

Speaking Points

Hon. Greg Weadick

Minister of Advanced Education and Technology

SAIT Simulation Centre

(Respiratory Therapy)

Opening

SAIT Polytechnic

Main Campus

1301-16 Ave NW

Calgary, Alberta

August 31, 2011

3 minutes

Introduction

- Thank you, Dr. Gordon Nixon [*Vice President, Academic, SAIT*] and good afternoon everyone.
- I'm thrilled to be here for what is truly a proud day for SAIT, Alberta and our students training to become health care professionals.
- I want to commend SAIT for the launch of the bigger and better Centre for Advanced Patient Care Simulation.
- This tremendous facility...easily one of the best of its kind in Alberta and Canada.
- Its new equipment, workstations and simulation mannequins...
...will provide students in health and public safety programs...
...with practical, hands-on learning opportunities...
...so they will be even better prepared for the realities of the workplace.

SAIT's Legacy

- Since the simulation centre opened its doors five years ago...
...over 1,600 graduates...from the respiratory therapy and emergency medical services programs...
...have benefitted from this unique and innovative training environment.

- That's a significant number of health care professionals...many of whom are contributing their skills and expertise in our health care system...and making a real difference in the quality of lives of Albertans.
- That's why Advanced Education and Technology was pleased to provide funding support for the simulation centre's expansion and renovation.
- We're excited to help keep fueling SAIT's legacy of innovation...
 ...a legacy where cutting-edge technology, equipment and methods are integrated with training...
 ...to make learning experiences more realistic and relevant for today's students.
- SAIT has certainly earned a reputation as a key training provider of healthcare practitioners in our province.

Alberta's Health Workforce Action Plan

- Like SAIT, Alberta is committed to developing the next generation of skilled and innovative health care professionals.
- As part of Alberta's Health Workforce Action Plan...
 ...our government is actively working with training providers...like SAIT...
 and our other partners...

...to ensure that our province continues to develop a health care workforce that is highly trained, innovative and robust.

Conclusion

- In closing, I'd like to thank President Lewis...

...Dr. Gordon Nixon [*Vice President, Academic, SAIT*]

...Dr. Allen Billy [*Dean, SAIT, School of Health and Public Safety*]...

...and all faculty and staff from the School of Health and Public Safety...

...for your outstanding leadership and commitment to helping build Alberta's health care workforce and for today and tomorrow...

...and for collaborating with us to help keep Albertans healthier and safer.

- Thank you.

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