



## INTERNAL NEWS RELEASE

March 31, 2011

### **Alberta-North Moves Toward Merger with eCampusAlberta**

Alberta-North is taking steps to help the province achieve the vision of Campus Alberta. On March 14<sup>th</sup>, the Alberta-North Board of Directors voted unanimously to merge its governance and operations with eCampusAlberta beginning July, 2011.

As a first step, an interim sub-committee of the Alberta-North Board will work with Val Marshall, Executive Director and Executive Assistant, Merry-Lee Newcombe to guide the transition to eCampusAlberta.

Alberta-North is confident that its network of community-based services and the supports established over the last sixteen years will be maintained throughout the transition process and into the future within the mandate of the new organization.

Alberta-North has enjoyed a long history of innovation in the post-secondary learning system since it was initiated in 1994, and members of the Board are confident this merger is the right step for the future. It is anticipated this merger will create further synergies and opportunities for learners across the province, expanding service impact for both eCampusAlberta and Alberta-North.

Don Gnatiuk, Alberta-North Board Chair, stated that “This option has been debated for a long time, and suddenly things are falling into place. With our eye on the future and on students, we realized the need for growth and change”. It is recognized that excellence can only be achieved through institutions acting collectively and maximizing opportunities for the entire system. This merger will help enhance this potential.

As a step toward making the Campus Alberta vision<sup>[1]</sup> a reality, the Minister, the Campus Alberta Strategic Directions Committee (CASDC), and system representatives agree that it is timely to facilitate growth of a collaborative environment by creating a single entity to pursue operational efficiencies and establish greater synergies. Across the Alberta post-secondary system there is momentum towards the realization of the vision of Campus Alberta and this decision to merge was seen as a positive step toward that realization.

For more information, please contact:

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<sup>[1]</sup> <http://aet.alberta.ca/post-secondary/campusalberta.aspx>