

Highlights: Key Accomplishments, 1999/2000

CHALLENGES

ALBERTA LEARNING'S RESPONSE

Lifelong Learning

Building a fully integrated system

- Established the 56-member Transition Team comprised of staff, representatives of partnering ministries and stakeholders to guide the department re-organization process and the development of Ministry goals and outcomes.
- Held the first Minister's Forum on Lifelong Learning in November 1999, attended by 200 Albertans to discuss issues regarding priorities for lifelong learning.
- Initiated province-wide consultations, through the MLA Committee on Lifelong Learning, to identify new strategies for encouraging Albertans to continue learning throughout their lives.
- Expanded Campus Alberta to include partners in basic education and industry and planned a Symposium for the fall of 2000.
- Worked with partnering ministries to prepare a plan for healthy birth outcomes, optimal early childhood development and ongoing support for parents.

Basic Learning

Sustaining a world-class education for Alberta students

- Increased support for schools by 12.6% (\$355 million), for a total of more than \$3 billion.
- Addressed cost pressures of high growth school systems through an MLA Team review of sparsity and density funding.
- Developed the Alberta Initiative for School Improvement (AISI) with partners to provide \$66 million each school year to improve student learning outcomes.
- Initiated a study of barriers to high school completion.
- Launched a stakeholder consultation to better define the results Albertans expect from the Early Childhood Services (ECS) to grade 12 learning system.
- Implemented teacher growth, supervision and evaluation policies in all school boards.
- Signed an interprovincial Agreement-in-Principle for Teacher Labour Mobility and collaborated with partners to develop an Alberta Portability Credential for teachers moving to other provinces.
- Sought stakeholder input on the School Council review report that confirmed the role of parents and focused on improving communication and encouraging leadership.
- Completed the English and French language versions of the Information and Technology Program of Studies for province-wide implementation in September 2000 in grades 1-12.
- Revised the ECS-grade 12 physical education and language arts courses.
- Completed teacher resources to assess elementary students in Français and French Language Arts.
- Allocated \$2.2 million to regional consortia for teacher support on the implementation of the revised high school mathematics courses and provided workshops on the diploma examinations being developed for Pure Mathematics 30 and Applied Mathematics 30.
- Promoted and supported the integration and effective use of technology for student instruction in a variety of delivery modes including traditional classrooms, virtual-online schools, and distance learning-correspondence learning environments.
- With the western provinces, completed a common Aboriginal language and culture curriculum framework.
- Created the Greater South Francophone Education Authority.
- Removed caps on funding for English as a Second language programs and, with partners, identified best practices for Early Literacy and English as a Second Language Programs.
- Restructured funding for students with severe special needs by removing caps and providing pro-rated funding for students who move to a different school jurisdiction during the year.
- Working with the Alberta Teachers' Association, developed and distributed *Teaching Students with Emotional Disorders and/or Mental Illnesses*.
- Initiated a review of special education with partners to improve efficiency and effectiveness.
- With partners, developed and implemented strategies to foster safe and caring schools, including sponsoring Canada's first Safe and Caring Conference.
- Revised the School Act to promote safe and caring learning environments for students.

Keeping student programs up to date

Meeting needs of diverse populations of students

Supporting students with special needs

Addressing public concerns about safety of children in school

Adult Learning

Sustaining a world-class adult learning system

Addressing public concern about post-secondary student costs

Recognizing and rewarding excellence

Preparing Albertans for the global economy

- Increased support for adult learning programs, including apprenticeship, by 16.7% (\$160 million), a total of over \$1 billion.
- Approved 10 applied-degree and 27 information and computer technology programs.
- Allocated additional \$38 million in one-time grants to upgrade existing post-secondary facilities.
- Initiated the Universities Coordinating Council review of Alberta's admission and transfer policies to ensure that learners have the best possible access to post-secondary educational opportunities.
- Provided \$110 million to assist post-secondary learners (grants, scholarships, loans), including \$67 million to reduce debt levels of post-secondary graduates, up from \$61 million in 1998/99.
- Promoted the loan remission program to ensure eligible graduates apply for debt relief.
- Awarded \$17 million to 26 post-secondary institutions based on progress on key performance indicators.
- Introduced two new scholarship programs for 2000/01: Jason Lang awards to 3,000 students for first year achievement, and Laurence Decore awards to 100 students for student leadership.
- Initiated development of Alberta's International Education Strategy, which is designed to provide Albertans with the skills and abilities they need to compete internationally.
- Created over 1,200 spaces for post-secondary students in information and computer technology programs and other priority areas.
- Launched a research study to identify key factors that influence Albertans' decisions to pursue post-secondary education.
- Initiated an MLA/stakeholder review of post-secondary funding to ensure flexibility for institutions and accessible, responsive and affordable learning opportunities for Albertans.

