province. The Standardized Mortality Ratio (SMR) is denoted by the number of deaths divided by the expected deaths. In the LAA the ratio has been well above 100, indicating a higher death rate than the provincial average.

The long winter driving season is one reason behind the higher Standardized Mortality Ratio in the north. Northeast Health Delivery Area has initiated a special awareness program to combat motor vehicle accidents in the jurisdiction. Other factors include the rural life style, back-country recreation activity and outdoor work environment (BC Vital Statistics Agency 2011).

Table 2 Standardized mortality ratio: all causes, 2004–2008, 2009

Local Health Authority	2004–2008		2009		
	Observed Deaths	SMR	Observed Deaths	Expected Deaths	SMR
Peace R. South LHA 059	808	1.19	176	139.86	1.26
Peace R. North LHA 060	727	1.19	142	124.88	1.14
Nechako LHA 056	523	1.40	101	79.98	1.26
Prince George LHA 057	2,739	1.24	579	462.47	1.25
BC	153,385	1.00	31,227	31,227.00	1.00

NOTES:
SMR – Standard Mortality Ratio
LAA includes LHAs 059 and 060
SOURCE:
BC Vital Statistics Agency (2011)

2.2 Trends in Practitioners, Health Care Services and Expenditures

The number of practitioners by specialty, services, and the associated cost in 2007-2008 and 2010-2011 are shown in Table 3. The expenditures are those amounts paid by the BC Ministry of Health in the Northeast health service delivery area which includes Peace River South and Peace River North Local Health Areas.

Table 3 Northeast practioners, services and expenditures by specialty, 2007-2008 and 2010-2011

Specialty	Practitioners (No.)		Services (No.)		Expenditures ($)	
	2007-2008	2010-2011	2007-2008	2010-2011	2007-2008	2010-2011
Medical						
General Practice	60	64	371,668	399,632	15,969,635	18,426,560
Psychiatry	5	5	7,689	10,348	809,904	1,191,618
Obstetrics & Gynaecology	2	2	6,604	8,252	788,884	943,682
General Surgery	3	3	8,002	10,309	1,235,696	1,544,135
Orthopaedic Surgery	3	2	4,988	4,462	765,973	733,521
Internal Medicine	1	1	5,825	10,760	340,937	479,678
Radiology	2	4	30,617	23,442	2,021,161	1,675,170
Laboratory Medicine	1	1	349,395	416,467	2,290,701	2,639,144
Subtotal	**77**	**82**	**784,788**	**883,672**	**24,222,891**	**27,633,508**
Other Health Practitioners						
Chiropractors	11	11	5,131	3,892	118,013	89,516
Naturopaths	1	2	15	17	345	391
Physical Therapy	7	9	1,359	1,451	31,257	33,373
Optometrists	7	9	8,893	9,441	360,567	400,303
Dental Surgeons	0	2	0	141	0	7,142
Orthodontists	1	1	1	20	544	17,889

Specialty	Practitioners (No.)		Services (No.)		Expenditures ($)	
	2007-2008	2010-2011	2007-2008	2010-2011	2007-2008	2010-2011
Massage Practitioners	7	11	285	179	6,555	4,117
Acupuncture	0	1	0	49	0	1,127
Subtotal	**34**	**46**	**15,684**	**15,190**	**517,281**	**553,858**
Total	**111**	**128**	**800,472**	**898,862**	**24,740,172**	**28,187,367**

NOTE:
This includes LHA 59, LHA 60 and LHA81.
Services refers to the number of services paid for by Northern Health
SOURCE:
BC Ministry of Health Services (2011) (2012)

2.3 Emergency and Acute Care

The Fort St. John Hospital and Health Centre is an acute care and obstetric hospital serving Fort St. John and area as part of integrated Northeastern HSDA delivery. In 2011, eight resident specialists work from the hospital and the emergency room received approximately 90 to100 patient visits per day in 2011.

