

Central Alberta talent celebrated at Fine Arts & Multi Media Centre opening

For immediate release: February 26, 2009 – A lively celebration of community talent and collaboration marked today’s official opening of the Fine Arts & Multi Media Centre, the second facility to open on the Community Learning Campus (CLC) in Olds, Alberta.

Student and community talent took centre stage at the official grand opening event, as nearly 200 people participated in a Community Arts Showcase. The Centre is designed to serve a multitude of functions for Olds High School students, Olds College students and the strong arts community of Central Alberta. The \$8.9 million facility includes a 390-seat theatre, an acoustically sound band room, a cosmetology classroom and art room complete with kiln and separate stained glass studio.

The Honourable Lindsay Blackett, Minister of Culture and Community Spirit, attended the grand opening event and commended the community collaborations that helped create the Fine Arts & Multi Media Centre.

“This centre is an incredible accomplishment, and a testament to the spirit of this community,” said Blackett. “It’s also about opportunity. Our young people now have the opportunity to enhance their education in the fine arts, and the broader community is now able to participate in and experience art and culture in an exciting and dynamic new way.”

The grand opening was punctuated by a major gift announcement from TransCanada Corporation, which is investing \$500,000 into the Fine Arts & Multi Media Centre.

“We are building the CLC facilities with people who share our commitment to learning and rural development, and who are investing in the unique vision of the CLC,” said Jim Gibbons, Superintendent of Schools for Chinook’s Edge School Division and CLC Vice-Chair. “TransCanada Corporation recognized the opportunities this project provides for people in Central Alberta and their support will have a major impact. Because of the Fine Arts & Multi Media Centre and the people who nurture the arts in Central Alberta, our young people can dream their big dreams right here in their small towns.”

TransCanada Corporation’s four-year investment began with the delivery of a \$125,000 cheque during the grand opening event. In turn, the theatre and auditorium component of the Fine Arts & Multi Media Centre will officially be called the TransCanada Theatre.

“The Fine Arts & Multi Media Centre is a place of education and lifelong learning,” said Jamie Niessen, Manager, Community Investment for TransCanada. “Communities across Central Alberta will reap the rewards of the collaboration and partnerships that made this facility a reality. We are proud to be a partner in building better, stronger communities.”

The grand opening performances included the Deer Meadow School Band, École Elementary School Choir, Olds Community Choir, MusiCreations Orff Studio, 7 Fiddles Worth, The Polyjesters, Divine Dance Academy, Olds College fashion show, Olds High School Drama Club, Wellspring Visual ArtNetwork Association and Olds Art Club.

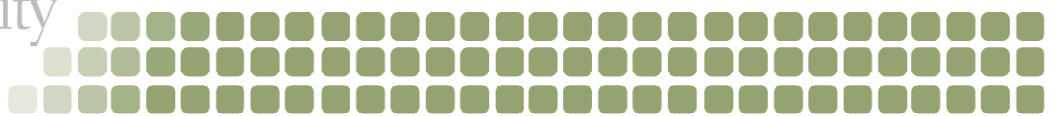
“The Fine Arts & Multi Media Centre opens up a vast range of opportunities to the faculty and students at Olds College and the surrounding communities,” said Dr. H.J. (Tom) Thompson, President and CEO of Olds College and Chair of the Community Learning Campus. “This new facility is designed to maximize the contributions towards community development in the Town, District and County to make use of synergies to provide a full scale, vibrant performing arts Centre.”

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