

A N N U A L R E P O R T

# Alberta Advanced Education

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Alberta



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## Public Accounts 2004-05 – Preface

The Public Accounts of Alberta are prepared in accordance with the *Financial Administration Act* and the *Government Accountability Act*. The Public Accounts consist of the annual report of the Government of Alberta and the annual reports of each of the 24 Ministries.

The annual report of the Government of Alberta released June 29, 2005 contains the Minister of Finance's accountability statement, the consolidated financial statements of the Province and a comparison of the actual performance results to desired results set out in the government's business plan, including the *Measuring Up* report.

**This annual report of the Ministry of Advanced Education contains the Minister's accountability statement, the audited consolidated financial statements of the Ministry and a comparison of actual performance results to desired results set out in the ministry business plan. This Ministry annual report also includes:**

- **the financial statements of entities making up the Ministry including the Department of Advanced Education, regulated funds\* and provincial agencies\*\* for which the Minister is responsible,**
- **other financial information as required by the Financial Administration Act and Government Accountability Act, either as separate reports or as a part of the financial statements, to the extent that the Ministry has anything to report, and**
- **financial information relating to trust funds.**

\* Under the Financial Administration Act (FAA), a regulated fund is a fund containing public money, such as the Ministry's Heritage Scholarship Funds.

\*\* Refers to a provincial committee or provincial corporation.

## Minister's Accountability Statement

The Ministry's Annual Report for the year ended March 31, 2005, was prepared under my direction in accordance with the *Government Accountability Act* and the government's accounting policies. All of the government's policy decisions as at September 9, 2005 with material economic or fiscal implications of which I am aware have been considered in the preparation of this report.

Dave Hancock, Q.C.  
Minister of Advanced Education

## Message from the Minister



It is a great pleasure in this inaugural year of our new Ministry of Advanced Education to present the 2004-05 annual report. In this report you will read about the achievements and highlights that the Ministry, together with its partners, has accomplished over the last year.

As a new Ministry, we continued to provide a solid foundation and legacy of higher learning for Albertans. The work the Ministry and its stakeholders undertook last year supported the Ministry's goals and priorities in the business plan, as well as the broader goals set out by the Alberta government in its 20-year strategic plan. Education is the common thread that joins the plan's four pillars: unleashing innovation, leading in learning, competing in a global marketplace, and making Alberta the best place to live, work and visit.

Many bold new initiatives in 2004-05 further demonstrated our commitment to an accessible, affordable and high quality advanced learning system. These accomplishments were important in laying the groundwork that will create a world-leading post-secondary education system here in Alberta.

In January, all post-secondary stakeholders came together to share both short-term and long-term ideas and priorities for the future of the system. Based on what we heard, we got to work right away: committing to add 60,000 new spaces into the system by 2020, covering tuition increases in September 2005 and taking steps to address affordability. The Ministry also introduced *Bill 1: the Access to the Future Act*—legislation which created new and expanded multi-billion dollar endowments for post-secondary education.

These actions laid a strong foundation, and we now look ahead to achieving even more in the next year—a 30 per cent increase over three years in overall post-secondary spending announced in Budget 2005, a comprehensive review of the advanced learning system and a Minister's Forum in the fall of 2005. If we are to ensure Alberta's students have the opportunities and tools they need to have a bright and prosperous future, we have to focus on three key areas—accessibility, affordability and quality.

Advanced learning is vital to the current and future success of our province, and the work that the Ministry has done in the past year and the work that will be done in the coming months will have a significant and lasting impact on our province.

Dave Hancock, Q.C.  
Minister of Advanced Education

## Management's Responsibility for Reporting

The Ministry of Advanced Education includes the Department of Advanced Education.

The executives of the individual entities within the Ministry have the primary responsibility and accountability for the respective entities. Collectively, the executives ensure the Ministry complies with all relevant legislation, regulations and policies.

