

## **SUBJECT: Lakeland College Funding**

## **SUBMITTED BY: Lloydminster Chamber of Commerce**

### **BACKGROUND**

Lloydminster is experiencing a shortage of skilled labour. Skilled labour is supported by two sources—educational institutions and on-the-job skills training. Lakeland College's Lloydminster campus has provided quality post-secondary education to students for over twenty years and has welcomed Saskatchewan students into all programs. Lloydminster high school students graduate from the Saskatchewan education system, with many of them attending Lakeland College on the Vermilion and Lloydminster campuses. However, the Lloydminster campus, uniquely situated on the border of Saskatchewan and Alberta, attracts Saskatchewan students from outside Lloydminster.

Enrolment over the last six years indicates that 42% of students on the Lloydminster campus are from Saskatchewan. Enrolment in various programs seems to attract more Saskatchewan students, from a high of 57% in health programs (Practical Nurse (PN) diploma program and Health Care Aide (HCA) certificate program), 50% in trades and technology (Heavy Oil Operations Technician certificate program and Power Engineering, 45% in business diploma programming, and 39% in university transfer programming.

Lakeland College initiated an approval to deliver the Practical Nurse diploma program in 2012, and is currently approved by the College of Licensed Practical Nurses of Alberta (CLPNA) to educate students in the PN program. Graduates of Lakeland's PN program, who pass the Canadian Practical Nurse Registration Examinations (CPNRE), become Licensed Practical Nurses (LPNs) who can practice anywhere in Canada. Of course, Lakeland students, many of whom complete their practicums in Saskatchewan, often stay and practice in Saskatchewan.

Support for the ongoing delivery of these programs, with a strong presence from Saskatchewan residents, is essential to continue delivery of high demand programs in the region. Lakeland College appreciates the strong support provided by industry leaders in the area, who provide opportunities for student practicum and co-operative experiences. These experiences allow students to apply theory to practice before graduation. It also allows the industry partners to see a variety of students in the workplace, giving them an opportunity to offer summer experience to students, and ultimately full time employment upon graduation. This is a classic "win-win" situation.

### **ISSUE**

With a change in funding from the Government of Alberta in Spring 2013, Lakeland College made some difficult decisions regarding their delivery of programs. With support from the Government of Saskatchewan, a gap in program delivery on the Lloydminster

campus would allow students to attend Lakeland College which is closer to home for Saskatchewan residents.

**RECOMMENDED**

1) That the Government of Saskatchewan provide proportionate government funding for the delivery of programs at Lakeland College to enable Saskatchewan students to continue pursuing post-secondary education in order to join the labour force and support the economy of the province of Saskatchewan.