Table 4 shows the number of patients admitted to the Fort St. John hospital in 2004-2005, 2008-2009, and 2010-2011. There has been a decline in emergency patients coming to the hospital as a result of local medical clinics operating evenings and weekends since 2008 (Northern Health, Chief Operating Officer 2011, pers. comm.). Demand has increased for all other services with overall visits up 23% in 2010-2011 compared to 2004-2005.

Table 4 Patient visits at Fort St. John Hospital

Services	2004-2005 (No.)	2008-2009 (No.)	2010-2011 (No.)
In-patient and daycare	4,279	4,922	4,842
Newborns	528	640	605
Emergency patients	27,593	25,165	20,416
Diagnostics (x-ray and lab)	30,279	40,386	41,328
Other	8,370	12,480	20,523
Total	71,049	83,593	87,714

SOURCE:
Northern Health, Northeastern HSDA (2011)

Emergencies in Hudson's Hope are assessed at the Hudson's Hope Health Centre before transfer to Fort St. John (Northern Health, Charge Emergency Nurse 2011, pers. comm.).

The Dawson Creek and District Hospital in an emergency and acute care facility with two orthopedic surgeons, a general surgeon, an obstetrician/gynecologist, two psychiatrists, and a radiologist (Northern Health 2011j). The services provided by these specialists are augmented by visiting specialists.

Table 5 shows the number of patient visits at Dawson Creek Hospital since 2004. Outpatient (no overnight stay required) and in-patient visits have risen 16% since 2004-2005.

Table 5 Patient visits at Dawson Creek Hospital

Services	2004-2005 (No.)	2008-2009 (No.)	2010-2011 (No.)
Emergency room patients and ambulatory [b]	29,572	32,510	26,725[a]
Outpatient and in-patient	3,526	4,240	4,105
Diagnostics (x-ray and laboratory)	22,597	32,510	n/a

NOTE:
[a]2010-2011 includes only emergency patients and does not include ambulatory visits
[b]Emergency room and ambulatory visits includes all ambulatory activity such as diabetic education, dietician, respiratory therapy, social work, outpatient maternity and visiting specialists.
SOURCE:
Northern Health, Northeastern health service delivery area (2011)

Emergencies in the Chetwynd area are stabilized at the Chetwynd Hospital and Health Centre before transfer to another location, primarily Dawson Creek (HealthLinkBC 2012).

3 DENTISTS AND OPTOMETRISTS

3.1 Dentists

Table 6 identifies the number of practices dentists in the LAA by community. Telephone enquiries in November 2012 to all dentist offices in Fort St. John and Chetwynd identified that all were accepting new patients.

Table 6 Dentists by community status and graduation year in LAA, 2011

Number of Dentists	Community	Status
1	Chetwynd	general practice
7	Dawson Creek	general practice
1	Dawson Creek	certified specialist
9	Fort St. John	general practice
1	Fort St. John	certified specialist

SOURCE:
College of Dental Surgeons of BC (2011)

3.2 Optometrists

Table 7 identifies the optometrists in the LAA and the community they provide services to. Telephone enquiries in November 2012 confirmed that all optometrist offices in the LAA were accepting new patients.

Table 7 Optometrists by community in LAA, 2012

Last Name	First Name	Community
Gorner	Adam	Dawson Creek & Chetwynd
Smart	Eric	Dawson Creek & Chetwynd
Timmins	Grant	Dawson Creek & Fort St. John
Gentles	John	Dawson Creek & Fort St. John
Lang	Todd	Dawson Creek & Fort St. John
Kadziolka	Andrew	Dawson Creek, Chetwynd, Tumbler Ridge
Herriot	Christopher	Fort St. John
Yurchevich	Jordan	Fort St. John

SOURCE:
BC Association of Optometrists (2012); College of Optometrists of BC (2012)

4 SUPPLEMENTARY EDUCATION BASELINE

4.1 Elementary and Secondary

Table 8 shows the number of students and schools in the Peace River North School District (SD 60) and Peace River South School District (SD 59) which together represent the total school population in the LAA. During the period between 2006-2007 and 2010-2011, total enrolment in SD 60 declined by approximately 1% or 61 students. During the same period, total enrolment in SD 59 declined by 11%, or 507 students.