Ministry business plans, annual reports, performance results and the supporting management information are integral to the government's fiscal and business plans, annual report, quarterly reports and other financial and performance reporting.

Responsibility for the integrity and objectivity of the consolidated financial statements and performance results for the Ministry rests with the Minister of Advanced Education. Under the direction of the Minister, I oversee the preparation of the Ministry's annual report, including consolidated financial statements and performance results. The consolidated financial statements and the performance results, of necessity, include amounts that are based on estimates and judgments. The consolidated financial statements are prepared in accordance with the government's stated accounting policies.

As Deputy Minister, in addition to program responsibilities, I establish and maintain the Ministry's financial administration and reporting functions. The Ministry maintains systems of financial management and internal control which give consideration to costs, benefits, and risks that are designed to:

- provide reasonable assurance that transactions are properly authorized, executed in accordance with prescribed legislation and regulations, and properly recorded so as to maintain accountability of public money,
- provide information to manage and report on performance,
- safeguard the assets and properties of the Province under Ministry administration,
- provide Executive Council, Treasury Board, the Minister of Finance and the Minister of Advanced Education any information needed to fulfill their responsibilities, and
- facilitate preparation of Ministry business plans and annual reports required under the *Government Accountability Act*.

In fulfilling my responsibilities for the Ministry, I have relied, as necessary, on the executive of the individual entities within the Ministry.

W.J. Byrne  
Deputy Minister of Advanced Education

September 9, 2005

## Overview

<i>Introduction</i>	<p>In 2004-05, Alberta Advanced Education further demonstrated the Government of Alberta's renewed commitment to post-secondary education, its vision for the future, and the intent to transform Alberta into a world-leading learning society in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.</p> <p>Alberta Advanced Education's vision, mission, principles and values define the Ministry. Together, the Ministry's vision and mission present Alberta's view of the future for advanced learning and how it will be realized. The principles identify the Ministry's approach to conducting its business, and the values demonstrate the beliefs or traits that guide Ministry actions.</p> <p>In late 2004, the former Ministry of Learning was divided into two separate ministries: the Ministry of Education (responsible for Kindergarten to Grade 12 education) and the Ministry of Advanced Education (responsible for post-secondary education). The vision, mission, principles, and values below are those for Alberta Learning and were in place for the 2004-05 fiscal year.</p>						
<i>Vision</i>	The best learning system in the world.						
<i>Mission</i>	Alberta Learning, through its leadership and work with stakeholders, ensures that learners are prepared for lifelong learning, work and citizenship so they are able to contribute to a democratic, knowledge-based and prosperous society.						
<i>Principles</i>	<p><i>Learner Centered</i> The lifelong learning system is focused on the learner.</p> <p><i>Accessible</i> Albertans have access to affordable, quality learning opportunities.</p> <p><i>Collaborative</i> Learning is a lifelong human endeavour that best occurs when partners and stakeholders work together to provide a holistic approach and a supportive environment.</p> <p><i>Accountable</i> The learning system is accountable to Albertans for quality results, system sustainability and fiscal responsibility.</p> <p><i>Responsive</i> The learning system is flexible and meets and anticipates learner needs.</p> <p><i>Innovative</i> The learning system demonstrates leading edge innovation for improved results.</p> <p><i>Equitable</i> Albertans have equitable access to lifelong learning opportunities.</p>						
<i>Values</i>	<i>Respect • Integrity • Trust • Openness • Caring</i>						
<i>Areas of Opportunity</i>	<p>The Ministry continues to play a key role in promoting and supporting the achievement of the Government of Alberta's 20-Year Strategic Business Plan. This strategic plan describes a vision for the future of the province and identifies four areas of opportunity for Alberta:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unleashing Innovation</li> <li>• Competing in a Global Marketplace</li> <li>• Leading in Learning</li> <li>• Making Alberta the Best Place to Live, Work, and Visit</li> </ul>						
<i>Strategic Priorities</i>	<p>The Ministry identified and responded to five strategic priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Alberta's Commission on Learning recommendations applicable to Advanced Education</li> <li>• Working Effectively with Partners and Stakeholders</li> <li>• Access for Adult Learners</li> <li>• Pan-Canadian Initiatives</li> <li>• First Nations, Metis and Inuit Learner Success</li> </ul>						
<i>Business Plan Goals</i>	<p>Core businesses were established and aligned with Business Plan goals:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="355 1724 1468 1948"> <tr> <td data-bbox="355 1724 971 1789">Support the Learning System – Lead, Promote, and Support Excellence in the Learning System</td> <td data-bbox="977 1724 1468 1789">Goal 1: High Quality Learning Opportunities for All</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="355 1797 971 1862">Support the Learner – Provide Opportunities for Learner Success</td> <td data-bbox="977 1797 1468 1862">Goal 2: Excellence in Learner Outcomes</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="355 1871 971 1948">Support the Ministry to Ensure Excellence of the Learning System</td> <td data-bbox="977 1871 1468 1948">Goal 3: Highly Responsive and Responsible Ministry</td> </tr> </table>	Support the Learning System – Lead, Promote, and Support Excellence in the Learning System	Goal 1: High Quality Learning Opportunities for All	Support the Learner – Provide Opportunities for Learner Success	Goal 2: Excellence in Learner Outcomes	Support the Ministry to Ensure Excellence of the Learning System	Goal 3: Highly Responsive and Responsible Ministry
Support the Learning System – Lead, Promote, and Support Excellence in the Learning System	Goal 1: High Quality Learning Opportunities for All						
Support the Learner – Provide Opportunities for Learner Success	Goal 2: Excellence in Learner Outcomes						
Support the Ministry to Ensure Excellence of the Learning System	Goal 3: Highly Responsive and Responsible Ministry						



