

Bell e-Learning Centre officially opens- connecting rural Albertans to e-learning opportunities through the SuperNet

Olds, (Alberta), October 9, 2008 – The official opening of the Bell e-Learning Centre took place today at the Community Learning Campus (CLC) on the grounds of Olds College. The Bell e-Learning Centre provides a wide range of innovative e-learning opportunities and resources to students, businesses and communities in rural Alberta through the SuperNet.

“The Bell e-Learning Centre reinforces our commitment to bring new technologies to rural communities in Alberta and to our partnership with the Government of Alberta in building and leveraging the SuperNet,” said Allan MacDonald, Vice President of Bell Western Business Operations. “This facility demonstrates our commitment to growth in Western Canada and increasing connectivity to support local needs- in this case bridging the urban-rural digital divide.”

Through a combination of distance and on site program, the Bell e-Learning Centre is the hub for e-learning and the connected community. It provides new connectivity and e-learning opportunities to students, community members and businesses, including improved rural access to broadband technologies such as video conferencing, webcasts, technology courses, video editing and new business applications through the SuperNet.

“Olds College has a clear vision and strategy to expand learning opportunities and enhance rural community capacity, and we see Bell as the best technology partner to accomplish this goal,” said Dr. H.J. (Tom) Thompson, President and CEO of Olds College and Chair of the CLC. “The Bell e-Learning Centre is about realizing the potential of creating a shared space that brings people together and provides learning opportunities for everyone.”

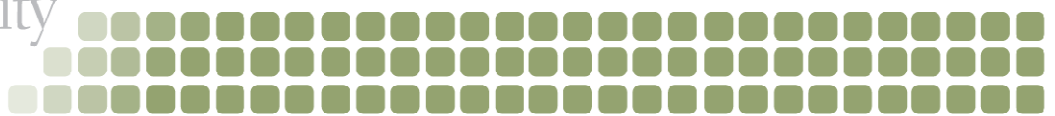
The Honourable, Doug Horner, Minister of Advanced Education and Technology praised the collaborative work being done at the Bell e-Learning Centre. “The Bell e-Learning Centre is a great example of how our government’s Campus Alberta concept, and innovative partnerships, ensure quality education is accessible for learners everywhere in Alberta,” said Horner. “This is how Alberta is moving quickly into the knowledge-based economy young Albertans want to participate in.”

Students from Olds Junior Senior High School began taking computer and media arts classes at the Bell e-Learning Centre in May. For teachers and students alike, the Centre provides the highest level of technology applications in a magnificent facility. “It is the best atmosphere that I have ever been in,” said Jim Gibbons, Chinook’s Edge Superintendent and CLC Vice-Chair. “The real strength is the ability to move from a formal classroom setting to an informal gathering space to collaborate on projects as a group. The Bell e-Learning Centre is delivering exactly what we envisioned when we began the planning the Community Learning Campus.”

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Community
Learning
Campus



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About Bell

Bell is Canada's largest communications company providing consumers with solutions to all their communications needs, including telephone services, wireless communications, high-speed Internet, digital television and voice over IP. Bell also offers integrated information and communications technology (ICT) services to businesses and governments, and is the Virtual Chief Information Officer (VCIO) to small and medium businesses (SMBs). Bell is proud to be a Premier National Partner and the exclusive Telecommunications Partner to the Vancouver 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games. Bell is wholly owned by BCE Inc. For information on Bell's products and services, please visit www.bell.ca. For corporate information on BCE, please visit www.bce.ca.

About Olds College

Founded in 1913, Olds College's vision is to be the premier Canadian integrated learning and applied research community specializing in agriculture, horticulture, land and environmental management. 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 is further dedicated to nurturing innovation, learning, applied research and commercialization for agribusiness through the School of Innovation.

About Chinook's Edge School Division

Chinook's Edge School Division is the largest rural division in the province, serving approximately 11,000 students in kindergarten to grade 12 through 41 schools in communities throughout Central Alberta. At Chinook's Edge, our motto is "Where Students Come First". Along with exceptional academic and athletic programs, our schools nurture character development through a focus on values, leadership programs, global awareness, respect and resiliency.

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