

Vision Alberta prospers through innovation and lifelong learning

Mission Provide 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




The Ministry collaborates with learning providers, advisory boards and councils, and innovation support agencies to fulfill its mandate of creating accessible, affordable, quality learning opportunities and fostering support for innovation and commercialization activities.

In support of its vision and mission, the Ministry's 2009-12 Business Plan sets out specific goals, strategies, performance measures and targets for the reporting period. The following are highlights of what has been accomplished in 2009-10 in support of these goals, and corresponding performance measures and targets.

These symbols indicate performance measure results relative to targets:  Target exceeded  Target met  Target not met  No target set *A target is considered met if the result is within 5% of the target value.*

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

Performance Measures	Result	Target	
Public satisfaction that adult Albertans can access education or training	75%	80%	
Percentage of transfers where post-secondary graduates with prior learning had received the transfer credit they expected	88%	90%+	
Proportion of recent graduates who agree that the program they graduated from was worth the financial cost	86%	85%	

[more information on](#)

[Alberta Innovates](#)

[Campus Alberta](#)

Key Accomplishments

- ▶ Launched the realigned research and innovation system, Alberta Innovates, to build on Alberta's research and innovation strengths in priority areas and make the province more competitive in a global economy.
- ▶ Launched the Campus Alberta Administrative Governance Framework to further collaborative initiatives in the advanced learning system in support of Campus Alberta objectives.
- ▶ Released the 2009 Alberta Access Planning Framework to promote collaboration among post-secondary institutions and help ensure Alberta's advanced learning system continues to be responsive and accessible.
- ▶ Provided \$269 million for program expansion at Alberta's public post-secondary institutions, including apprenticeship programming.
- ▶ Provided \$45 million through the Access to the Future Fund, including \$42 million to match private donations provided to post-secondary institutions, \$1.9 million in grants for initiatives to increase collaboration and participation in the advanced learning system, and \$1.1 million in grants to six Aboriginal colleges.
- ▶ Provided \$702 million to support the expansion and preservation of post-secondary facilities, including \$540 million for expansion and \$162 million for capital maintenance and renewal.
- ▶ Launched the First Nations, Métis, and Inuit (FNMI) Education Partnership Council in collaboration with the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Aboriginal Relations, and FNMI stakeholders to identify and coordinate strategic actions to improve the educational success of Aboriginal students.
- ▶ Worked with the Alberta Post-Secondary Application System Society to implement a single web-access portal for applications to all publicly funded post-secondary institutions; now adopted by 18 post-secondary institutions across the province.

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

Performance Measures		Result	Target	
International visa students registered at Alberta post-secondary institutions		11,840	10,000	▲
Satisfaction of recent post-secondary graduates with the overall quality of their educational experience		91%	90%+	▲
Satisfaction of recent apprenticeship graduates with	on-the-job training	n/a ^b	n/a	○
	technical training	n/a ^b	n/a	○
Public agreement that programs, classes or courses are offered in locations (including online) that are easily accessible		72%	78%	✘
Proportion of Albertans aged 18-34 participating in post-secondary education		17%	17%	▲
High school to post-secondary transition rate of students within 10 years of entering Grade 10		68.2%	73%	✘
New apprentices registered (five year average)		20,755	20,000	▲
Aboriginal learners participating at post-secondary institutions		8,355	7,800	▲
Ratio of total debt at graduation to income two years after graduation		35.9%	33%	✘
Scholarship dollars per full-time student studying in Alberta		\$406	\$420	▲