## Highlights: Performance at a Glance

Ministry performance on core measures is compared to results over five years, or for new measures, the years for which data are available. Results for 2004/05 are summarized below and presented in more detail in the Results Analysis (pages 13-31). In assessing progress, targets are considered met if the result is within 5% of the target value, and targets are considered exceeded if the result is more than 5% above the target value (as approved by the Auditor General). The confidence interval is taken into account in assessing change over time on survey measures. (See Endnote A (page 74) and Endnote B (page 77) for a more detailed explanation of target assessment and use of confidence intervals). Unless otherwise noted, targets are for 2004/05.

### Goal 1

## High Quality Learning Opportunities for All

### Outcome

The learning system meets the needs of all learners, society, and the economy.

### Core Measures Results

- A large majority of 2001/02 graduates (79%) surveyed in 2003/04 were satisfied with the overall quality of their post-secondary education. Results were strong in each sector, ranging from 76% for universities to 91% for private university colleges.\*
  - Only 6% of respondents expressed some level of dissatisfaction with the overall quality of their education.
  - Very high percentages (90% or higher) of recent apprenticeship graduates continue to be satisfied with the quality of their on-the-job and technical training.
  - The employment rate of Albertans aged 25 to 34 continues to remain high at 86% for post-secondary certificate/diploma graduates and 84% for university degree graduates.
  - A substantial majority (69%) of the public is satisfied that most adults have access to lifelong learning.
  - 46% of the public agrees that the learning system is within the means of most Albertans.
- \* The results of the 2003/04 survey are not comparable to the results of the previous surveys. For those results, see the Alberta Learning 2002-03 Annual Report.

### Goal 2

## Excellence in Learner Outcomes

### Outcome

Learners complete programs.

### Core Measures Results

- 57% of Albertans aged 25 to 34 have completed post-secondary programs.
- A majority of apprentices (76%) received their journeyman certificates for completion of an apprenticeship program within two years of expected completion.
- 62% of university students complete within three years of normal program length.
- 56% of college/technical institute students complete within three years of normal program length.

### Outcome

Learners are well prepared for lifelong learning.

