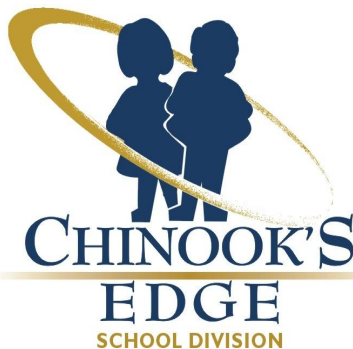


December 22, 2004



## Community Learning Campus takes major step forward

**OLDS, ALBERTA, December 22, 2004** – Alberta Infrastructure has allocated \$500,000 to begin initial design plans for a proposed Community Learning Campus (CLC) in Olds. Also, Group 2 Architecture Engineering Interior Design has been selected by the Community Learning Campus steering committee to guide and develop design plans.

The steering committee, comprised of representatives from Olds College, Chinook's Edge School Division, and Olds High School, has been working since the spring of 2003 to develop the concept. It was at that time when Alberta Infrastructure approved the high school for a \$6.7 million modernization and community members encouraged the School Board to consider an alternate site. The committee is now set to begin drafting plans.

### CONTACT:

**Jim Gibbons**  
Superintendent  
Chinook's Edge School Division  
(403) 227-7070  
[jgibbons@chinooksedg.ab.ca](mailto:jgibbons@chinooksedg.ab.ca)

**H.J. (Tom) Thompson**  
President & CEO  
Olds College  
1-800-661-6537 or (403) 556-8301  
[ttompson@oldscollge.ca](mailto:ttompson@oldscollge.ca)

**Kerry Moynihan, Director**  
Marketing and Government Relations  
Olds College Advancement  
1-800-661-6537, (403) 507-7710  
or (403) 710-3858 (cell)  
[kmoynihn@oldscollge.ca](mailto:kmoynihn@oldscollge.ca)

**Laurette Woodward**  
Communications Officer  
Chinook's Edge School Division  
(403) 227-7085, (403) 391-3220 (cell)  
[lwoodward@chinooksedg.ab.ca](mailto:lwoodward@chinooksedg.ab.ca)

“The Community Learning Campus will be great for learners, and it will benefit the Town of Olds and all residents of Central Alberta,” said Jim Gibbons, Superintendent of Chinook's Edge School Division. “Our plans have grown substantially over the last 15 months and we now share a vision for a centre of learning excellence whose magnitude is unmatched. This has been a very rewarding experience and it shows the importance people of this region place on education.”

The CLC vision involves building a facility for high school students on the Olds College campus. Beyond the facility, the vision's emphasis is on programs and creating opportunities. CLC students would essentially see a seamless transition between high school and post-secondary education.

One of the major goals of the CLC steering committee is to encourage rural students to remain in rural Alberta if they wish. Whether a student's choice is entry into the workforce, apprenticeship, college or university, the CLC would set out to provide guidance and support for all choices. The plan includes advantages for learners of all ages, including parents and community members. In addition, the steering committee welcomes the idea of partnering with the public, voluntary, community, health, children's services and private sectors to further enhance programming. If the plan is approved by the provincial government, the Community Learning Campus will be unique in Canada.

“We want to pioneer a truly seamless delivery system that will take high school students smoothly into the challenges of post-secondary programming,” said H.J. (Tom) Thompson, President and CEO of Olds College. “This type of collaboration among educational service providers and the community has been proven to substantially increase student success. From helping to clarify career goals to improving student retention, the CLC concept delivers excellence and relevance in learning. We want our community neighbours to be infected by the enthusiasm we all feel.”

*continued on page 2*

# Community Learning Campus takes major step forward

Page 2

## CONTACT:

**Jim Gibbons**  
Superintendent  
Chinook's Edge School Division  
(403) 227-7070  
[jgibbons@chinooksedge.ab.ca](mailto:jgibbons@chinooksedge.ab.ca)

**H.J. (Tom) Thompson**  
President & CEO  
Olds College  
1-800-661-6537 or (403) 556-8301  
[tthompson@oldscollege.ca](mailto:tthompson@oldscollege.ca)

**Kerry Moynihan, Director**  
Marketing and Government Relations  
Olds College Advancement  
1-800-661-6537, (403) 507-7710  
or (403) 710-3858 (cell)  
[kmoynihnan@oldscollege.ca](mailto:kmoynihnan@oldscollege.ca)

**Laurette Woodward**  
Communications Officer  
Chinook's Edge School Division  
(403) 227-7085, (403) 391-3220 (cell)  
[lwoodward@chinooksedge.ab.ca](mailto:lwoodward@chinooksedge.ab.ca)

To obtain accompanying photographs  
please contact Sandy Bexon  
Olds College Communications Coordinator,  
1-800-661-6537 or (403) 507-7714.

In its role of guiding both the CLC steering committee and the public through development plans, Group 2 has already begun providing information sessions. The company has nearly 50 employees and offices in Calgary and Red Deer. The group has designed an array of multi-million dollar structures throughout the province, including the Confluence Campus in Rocky Mountain House (budget \$17.5 million), The Collicut Leisure Centre in Red Deer (budget \$30 million) and the Red Deer Regional Hospital Redevelopment (budget \$95.8 million). Group 2 specializes in commercial, education and health care projects.

“The vision set forth by the CLC steering committee involves not only education, but rural economic development and community partnerships,” said Craig Webber, Project Architect, Group 2.

“Clearly there is an urgent need for creative answers to the challenges facing educational services delivery and skills training in rural areas. Approaching these challenges by connecting academics with industry learning and post-secondary opportunities is an excellent vision. We are very excited by the concept and we are digging right into the initial design stage.”

The \$500,000 provided by Alberta Infrastructure will cover initial designs for the structure, determine programming content, and develop financial and governance models. A large part of the development phase, which will be completed by March 15, 2005, is a community consultation process.

“We will be using a variety of methods to provide opportunities for public input and information,” said Webber. “Some fundamental aspects of the project have already been determined, including its location on the Olds College campus. But we are looking forward to consulting community members on their vision of how the structure will look and the programs it will house. We’re excited and we’re listening.”

If approved, the CLC would be designed to accommodate a range of secondary, post-secondary and community services for a large number of Central Alberta residents. As Olds College will also be the host of the Point of Presence for the Alberta SuperNet, the potential reach of CLC programs is virtually unlimited.

A schedule of community consultation events and activities is being developed, and will begin in early January.