Apprenticeship & Industry Training

Responding to industry demand in a rapidly expanding economy

- Revised legislation to enhance responsiveness of the apprenticeship and industry training system.
- Certified 4,424 journeymen up from 4,200 in 1998.
- Certified an additional 450 individuals through the Qualification Program and Alberta Journeyman Equivalence Program in 1999, up from 390 in 1998.
- Through the ACCESS fund, provided 2,100 new student spaces for apprenticeship technical training over two years.
- Developed, with other provinces, an Interprovincial Common Core Curriculum Standard for the carpentry trade.
- Increased the number of students enrolled in the registered apprenticeship program (RAP) by 27%.
- Provided a wider range of career choices in the Heavy Equipment Technician apprenticeship program through the development of four craft areas in this trade.
- Developed individual learning modules in a number of designated trades to allow for greater flexibility in the delivery of technical training.

Effective Partnerships

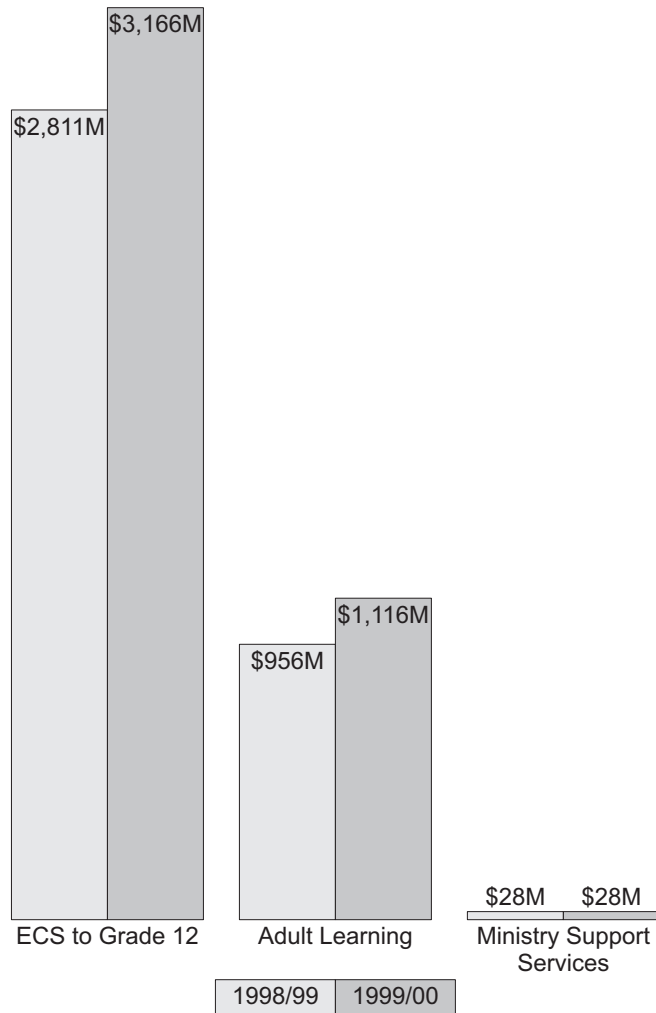
Enhancing integration of government services

