

Speaking Points

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Minister of Advanced Education and Technology

Alberta Urban Municipalities Association (AUMA)
Convention

Telus Convention Centre
120 9 AVE SE
Glen Room 208-209
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4 minutes

Introduction

- Thank you and good morning everyone.
- I appreciate this opportunity to tell you about what my staff and I are working on these days at Alberta Advanced Education and Technology.
- We continue to build on this government's vision for an Alberta that has a strong and prosperous economy which makes us globally competitive.
- In order to achieve this vision we must focus our efforts right here at home.
- Over the past year my ministry has worked on...

... enhancing our post-secondary system...

...training more apprentices and tradespeople...

...and strengthening innovation and research.

Campus Alberta

- Our Campus Alberta post-secondary institutions play a vital role in the communities all over our province...large and small.
- While many students flock to college and universities in our larger urban centres...our smaller institutions continue to provide vital opportunities for Albertans.

- These institutions open doors for people who may have thought that a post-secondary education was out of their grasp...solely because of where they live.
- We are also expanding our online options through eCampus Alberta and Athabasca University, literally bringing post-secondary to people where they live.
- This means employers in every region will have greater access to the skilled workers they're looking for.
- It also means that more of our young people will be able to remain in the communities they grew up in...and that our urban centres can continue to benefit from their relationships with local colleges.
- Post-secondary education is vital to Alberta's future.
- And I'm not just talking about putting everyone on the path to a PhD.
- A prosperous and thriving Alberta requires people with many talents that including artists, entrepreneurs, teachers and skilled tradespeople.
- When it comes to tradespeople in the province, the Alberta Apprenticeship and Industry Training Board has developed a number of strategies to prepare for Alberta's growing need for skilled workers.

- Additional apprenticeship technical training seats have been created, new programs have been established, and infrastructure expansions are underway to accommodate more students.
- The Alberta Apprenticeship and Industry Training Board has increased the journeyman-to-apprentice supervision ratio from one journeyman to one apprentice to one journeyman to two apprentices.
- The journeyman to apprentice ratio represents the numbers of apprentices that a journeyman can train on the job.
- We also recognize that we may not be able to meet demand without bringing in workers from outside of our borders...so we'll continue to work on foreign credentialing in order to increase the number of temporary foreign workers coming into Alberta.

Alberta Innovates

- We not only need tradespeople in our traditional industries...we'll also need their hands-on skills as we diversify Alberta's economy and build a new future based on innovation.
- In the past year our Alberta Innovates system has made progress.
- The system...which focuses on our strengths in...
...agriculture and forestry,

...energy and the environment,

...health, and...

...translating ideas into new economic opportunities...is already attracting some attention.

- We're busy taking our success story to the world...to let more potential partners know that Alberta is open for business.
- We're letting them know that we have a new system for innovation that companies and researchers around the world agree is unique.
- We're letting them know that our new system is based on a strong legacy and proven success.
- We're letting them know that we have one-of-a-kind resources to bring to our partnerships.
- And...perhaps most importantly...we're letting them know that we're focused on solving the world's biggest problems with the best in research and innovation.
- Our success in this area means new opportunities for our municipalities...many of which are already a big part of making Alberta a destination for innovation.

Conclusion

- What this all boils down to...is that my ministry and this government stands ready to take action to ensure Alberta is successful.
- Campus Alberta...Apprenticeship and Trades...Alberta Innovates...
...each of these crucial areas are vital to the future...

...and can be made stronger with the collaboration among Albertans, business, industry and government...and of course you.
- I can't wait to see where we go from here.
- Thank you for your attention.