

Government of Alberta ■
Advanced Education and Technology

2009-12 Business Plan

HIGHLIGHTS



Freedom To Create. Spirit To Achieve.

Core Business 1

Provide Strategic Leadership towards an Integrated Advanced Learning and Innovation System in Alberta

Goal 1

Alberta's integrated advanced learning and research system is aligned with learner and labour-market demand and serves the needs of a knowledge-based society

Strategies

- 1.1 Further Campus Alberta through the implementation of the Roles and Mandates Policy Framework for Alberta's advanced learning system and the development of a Campus Alberta governance framework.
- 1.2 Align resource allocation strategies to support the advanced learning and research and innovation system's ability to respond to emerging needs of learners and a knowledge-based economy.
- 1.3 Enhance the capacity and utilization of Alberta's public post-secondary infrastructure to support the sustainability of high-quality advanced learning and research opportunities throughout the province in collaboration with Alberta Infrastructure.
- 1.4 Develop an international strategy in support of the objectives of Campus Alberta and the Roles and Mandates Framework for provincially-funded research and innovation organizations.
- 1.5 Respond to demand for post-secondary system access through the priorities established in the Alberta Access Planning Framework.
- 1.6 Within the context of Campus Alberta, work with stakeholders and other ministries to develop a strategic approach to increase educational opportunities for Aboriginal learners.
- 1.7 Develop a collaborative, networked, and multidisciplinary research system that spurs innovation and addresses social, environmental and health challenges by working with partners and stakeholders to implement the Roles and Mandates Framework for provincially-funded research and innovation organizations.

Outcomes	Last Actual	Year	Target 2009-10
<i>Performance Measures</i>			
An integrated and sustainable advanced learning and innovation system *			
The advanced learning system responds to learner needs and labour-market demand			
<i>Public satisfaction that adult Albertans can access education or training</i>	79%	2007-08	80%
<i>Percentage of transfers where post-secondary graduates with prior learning had received the transfer credit they expected</i>	87%	2007-08	90%+
<i>Proportion of recent graduates who agree that the program they graduated from was worth the financial cost</i>	84%	2007-08	85%
Research capacity is aligned with the needs of a knowledge-based economy and society *			

* Performance measures to track progress towards these outcomes are under investigation.

Core Business 2

Develop Highly Skilled and Qualified People by Fostering a Culture of Learning

Goal 2

Alberta's advanced learning system fosters a culture of learning and meets the needs of Albertans, society and the next generation economy

Strategies

- 2.1 Profile Alberta's post-secondary and research system in key national and international markets.
- 2.2 Enhance the recognition of Alberta's credentials and graduates through the work of quality assurance mechanisms.
- 2.3 Work with community adult learning councils and community literacy programs to provide adults with financial literacy, math literacy and other literacy skills needed for the next generation economy.
- 2.4 Support comprehensive community institutions and community adult learning providers to increase their alignment and responsiveness to regional learning needs.
- 2.5 Develop innovative approaches to increase the participation of Aboriginal, immigrant and other under-represented groups in literacy and other learning opportunities.
- 2.6 Enhance parents' and learners' knowledge and awareness of Campus Alberta, planning and learner supports, and financial support options through a collaborative raising-awareness initiative.
- 2.7 Develop innovative approaches to improve participation and achievement in apprenticeship and industry training in response to industry needs.
- 2.8 Encourage industry participation and investment in the apprenticeship and industry training system in collaboration with the Alberta Apprenticeship and Industry Training Board, employers, and other stakeholders.
- 2.9 Collaborate with other ministries to develop Alberta's Human Capital Plan.
- 2.10 Work with institutions, employers and professional associations to encourage the recognition of credentials, competencies and prior learning.
- 2.11 In alignment with the Affordability Framework, continue to enhance student financial assistance and other related programs.
- 2.12 Enhance access to student financial assistance through simplified materials, technology, policies and support services, including working with pan-Canadian committees and working groups.
- 2.13 Ensure scholarship programs reward the excellence of Alberta students.