Table 8 Student enrolment and number of schools, SD 59 and SD 60

School District	2006-2007 (No. of Students)	2007-2008 (No. of Students)	2008-2009 (No. of Students)	2009-2010 (No. of Students)	2010-2011 (No. of Students)
Peace River North - SD 60					
Total enrolment	5,934	5,955	6,013	6,053	5,873
Aboriginal enrolment	1,350	1,327	1,287	1,269	1,201
Number of Public schools	18	18	18	18	19
Peace River South – SD 59					
Total enrolment	4,570	4,501	4,294	4,131	4,063
Aboriginal enrolment	1,568	1,554	1,454	1,398	1,365
Number of Public schools	23	23	23	23	22

SOURCE:
BC Ministry of Education (2011a; 2011b)

Table 9 shows student operating grants for SD 60 and SD 59 in fiscal year 2011-2012. Based on the most recent enrolment data (Table 8), operating grant funding represented $9,028 per each full-time equivalent student enrolled in SD 60 and $10,438 per each full time equivalent student enrolled in SD 59 (calculated by dividing total operating grant by enrolment for 2010-2011).

Table 9 Student and district funding, 2011-2012

School District	Operating Grant ($)	Capital Funding ($)	Target Funding ($)	
			Aboriginal Students	Special Needs
Peace River North (SD 60)	53,020,777	894,708	1,189,000	3,930,600
Peace River South (SD 59)	42,409,690	855,121	1,496,400	3,344,000

SOURCES:
BC Ministry of Education (2011c)

In 2010 – 2011, the average class size in the LAA did not exceed the provincial average (Table 10).

Table 10 Average class size for public schools, 2010-2011

School District	Kindergarten (No. of Students)	Grade 1–3 (No. of Students)	Grade 4–7 (No. of Students)	Grade 8–12 (No. of Students)
Peace River North (SD 60)	17.1	20.7	24.2	23.3
Peace River South (SD 59)	16.3	19.7	24.6	25.6
Provincial	18.3	20.7	25.9	25.1

SOURCES:
BC Ministry of Education (2011a; 2011b)

The proposed Site C Project is located in the Peace River North SD 60, which in 2010-2011 had 19 schools; 15 public and four independent. The greatest concentration of schools is in Fort St. John, with nine public and four independent schools, including a Distance Learning Centre. Average class size information for 2010-2011 is shown in Table 11.

Table 11 Average class size & total enrolment, Fort St. John, 2010-2011

School	Average Class Size				Enrolment (No. of Students)	
	Kindergarten (No. of Students)	Grade 1–3 (No. of Students)	Grade 4–7 (No. of Students)	Grade 8–12 (No. of Students)	Total	Aboriginal
Public Schools						
Alwin Holland Elementary	19.0	20.9	27.2	N/A	298	49
Bert Ambrose Elementary	20.5	22.0	25.2	N/A	324	60
Bert Bowes Jr. Secondary	N/A	N/A	23.9	22.0	488	95
CM Finch	17.5	18.0	29.3	N/A	242	43

School	Average Class Size				Enrolment (No. of Students)	
	Kindergarten (No. of Students)	Grade 1–3 (No. of Students)	Grade 4–7 (No. of Students)	Grade 8–12 (No. of Students)	Total	Aboriginal
Elementary						
Dr. Kearney Jr. Secondary	N/A	N/A	24.4	25.2	542	133
Duncan Cran Elementary	18.5	19.6	27.0	NA	243	74
Ecole Central Elementary	15.0	20.4	23.6	N/A	328	66
North Peace Secondary	N/A	N/A	N/A	25.3	1212	285
Robert Ogilvie Elementary	19.5	21.8	27.0	N/A	256	69
Independent						
Christian Life School	NA	NA	NA	NA	107	8
Christian Life Distance Learning[a]	NA	NA	NA	NA	24	NA
Church at Blueberry	NA	NA	NA	NA	19	0
Maccabee Christian School	NA	NA	NA	NA	49	NA
Provincial	**18.3**	**20.7**	**25.9**	**25.1**	**N/A**	**N/A**

NOTES:
[a] Distance learning school – students reside throughout B.C.
N/A Not applicable
NA Data not available
SOURCE:
BC Ministry of Education (2011d)

Taylor and Hudson's Hope have one school each and average class sizes in both schools are below the provincial average for each grade category (Table 12).