### Core Measures Results

- 32% of students have entered a post-secondary program within four years of entering Grade 10.\*\*
  - 54% of students have entered a post-secondary program within six years of entering Grade 10.\*\*
- \*\* The high school to post-secondary transition rate is a new measure reporting the proportion of students who enter a post-secondary program within four and six years of entering Grade 10.

*Outcome*

Learners are well prepared for employment.

*Core Measures Results*

- 89% of employers are satisfied with the skills and quality of work of all learning system graduates.
- 90% of employers are satisfied with the skills and quality of work of post-secondary graduates.

The preparation for employment rate, as measured through employer satisfaction with learning system graduates, is a new measure.

*Outcome*

Learners are well prepared for citizenship.

*Core Measures Results*

- 70% of the public is satisfied that adult learners are well prepared for citizenship.

*Goal 3*

**Highly Responsive and Responsible Ministry**

*Outcome*

Improved results through effective working relationships on Cross-Ministry Initiatives and with stakeholders.

*Core Measures Results*

- 98% of the Ministry's partners and stakeholders agreed that Alberta Advanced Education staff are collaborative.

*Outcome*

The Ministry demonstrates leadership and continuous improvement.

*Core Measures Results*

- 82% of the Ministry's partners and stakeholders agreed that Alberta Advanced Education staff are responsive and flexible.

## Highlights: Key Activities

### Goal 1

#### High Quality Learning Opportunities for All

- Introduced Bill 1, the *Access to the Future Act*, outlining planned investments towards a new \$3 billion Access to the Future endowment, a \$1 billion expansion to the Alberta Heritage Scholarship Fund, and a \$500 million expansion to the Ingenuity Fund.
- Announced the creation of 60,000 learning opportunities in such areas as adult literacy, community adult learning, full and continuing learning at post-secondary institutions, and apprenticeship over the next 15 years with 15,000 of those opportunities in place by 2008 to provide Albertans the best access to post-secondary education in Canada.
- Implemented a new Tuition Fee Policy in support of the *Post-Secondary Learning Act* to ensure predictable and manageable tuition increases at post-secondary institutions.
- Announced, for Alberta's Centennial year, the payment of tuition fee increases for September 2005-06 at public, board-governed post-secondary institutions, saving students and apprentices an estimated \$43 million.
- Offered alternate delivery of apprenticeship technical training in 13 trades in response to industry needs and priorities.
- Licensed 71 new vocational training programs under the *Private Vocational Schools Act* that included licensing programs for 12 new institutions for a total of 147 institutions offering 633 licensed vocational training programs.
- Established the Campus Alberta Quality Council and developed operating principles, processes and assessment standards to review proposals from post-secondary institutions that wish to offer new degree programs.
- Announced the decision to establish a veterinary program at the University of Calgary and appointed a steering committee to guide the development of animal health education programs in Alberta.
- Raised the level of support for registered nursing programs at universities and licensed practical nursing programs at colleges by \$3.6 million.
- Awarded \$1,000 scholarships to 219 apprentices, including Registered Apprenticeship Program (RAP) apprentices, to recognize their excellence and encourage them to continue with their training.
- Implemented the Learning Clicks CD-ROM and Youth Ambassador program to communicate with young Albertans about the long-term benefits of post-secondary education and the importance of early planning. Approximately 800 presentations were made to Grade 9-12 students and more than 22,000 CD-ROMs distributed to students, teachers and administrators.
- Received the Yves Landry Foundation Program of the Year Award in recognition of the contributions of Apprenticeship and Industry Training in forging a link between business, education and government, and in promoting technological education and skills training in order to meet industry's future demands for skilled tradespeople.
- Developed Transition Kits for students in Grades 9 and 12 and for parents of students in Grades 6, 9 and 12, providing important information to assist with post-secondary education planning. Posted the Transition Kits on the Alberta Learning Information Service (ALIS) website, resulting in more than 26,000 downloads.
- Supported alternate delivery approaches for apprentices through the development of Individual Learning Modules (ILMs), which support apprenticeship technical training with more than 1,000 ILMs available serving the needs of approximately 70% of apprentices.
- Launched a secure, self-serve website that allows student borrowers to access and to view information on their Direct Alberta Student Loans.