Core Business 2
 Develop Highly Skilled and Qualified People by Fostering a Culture of Learning

Goal 2
 Alberta's advanced learning system fosters a culture of learning and meets the needs of Albertans, society and the next generation economy

Outcomes Performance Measures	Last Actual	Year	Target 2009-10	
A globally recognized advanced learning system based on the vision of Campus Alberta				
International visa students registered at Alberta post-secondary institutions	9,598	2006-07	10,000	
Satisfaction of recent post-secondary graduates with the overall quality of their educational experience	91%	2007-08	90%+	
Satisfaction of recent apprenticeship graduates with	on-the-job training	93%	2006-07	n/a
	technical training	94%	2006-07	n/a
A broad array of quality learning opportunities is available within local communities				
Public agreement that programs, classes or courses are offered in locations (including online) that are easily accessible	76%	2007-08	78%	
Albertans participate in the advanced learning system and complete their education or training				
Proportion of Albertans aged 18-34 participating in post-secondary education	16%	2008	17%	
High school to post-secondary transition rate of students within 10 years of entering Grade 10 *	67.5%	2006-07	73%	
New apprentices registered (five year average)	17,804	2007	20,000	
Aboriginal learners participating at post-secondary institutions	7,680	2007-08	7,800	
Affordability is not a barrier to participating in advanced learning opportunities				
Ratio of total debt at graduation to income two years after graduation	33%	2007-08	33%	
Excellence is rewarded through scholarships and awards				
Scholarship dollars per full-time student studying in Alberta	\$302	2006-07	\$420	

* Methodology for this performance measure has been expanded from tracking students who transition from high school to the post-secondary system within 6 years of entering Grade 10 to within 10 years of entering Grade 10 to capture more students who delay entry into the advanced learning system. The 2006-07 data is based on the new methodology.

n/a Data available every other year.

Core Business 3

Support Research and its Application and Commercialization to Grow a More Diverse Alberta Economy and Knowledge-Based Society

Goal 3

Alberta's research capacity supports excellence in research and innovation in strategic areas

Strategies

- 3.1 Promote life sciences technology and innovation to advance bio-economic, health and sustainable production opportunities that support the emergence of Alberta's next generation economy.
- 3.2 Develop Alberta as a world-class centre of energy research and promote advanced energy technology and innovation in six core areas: bitumen upgrading, clean carbon/coal, improved recovery, renewable energy, CO2 and emissions, and water use.
- 3.3 Implement the Information and Communications Technology Strategy and support an environment that fosters research and industry development in strategic areas.
- 3.4 Develop, attract, and retain highly qualified scientific personnel and entrepreneurs in Alberta.
- 3.5 Implement the *Alberta Nanotechnology Strategy* supporting the enhancement of applications to drive Alberta's nanotechnology agenda.
- 3.6 Support research excellence at Alberta universities, colleges and technical institutes.

Outcomes	Last Actual	Year	Target 2009-10
Performance Measures			
Research and innovation excellence supports areas where Alberta has or is developing a competitive advantage			
Total sponsored research revenue attracted by Alberta universities * (\$ million)	\$731.4	2006-07	\$760.9
Total sponsored applied research revenue attracted by Alberta technical institutes and colleges (\$ million)	\$5.8	2006-07	\$5.8
Graduate students studying in Alberta	18,605	2006-07	19,100
Percentage of graduate students studying in priority areas	32%	2006-07	32%

* The 2006-07 last actual was revised due a change in the data source and methodology.

Vision

Alberta prospers through innovation and lifelong learning.

Core Business 3

Support Research and its Application and Commercialization to Grow a More Diverse Alberta Economy and Knowledge-Based Society

Goal 4

Value captured from research and innovation drives Alberta's future success in the next generation economy

Strategies

- 4.1 Promote a culture of innovation within Alberta through support of programs and mechanisms required to encourage the translation of science and technology discoveries into business and entrepreneurial opportunities.
- 4.2 Implement initiatives from *Alberta's Action Plan: Bringing Technology to Market*, including the promotion of the development of an investment environment supporting technology industries, in part through the Alberta Enterprise Corporation.
- 4.3 Develop partnerships between communities, industry, and institutions to foster business opportunities; technology creation and transfer; and attraction of corporate investments which lead to greater technology commercialization in Alberta.
- 4.4 In alignment with government priorities, collaborate with various partners to accelerate diversification and commercialization in Alberta by enhancing the technology and business development environment.
- 4.5 Facilitate and encourage government departments and post-secondary institutions to be model adopters of Alberta research and innovation.

Outcomes Performance Measures	Last Actual	Year	Target 2009-10
A diversified economy through growth of knowledge-based sectors			
Alberta business expenditures on research and development (\$ million)	\$1,077	2005	\$1,173
Number of Albertans employed by companies in priority areas	140,100	2008	140,100
Albertans employed by companies in priority areas as a percentage of Albertans employed in all companies	7.0%	2008	7.3%
Percentage of Canadian venture capital invested in Alberta	2.4%	2007	3.0%

Mission

Advanced Education and Technology provides strategic leadership for the development of the next generation economy in Alberta through the provision of accessible, affordable and quality learning opportunities for all Albertans and support for a dynamic and integrated innovation system.