Table 12 Average class size & enrolment, Taylor and Hudson's Hope schools, 2010 2011

School	Average Class Size				Enrolment (No. of Students)	
	Kindergarten (No. of Students)	Grade 1–3 (No. of Students)	Grade 4–7 (No. of Students)	Grade 8–12 (No. of Students)	Total	Aboriginal
Hudson's Hope School	18.0	20.0	19.0	15.4	161	57

Taylor Elementary	16.0	19.0	19.0	N/A	111	22
Provincial	**18.3**	**20.7**	**25.9**	**25.1**	**N/A**	**N/A**

NOTES:
N/A Not applicable
NA Data not available
SOURCE:
BC Ministry of Education (2011d)

SD 60 has five schools in unincorporated areas, two of which include small enrolment numbers of secondary students. The student population for these schools is provided in Table 13.

Table 13 Average class size & enrolment, rural SD 60 schools, 2010-2011

School	Average Class Size				Enrolment (No. of Students)	
	Kindergarten (No. of Students)	Grade 1–3 (No. of Students)	Grade 4–7 (No. of Students)	Grade 8–12 (No. of Students)	Total	Aboriginal
Baldonnel Elementary	20.0	21.7	25.7	N/A	136	36
Buick Creek Elementary	15.0	15.0	20.0	N/A	35	3
Clearview Elem./Jr. Sec.	17.0	22.5	22.7	26.6	152	25
Charlie Lake Elementary	17.3	23.3	27.2	N/A	327	31
Prespatou Element. & Secondary	10.5	21.5	25.8	18.4	325	3
Upper Halfway Elementary	13.0	15.0	10.9	N/A	38	27
Upper Pine Elem and Jr. Sec.	16.8	20.7	22.6	17.7	217	49
Wonowon Elementary & Secondary	17.0	18.4	15.9	15.9	51	NA
Provincial	**18.3**	**20.7**	**25.9**	**25.1**	**N/A**	**N/A**

NOTES:
N/A Not applicable
NA Data not available
SOURCE:
BC Ministry of Education (2011d)

The schools in Peace River South SD 59 are primarily in Dawson Creek and Chetwynd, with a small number elsewhere in the region. Dawson Creek has seven public and three private schools, as shown in Table 14. Several schools in Dawson Creek have average class sizes above the provincial average in each grade category.

Table 14 Average class size & enrolment, Dawson Creek schools, 2010-2011

School	Average Class Size				Enrolment (No. of Students)	
	Kindergarten (No. of Students)	Grade 1–3 (No. of Students)	Grade 4–7 (No. of Students)	Grade 8–12 (No. of Students)	Total	Aboriginal
Canalta Elementary	13.5	21.8	25.8	N/A	244	69
Central Middle	NA	NA	NA	26.8	456	113
Crescent Park Elementary	18.0	23.0	28.5	N/A	240	60
Devereaux Elementary	20.0	20.7	24.0	N/A	65	17
Ecole Frank Ross Elementary	11.5	20.2	26.2	N/A	442	124
Mountain Christian School	NA	NA	NA	NA	88	23
Notre Dame	NA	NA	NA	NA	169	7
Ron Pettigrew Christian School	NA	NA	NA	NA	85	15
South Peace Secondary	N/A	N/A	N/A	28.2	712	192
Tremblay Elementary	20.0	21.3	24.1	N/A	180	112
Provincial	**18.3**	**20.7**	**25.9**	**25.1**	**N/A**	**N/A**

NOTES:
N/A Not applicable
NA Data not available
SOURCE:
BC Ministry of Education (2011e)

Together, the communities of Chetwynd, Pouce Coupe and Tumbler Ridge are served by eight schools with locations identified below. As of 2010-2011, the two secondary schools both had average class sizes below the provincial average. Aboriginal students comprise a portion of the student population in each school (Table 15).