Strengthening service to Albertans through collaboration

- Developed a transferable model for working collaboratively with partners in designing the Alberta Initiative for School Improvement.
- Launched the student health program through joint service plans with school authorities, health authorities, child and family services authorities and the Mental Health Board, with funding of \$26 million per school year.
- Worked with provincial governments involved in the Western Canada Protocol to select resources, develop distance learning materials and initiate French language projects.
- Worked cooperatively with Alberta Corporate Service Centre (ACSC) to plan for the smooth implementation of appropriate shared services.
- Co-led four cross-department partnerships: the Alberta Children's Initiative, People and Prosperity, Get Ready Alberta, and the Youth Employment Strategy.
- Worked with other ministries to plan access to an affordable, high-speed telecommunications network by schools and other learning institutions across the province.
- In partnership with First Nation and Metis organizations, consulted with 4,400 people on a review of the Native Education Policy focusing on improving success of Aboriginal learners.
- Worked with Alberta Apprenticeship and Industry Training Board to enhance the effectiveness of the industry advisory network.
- Held public consultations with more than 6,000 Albertans on such topics as curriculum development, school board funding and accountability, the Community Adult Learning Program Policy, the Survey of Employers of Apprentices and the School Council review.

Financial Highlights

ALBERTA'S INVESTMENT IN LEARNING



Support to both basic and adult learning increased:

- from \$2.8 billion to over \$3 billion for early childhood services to grade 12; and
- from \$0.9 billion to over \$1 billion for adult learning, including apprenticeship and industry training.

Ministry support services remained the same between 1999/2000 and 1998/99.

For further information, see Financial Results and Performance.

Highlights: Performance at a Glance

OUTCOMES

CORE INDICATORS

RESULTS FOR 1999/2000

Goal 1: High Quality Programs

Flexible and responsive programs meet learning needs.

Programs are accessible.

Programs are affordable.

- Quality of basic education
- Preparation of adults for the workplace
- Adult participation in learning
- Services for children with severe special needs
- Post-secondary tuition revenue
- Involvement in school decision making

- ✓ A very large majority of high school students (95%) and parents (87%) are satisfied with the quality of education.
- ↑ Over 3/4 of Albertans are satisfied that adult learners are being prepared for the workforce.
- = One in three adults participate in learning.**
- = More than 75% of parents continue to be satisfied with overall services for their children with severe special needs.
- ✓ Tuition revenue is at 22% of net operating expenditures, which is well within the 30% cap.
- = More than 3 of 4 parents and 2/3 of the public are satisfied with their opportunities for involvement in decision making in schools.*

Goal 2: Excellence in Learner Achievement

Learners achieve high standards.

Learners complete programs.

- Quality of teaching
- Student achievement
- High school completion

- = A large majority of parents (80%) and students (92%) are satisfied with teaching quality.*
- ↑ Overall, more students (over 84%) achieved the acceptable standard on provincial achievement tests in grades 3, 6 and 9.
- ✓ Students continue to exceed the standard of excellence on provincial achievement tests overall.
- = Students met or nearly met the acceptable standard in four of ten diploma exams.
- = 70% of students have received their diploma or certificate within 6 years of entering grade 9.

Goal 3: Well Prepared Learners for Lifelong Learning, the World of Work and Citizenship

Learners are prepared for lifelong learning, work and citizenship.

- Employment of post-secondary graduates
- Academic/technical skills of post-secondary graduates
- Quality of adult learning
- Curriculum quality

- = A large majority (81%) of post-secondary graduates are employed with most employed in jobs related to their education.**
- = Over 80% of employers are satisfied with the academic/technical skills of post-secondary graduates.**
- ✓ A very large majority of adult learners (91%) are satisfied with their recent education or training.
- = Almost 2/3 of the public agree students are learning what they need to know.*
- ↓ A majority of parents (77%) agree students are learning what they need to know, down from 83% in 1995/96.*

Goal 4: Effective Working Relationships with Partners

Joint initiatives meet Albertans' learning needs and achieve social and economic goals of province.

- Department's working relationships (New Measure)

New Over 3/4 of partners and stakeholders are satisfied that Alberta Learning staff are collaborative and responsive in working relationships.*

Goal 5: Highly Responsive and Responsible Ministry

Ministry demonstrates value for dollars, leadership and continuous improvement.

- Value for money
- Administrative efficiency

- ✓ Over half of the public are satisfied with value for money spent on education.
- ↓ A majority of parents (71%) are satisfied with value for money spent on education, down from 78% in 1995/96.
- ✓ Only 1.6% of total spending was used on department functions.

From base year: = No change ✓ Met or exceeded target ↑ Improved performance ↓ Performance decline

* No target was set for 1999/2000. ** Target for 1999/2000 not applicable.

Entity Map: Alberta Learning