## Goal 2

**Excellence in Learner Outcomes**

- Launched the Alberta Centennial Education Savings Plan, which will make a one-time contribution of \$500 to any Alberta child born in 2005 and beyond whose family has opened a Registered Education Savings Plan (RESP) in that child's name.
- Worked with trades employers, Aboriginal communities and Aboriginal youth to encourage participation in trades-related careers, resulting in more than 760 Aboriginal apprentices currently registered in the apprenticeship and industry training system.
- Implemented the Youth Apprenticeship Project in five schools in the communities of High Prairie, Lac La Biche and Wabasca/Desmarais. More than 200 Grade 7 students are participating.
- Awarded \$11.8 million in Performance Envelope funding to 23 post-secondary institutions in recognition of outstanding performance in areas such as graduate employment and satisfaction, increasing accessibility, reducing administration expenditures and generating enterprise revenue.
- Funded 83 Community Adult Learning Councils, which provided 4,728 learning opportunities for 57,630 registrants in adult basic literacy, English as a second language, employability enhancement or community issues.
- Expanded access to learning opportunities in rural Community Adult Learning Councils, which resulted in an additional 816 learning opportunities for 11,075 participants.
- Engaged almost 7,000 parents and more than 7,500 preschool children in family literacy activities through 40 family literacy programs.
- Provided \$13.1 million from the Apprenticeship Access Fund to post-secondary technical training providers to maintain an additional 5,275 apprenticeship technical training spaces in response to industry needs.
- Provided approximately \$81 million in loan relief benefits and completion payments to reduce student debt levels.
- Provided more than \$23 million in scholarships under the Alberta Heritage Scholarship Fund to more than 10,700 students, an increase from the previous year.
- Issued more than \$17 million in Achievement Scholarships to approximately 15,180 Alberta post-secondary students, an increase of more than 15% from last year.
- Established a framework for a common data repository in international credentials in collaboration with 24 post-secondary institutions across Alberta and Saskatchewan.
- Administered the Early Leavers Survey to over 5,000 individuals to help identify programs and policies that encourage students to complete their programs of study.

## Goal 3

**Highly Responsive and Responsible Ministry**

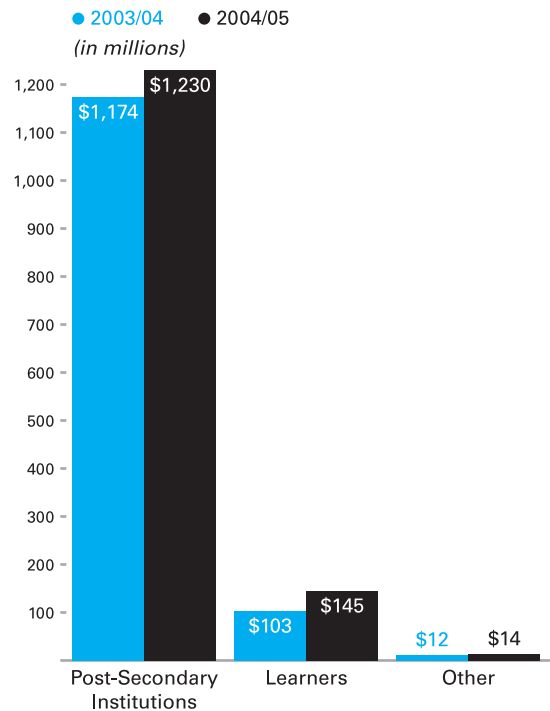
- Increased general operating and conditional grants to post-secondary institutions by \$102 million.
- Promoted increased hiring of apprentices by employers, resulting in more than 11,600 employers currently training apprentices.
- In collaboration with the federal government and Council of Ministers of Education, Canada (CMEC), launched the Pan-Canadian Designation Policy Framework, which establishes minimum pan-Canadian criteria with respect to management of student financial assistance by designated educational institutions.
- Handled more than 159,000 inquiries from clients and delivery partners through the Student Funding Contact Centre in collaboration with Alberta Human Resources and Employment, providing information about financial assistance programs for further education and training.
- Processed more than 138,000 applications for student loans, scholarships, bursaries and loan relief payments from more than 91,800 applicants.
- Accommodated an increase in the number of visitors to the Students Finance and Scholarships & Bursaries sections of the Alberta Learning Information Service (ALIS) website by approximately 18% and 21% respectively.

