

Northern College

Proud to be North – Proud to be Northern

Northern College opened the doors of the Integrated Emergency Services Complex on the Timmins Campus just over two years ago with “integrated” being the key word describing this building.

This impressive 20,000 square foot training facility was built with a highly unique approach in mind: to have College programs sharing space with actual fire, paramedic, and policing services on-site.

Students in the College’s Police, Paramedic and Firefighter programs learn in these shared spaces in close proximity with professionals from the City of Timmins fire department and police service. Emergency Medical Services (EMS) the Cochrane District EMS provide also work out of this building, making this a training space like no other in Canada.

The impact of training and working simultaneously beside one another parallels an apprenticeship-like style of learning environment. Professional jobs and duties are separate from the training spaces for students, but the spaces look almost identical with the power of proximity lending itself to some powerful teachable moments.

In the Police Foundations training area, props and equipment mirror the ones the Police College uses for training. Students participate in and observe some of the special and regular ongoing training that happens through the year with Ontario Provincial Police and Timmins Police Service, giving them an idea of the long term expectations of police officers. These same students practice practical components, like handcuffing and traffic stops using specialized policing training vehicles. Frequent guest speakers open up further possibilities related to jobs in corrections, conservation, security and traditional officer roles.

Students studying in the paramedic program build professional relationships in this space, as well, with lab groups capped between 4- 6 students for substantial customized hands-on training. This allows learners to accelerate the mastering of practical skills used on-the-job, build their confidence and hone the skills needed to save lives.

Paramedic students come from across the province seeking that personalized approach. The program sees learners from as near as Timmins and the James Bay Coast to those from larger urban centres in Southwestern Ontario. A final semester for students to attend their preceptorship can be taken in any service or county in the province. With over 30 preceptorship partners, Northern College students arrive expecting exceptional levels of training and get what they came for. Completing their preceptorship where they plan to begin their career gives students that extra edge in the working world.

The Pre-Service Firefighter program at Northern has a unique training space including an on-campus burn building, where real-smoke, clean burn fires from wood and hay are conducted. Changes to the inside structure and lay-out prepare students for anticipating darkness so often experienced on the job. Rope rescue, fire suppression, and ladder skills, taught in a multi-level fire tower with a rescue balcony provides the ability for skills to be mastered indoors despite the weather outside. Professional firefighters work to deliver the National Fire Protection Association approved curriculum, which allows graduates to work across North America as professional firefighters.



To learn more, visit us at www.northern.on.ca