



For more information on Olds College, please visit our Web site at www.oldscollege.ca, or call toll free at 1-800-661-6537. To obtain accompanying photographs please contact Sandy Bexon.

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About Olds College:
Founded in 1913, Olds College is the premier comprehensive applied agricultural, horticultural, land and environmental management learning organization in Canada. Located 45 minutes north of Calgary, Olds College prepares students to contribute provincially, nationally and internationally through careers in agriculture, horticulture, environmental land management, agribusiness, and rural entrepreneurship. Olds College provides certificate, diploma and applied degree programs, and participates with other institutions in offering post-diploma degrees. Olds College Centre is further dedicated to nurturing innovation, learning, applied research and commercialization for agribusiness through the Olds College Centre for Innovation.

Leaders share common vision for Community Learning Campus

OLDS, ALBERTA, March 10, 2004 – Representatives from six organizations held the first official meeting yesterday to discuss the concept of creating a Community Learning Campus in Olds.

The meeting was held on the Olds College campus and had representation from Olds College, Chinook's Edge School Division, the Town of Olds, Mountain View County, Olds High School, and The Olds Institute of Community and Regional Development. A consultant led the group through the process of developing a shared vision for the Olds Community Learning Campus.

"The meeting was very successful," said Jim Gibbons, Superintendent of Chinook's Edge School Division. "There has been a true spirit of cooperation and excitement for this concept from the very beginning. Everyone at the meeting is dedicated to planning effectively for the future of learning, and the Community Learning Campus would greatly extend learning opportunities in this region."

Olds High School was approved for a \$6.7 million modernization as part of an Alberta Infrastructure audit in the spring of 2003. At that time, members from the community encouraged Chinook's Edge School Board to consider an alternate site. Now a concept paper outlining the findings from the March 9th meeting is being created and, once completed in the next few weeks, will be the template for the start of a public consultation process.

"We would like to see public involvement throughout this process, and will be providing a variety of methods over a period of time for community members to state their views," said Gibbons. "We are extremely confident that, given our longstanding relationship with Olds College in the delivery of courses and providing programming for students, this partnership will be a huge success."

Tom Christensen, who has been Principal at Olds High School for the past four years, believes the Olds Community Learning Campus would address educational needs in the community for many years to come.

"When we look at effective education in the future, I think it's important for us to move from our current location," said Christensen. "Our current needs, as well as those we anticipate surfacing over the next 25 years, would be very effectively addressed at the Community Learning Campus. The expanded programs we could deliver and the facilities we could access would create huge opportunities for learning success."

Olds College President and CEO, H. J. (Tom) Thompson, is confident the Community Learning Campus would benefit learners of all ages.

"This initiative is bringing together people whose shared priority is education. The result will be positive and student-centred," said Thompson.