## Financial Highlights and Analysis

Ministry grants are categorized into three recipient groups:

- Grants to Post-Secondary Institutions include operating grants and grants provided to help institutions increase the accessibility of certain post-secondary programs.
- Grants to Learners are comprised of scholarships for student achievement and student assistance grants based on financial need. Also included are student loan relief grants and an adjustment to account for the future cost of student loans issued.
- Other grants include grants to funds and agencies that provide programs to adults.

Ministry Grants

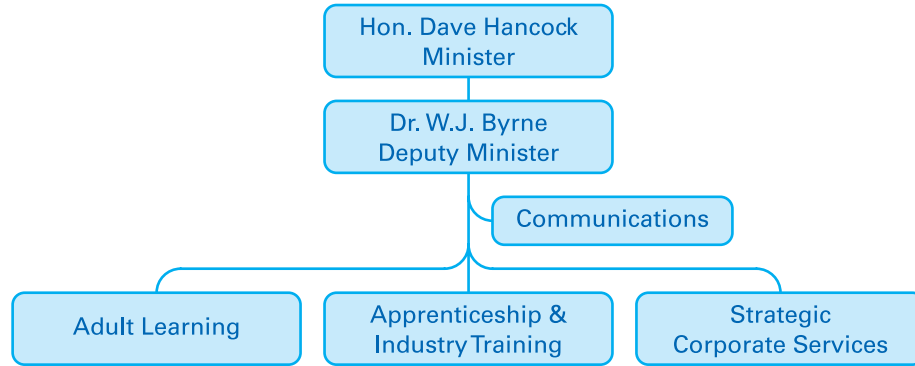


Source: Alberta Advanced Education

### Analysis

- With its increased focus on Advanced Education, the Government of Alberta increased its financial support to the system in 2004/05. At a total of nearly \$1.4 billion in 2004/05, grants increased \$100 million over the prior year, an increase of 7.8%. Of total Ministry expenses, 96% was for grants provided directly to post-secondary institutions, adult learners and other recipients. It is also of note that Ministry expenditures stayed within approved targets.
- Post-secondary institutions received additional grant funds of approximately \$56 million primarily due to a 4% increase in operating grants and increases in the performance envelope.
- Learners received an increase of \$42 million in grants due to an increase in the cost recognized in the current year for student loans issued, as well as increased scholarships, bursaries, and loan relief benefits.
- Grants to other recipients increased \$2 million and include community programs and learning television, among others.

### Ministry of Advanced Education Structure



### Operational Overview

In collaboration with learning providers, industry, communities, government agencies and non-governmental organizations, the Ministry of Advanced Education strives to create accessible, affordable, and quality learning opportunities that are responsive to the ongoing learning needs of Albertans.

In Fall 2004, with the increased emphasis on post-secondary education in the government's 20-year strategic plan, the former Ministry of Learning was divided into two separate departments: the Ministry of Education (for Kindergarten through Grade 12 education) and the Ministry of Advanced Education (for post-secondary and adult education).