Table 15 Average class size & enrolment, Chetwynd, Pouce Coupe and Tumbler Ridge schools, 2010-2011

School	Average Class Size				Enrolment (No. of Students)	
	Kindergarten (No. of Students)	Grade 1–3 (No. of Students)	Grade 4–7 (No. of Students)	Grade 8–12 (No. of Students)	Total	Aboriginal
Chetwynd Secondary	N/A	N/A	N/A	23.6	397	187
Don Titus Elementary	16.4	18.3	20.4	N/A	113	45
Little Prairie	20.0	20.7	26.4	N/A	238	88

School	Average Class Size				Enrolment (No. of Students)	
	Kindergarten (No. of Students)	Grade 1–3 (No. of Students)	Grade 4–7 (No. of Students)	Grade 8–12 (No. of Students)	Total	Aboriginal
Elementary						
Peace Christian School	NA	NA	NA	NA	86	13
Pouce Coupe Elementary	16.0	10.5	26.1	N/A	66	32
Tumbler Ridge Elementary	19.0	20.2	25.3	N/A	217	45
Tumbler Ridge Secondary	N/A	N/A	25.7	19.4	210	61
Windrem Elementary	20.0	21.8	25.0	N/A	94	70
Provincial	**18.3**	**20.7**	**25.9**	**25.1**	**N/A**	**N/A**

NOTES:
N/A Not applicable
NA Data not available
SOURCE:
BC Ministry of Education (2011e)

There are seven schools in unincorporated areas in SD 59, as shown in Table 16. With the exception of the kindergarten class at Tate Elementary (19 versus provincial average of 18.3), all class sizes are less than the provincial average.

Table 16 Average class size & enrolment, unincorporated areas schools, 2010-2011

School	Average Class Size				Enrolment (No. of Students)	
	Kindergarten (No. of Students)	Grade 1–3 (No. of Students)	Grade 4–7 (No. of Students)	Grade 8–12 (No. of Students)	Total	Aboriginal
McLeod Elementary	18.0	18.0	21.0	N/A	39	2
Moberly lake Elementary	14.0	14.0	18.0	N/A	33	31
Parkland Elementary	16.0	15.3	20.0	N/A	73	17
Peace View Elementary	N/A	11.0	11.0	11.0	11	N/A
Rolla Traditional	16.1	13.1	13.0	N/A	43	9
South Peace Elementary	11.0	15.0	15.0	15.0	15	N/A
Tate Creek Elementary	15.0	19.0	18.0	N/A	67	38

School	Average Class Size				Enrolment (No. of Students)	
	Kindergarten (No. of Students)	Grade 1–3 (No. of Students)	Grade 4–7 (No. of Students)	Grade 8–12 (No. of Students)	Total	Aboriginal
Provincial	**18.3**	**20.7**	**25.9**	**25.1**	**N/A**	**N/A**

NOTES:
N/A Not applicable
NA Data not available
SOURCE:
BC Ministry of Education (2011e)

There is ongoing cooperation between secondary schools, post-secondary institutions and industry in delivering and expanding dual credit programs offered in grades 11 and 12 (whereby a high school student enrolls in a post-secondary course and receives simultaneous academic credit for the post-secondary program and the high school). All K-12 and post-secondary school interview participants agree on the need for students to complete high school, move into post-secondary and then transition into the Northeast labour force, where a range of skills are needed. In Northeast B.C., the graduation rate from dual credit programs is generally higher than from the “traditional” secondary programs both for aboriginal and non-aboriginal students.

SD 60 and SD 59 offer alternative learning models in addition to their traditional public school system. The Northern B.C. Distance Education School Key Learning Centre in Fort St. John has 130 full time equivalent elementary students, and 1,000 secondary students throughout the northern third of the province, and the Yukon. The First Nation Education Centre is also situated in Fort St. John.