b – biennial survey

Key Accomplishments

- ▶ Initiated an extensive review of Alberta's student financial assistance program to ensure the program can accommodate learner needs while remaining accountable to Alberta taxpayers.
- ▶ Awarded funding to 46,315 full-time post-secondary students, an increase of approximately 23%, including \$62 million in provincial grants and bursaries and \$164 million in Alberta Student Loan disbursements.
- ▶ Recognized the achievement of student excellence through a record \$71.5 million investment in scholarships to over 34,000 Alberta students. This total amount included approximately \$22 million awarded in graduate scholarships to foster the development of new researchers and over 700 scholarships awarded to registered apprentices.
- ▶ Provided funding for more than 3,000 new certificate, diploma and degree spaces at post-secondary institutions, including more than 1,100 new spaces in high demand, health-related areas.
- ▶ Promoted skilled trades and technology careers to Alberta youth by supporting a successful international skills competition – WorldSkills Calgary 2009.
- ▶ Supported the Aboriginal Action Plan to facilitate Aboriginal participation in apprenticeship and industry training.
- ▶ Implemented the Innovative Communities Connecting and Networking initiative, connecting Community Adult Learning Councils, literacy organizations and volunteer centres via videoconferencing to increase collaborative training opportunities, especially in rural and remote communities.
- ▶ Provided funding to over 200 literacy services, programs and Community Adult Learning Councils in communities across the province.

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

Performance Measures	Result	Target	
Total sponsored research revenue attracted by Alberta universities (\$ million)	\$791.2	\$760.9	▲
Total sponsored applied research revenue attracted by Alberta technical institutes and colleges (\$ million)	\$13.4	\$5.8	▲
Graduate students studying in Alberta	18,574	19,100	▲
Percentage of graduate students studying in priority areas	33%	32%	▲

Key Accomplishments

- ▶ Developed the Alberta Research Capacity Planning Framework in coordination with the Alberta Access Planning Framework and Alberta Innovates corporations to achieve coordinated planning, prioritized research investments, and the sustainable and effective use of research resources for the benefit of Albertans.
- ▶ In collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Wellness, supported the development of Alberta's Health Research and Innovation Strategy, which will provide a strategic approach to health research investment.
- ▶ Continued to implement the Alberta Information and Communication Technology Strategy to support research and industry development in strategic areas.
- ▶ Committed \$44.2 million over four years through the Alberta Science and Research Investments Program for 18 projects that promote research excellence, innovation capacity, and initiatives in priority areas.
- ▶ Committed \$6.8 million over two years for equipment for new labs through the Small Equipment Grants Program for 29 research projects aligned with Alberta's innovation priorities.
- ▶ Approved over \$11 million for projects, through the NanoWorks program (over its two years of operation), that will expand Alberta's research capacity in nanotechnology and develop new commercial applications based on that research.
- ▶ Provided leadership and support for research excellence at Alberta post-secondary institutions, producing several new collaborative, value-added research facilities and programs that significantly advance key strategic priorities in health, sustainable production, and advanced energy and gas technology.

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

Performance Measures	Result	Target	
Alberta business expenditures on research and development (\$ million)	1,178	1,173	▲
Number of Albertans employed by companies in priority areas	135,900	140,100	▲
Albertans employed by companies in priority areas as a percentage of Albertans employed in all companies	6.8%	7.3%	✘
Percentage of Canadian venture capital invested in Alberta	7.0%	3.0%	▲

Key Accomplishments

- ▶ Implemented strategies identified in Alberta's Action Plan: *Bringing Technology to Market*, including the Innovation Voucher Pilot Program, business development and product commercialization centres, and the Youth Technopreneurship Program.
- ▶ Launched the Alberta Innovates Connector Service, providing one-window access to Alberta's research and innovation network to innovative businesses, entrepreneurs, researchers, investors and business service providers.
- ▶ Improved access to capital for Alberta entrepreneurs by commencing program activities and making two investments in venture capital funds through Alberta Enterprise Corporation.
- ▶ Launched the Alberta International Business Partnering Program, through Western Economic Diversification Canada in partnership with the federal government, to expand the international market reach of firms in the life sciences, and information and communications technology sectors.
- ▶ Developed the Post-Secondary Industry Collaboration Framework to establish processes helping the Ministry and post-secondary institutions work together effectively to attract, retain and develop relationships with key industry partners.
- ▶ Conducted international missions and signed international agreements on science and technology collaboration to encourage an investment environment supportive of technology industries in Alberta.

**Government
of Alberta** ■

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