Reflecting core businesses, the Ministry of Advanced Education is organized into the Adult Learning, Apprenticeship and Industry Training, and Strategic Corporate Services divisions. Each division provides specific expertise to the advanced learning system. All divisions share responsibility for providing integrated service by partnering with one another, as well as with other Alberta ministries, post-secondary institutions, adult learning providers, stakeholder organizations and industry.

Advanced Education's two core program divisions, Adult Learning and Apprenticeship and Industry Training, provide learning services and standards for the advanced learning system. These divisions carry out the Ministry's mission and provide a framework for achieving results and allocating resources. The core divisions work closely with advanced learning system stakeholders and ministry partners to ensure program continuity and smooth transitions for learners.

## Adult Learning

Phone  
780-427-5607

The **Adult Learning Division** works with adult learners, public and private post-secondary institutions, and community adult learning councils to support learners, provide learning opportunities and enhance the adult learning system. The division:

- provides funds to public institutions through operational and conditional funding;
- administers the delivery of federal and provincial student funding programs, providing information and issuing awards to students applying for loans, grants and bursaries;
- encourages and rewards excellence through scholarships and awards;
- reviews and recommends to the Minister for approval the programs and mandates for public post-secondary institutions;
- facilitates course and program transfer agreements within the post-secondary system;
- funds, supports, and provides community adult learning opportunities;
- licenses vocational programs offered by private institutions and develops recommendations in response to requests from non-resident institutions seeking to offer degree programs in Alberta;
- reviews and recommends to the Minister for approval degree programs offered by private institutions;
- provides learning opportunities through immigrant settlement, English as a Second Language, community adult learning and literacy programs;
- evaluates prior credentials of new Albertans for learning and employment opportunities;
- provides planning, coordination and policy support to adult learning providers; and
- provides information on the adult learning system to the public.

## Apprenticeship and Industry Training

Phone  
780-422-1185

The **Apprenticeship and Industry Training Division** works with industry, employer and employee organizations, technical training providers, government and ministry divisions to support the development, maintenance and delivery of designated trade and occupation programs. These programs:

- contribute to the development of a trained and skilled workforce, which supports the economic progress of the province and its competitive role in the global market;
- respond to current technological advancements and workplace needs; and
- support labour mobility through continued development of interprovincial standards and certification programs.

Apprenticeship and Industry Training works with the Alberta Apprenticeship and Industry Training Board, industry and others to ensure:

- high school and adult apprentices receive on-the-job training, work experience and technical training to acquire skills in designated trades;
- standards are developed in consultation with industry for technical training and industry assessments;
- technical training for apprentices is scheduled;
- long-term training needs are identified;
- institutions offer training in response to industry needs;
- records of apprentice contracts and their progress in the program are maintained; and
- the workplace is monitored for compliance with the *Apprenticeship and Industry Training Act* and regulations.

## Strategic Corporate Services

Phone  
780-415-4794

The **Strategic Corporate Services Division**, as a strategic partner with the Ministry's program delivery divisions, provides strategic, legal, system-wide planning, financial, information management and technology, international education, intergovernmental issues and policy management, and human resource services for the Ministry. The division:

- provides department-wide policy options and research, and the coordination of international education;
- facilitates system-wide planning, strategic information and consultation services;
- develops and implements the Ministry's human resource planning initiatives, policies and programs;
- represents the Ministry on initiatives across government, nationally and internationally;
- oversees Ministry administration and corporate records management;
- develops budgets for the Ministry's business plan and monitors budget compliance;
- prepares financial accountability reports and provides advice on financial matters to program areas;
- provides legal services and advice regarding legislation, contracts, Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy, and related legal matters; and
- provides information management and technology services.

## Communications

Phone  
780-422-5400

In addition, **Communications** works with the Ministry and its stakeholders to provide communications support related to Ministry work. The branch:

- provides useful, timely and clear information to Albertans on achievements and initiatives in the advanced learning system;
- supports the Ministry in reaching its goals by providing strategic communications advice, planning services, specialized writing and editing skills; and
- represents the Ministry to the public and the media.