In SD 59, approximately 350 students attend the South Peace Distributed Learning School. This school provides curriculum and support to parents and students who are looking for alternative ways to complete the requirements for high school graduation.

Also in SD 59, the Dual Credit programming at Northern Lights College (NLC) has recently expanded its curriculum to include academic and vocational post-secondary courses, in addition to trade courses. This program is part of the Career Pathways initiative in B.C. to educate and retain young workers in the North.

4.2 Post-secondary Education

NLC and the University of Northern British Columbia (UNBC) provide post-secondary education services locally. NLC has eight campus locations in northern B.C. with the Dawson Creek and Fort St. John campuses having the largest enrolments. NLC’s smaller campuses and learning centres are located at Chetwynd, Fort Nelson, Tumbler Ridge, Hudson’s Hope, Atlin and Dease Lake. In addition to programs offered in a

classroom setting, NLC offers programs via videoconference, online instruction, distributed delivery, and through the use of mobile training facilities.

Depending on their programs and career paths, students at NLC can earn certificates, diplomas, or associate degrees. In 2007-2008, total enrolment at NLC' campuses was 10,300 students, of which 8,900 were part-time students and 1,400 full-time. The range of programs at NLC continues to grow to meet student and industry requirements.

The Fort St. John campus of NLC offers several vocational and apprenticeship programs including Applied Business Technology, Automotive Service Technician, Commercial Transport/Heavy Duty Technician, Electrical Apprenticeship Training, Industrial Instrumentation Mechanic, Land and Resource Management; also Oil and Gas Field Operations, including Swamper Training, Power Engineering and Gas Processing and Steamfitter/Pipefitter. These programs are generally full, and produce between 32 and 64 graduates annually for each occupation program area (Kurpatwa 2011, pers. comm.).

The Oil and Gas training program at the Fort St. John Campus is offered through the Oil and Gas Centre of Excellence. This program was created in partnership with industry to train 180 individuals at a time to help meet the demand for trained labour in the sector.

The Dawson Creek NLC campus offers full-time vocational and trades programs in Aircraft Maintenance Engineering, Residential Construction, Culinary Arts, Commercial Driver Education, Welding, Plumbing, Steamfitter/Pipefitter, Millwright, Visual Arts and Graphic Arts, Licensed Practical Nursing, Home Support and Resident Care Attendant and Applied Business Technology.

The college also offers adult basic education for students looking to upgrade towards an academic or vocational program, or to complete Grade 12 requirements to receive the adult graduation diploma. NLC has affiliations with other post-secondary institutions to support course work, including the UNBC, Olds College, Southern Alberta Institute of Technology, B.C. Institute of Technology and Simon Fraser University.

The college is adding new programs targeted at specific job demands identified in the region. The college also works directly with industry and other area partners to deliver specialized programming. In August 2009, NLC received a $7.8 million federal and provincial investment through the Knowledge Infrastructure Program to build Energy House, the centre piece of the Centre of Excellence for Clean Energy Technology at the Dawson Creek Campus. Energy House focuses on training and development of skills applicable to wind power and other clean energy developments. It now offers the only wind turbine maintenance program in B.C.

The LAA is also served by the UNBC. UNBC has its main campus in Prince George and offers degree and diploma programs. In 2009-2010 there were 3,469 undergraduates and 715 graduate students, with 578 students attending academic classes outside of Prince George. UNBC has regional campuses in Fort St. John, Terrace, and Quesnel,

as well as teaching centres in Dawson Creek, Chetwynd, Tumbler Ridge, Prince Rupert, Williams Lake, Fort Nelson and the Nass Valley.

The UNBC in Fort St. John and Dawson Creek shares campuses with NLC. The enrolment in Fort St. John and Dawson Creek was 20 students in total as of December 2011. The focus at the Fort St. John and Dawson Creek campuses is primarily on university transfer, with and the future addition of nursing and business programs. UNBC is also planning to add a M.Ed. Counselling programme in 2012, which would attract 30 new students.

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