

## Government of Canada and Red Deer College invest to renew infrastructure in Alberta

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### ***\$9.5 million investment will create jobs, expand research and foster innovation***

Canadians will be better equipped for the well-paying middle-class jobs of today and tomorrow as a result of a \$9.5 million investment in Red Deer College.

This joint investment was announced today by Randy Boissonnault, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Canadian Heritage, on behalf of the Honourable Navdeep Bains, Minister of Innovation, Science and Economic Development, and by Joel Ward, RDC President & CEO.

The Government of Canada's Innovation Agenda aims to make this country a global centre for innovation—one that creates jobs, drives growth across all industries and improves the lives of all Canadians. This investment is a prime example of that vision in action.

The funding will support two projects at Red Deer College. The first, called the Green Energy Master Plan, will enable the College to reduce its energy costs and consumption, leading to a smaller environmental footprint for their campus. The project will also allow for the installation of new and alternative energy sources and strategies, such as: combined heat and power, wind, solar, geothermal systems and conventional energy management.

The second initiative, called the Alternative Energy Innovation Labs Project, will enhance the College's Trades and Technology labs to accommodate more learning spaces, improve the ventilation in the Centre for Innovation in Manufacturing and create a Makerspace with a section dedicated to innovation around free micro-grid solutions. These renovations and expansions, accelerated by SIF, will create the Alternative Energy Innovation labs, which will increase educational opportunities and remove barriers in adopting green technology.

The total \$9.5 million investment is being shared equally between the federal government and Red Deer College.

The funding from the Government of Canada is being allocated through the Post-Secondary Institutions Strategic Investment Fund, which will enhance and modernize research facilities on Canadian campuses and improve the environmental sustainability of these facilities.

## Quotes

"These infrastructure investments will create good, well-paying jobs that can help the middle class grow and prosper today, while also delivering sustained economic growth for years to come. Through the Strategic Investment Fund, we are strengthening the foundation for building Canada into a global centre for innovation."

– *Randy Boissonnault, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Canadian Heritage*

"This once-in-a-generation investment by the Government of Canada is a historic down payment on the government's vision to position Canada as a global centre for innovation. That means making Canada a world leader in turning ideas into solutions, science into technologies, skills into jobs and start-up companies into global successes. This investment will create conditions that are conducive to innovation and long-term growth, which will in turn keep the Canadian economy globally competitive."

– *The Honourable Navdeep Bains, Minister of Innovation, Science and Economic Development*

"Good jobs begin with a good education, which is why it's critical that we support our colleges, universities and technical training institutes. These key infrastructure investments ensure Albertans have access to state-of-the-art learning and training facilities, while addressing the need to create jobs and diversify our economy."

– *Marlin Schmidt, Minister of Advanced Education*

“This funding will provide tremendous opportunities for Red Deer College, as it will allow us to proceed with our Green Energy Master Plan and our Alternative Energy Innovation Labs Infrastructure. As we consider how to build our alternative energy systems and lab space, we are maximizing the investments to the benefit of student learning and applied research. Our goal is to integrate these so that students and industry have the ability to learn from live working systems as well as from lab space.”  
– Joel Ward, President & CEO, Red Deer College

### **Quick facts**

- The Government of Canada’s Innovation Agenda is designed to ensure Canada is globally competitive in promoting research, translating ideas into new products and services, accelerating business growth and propelling entrepreneurs from the start-up phase to international success.
- The targeted, short-term investments under the Post-Secondary Institutions Strategic Investment Fund will promote economic activity across Canada and help Canada’s universities and colleges develop highly skilled workers, act as engines of discovery, and collaborate on innovations that help Canadian companies compete and grow internationally.
- The Post-Secondary Institutions Strategic Investment Fund supports the Government of Canada’s climate change objectives by encouraging sustainable and green infrastructure projects.

### **Image caption**

(l-r) Joel Ward, RDC President & CEO, Randy Boissonnault, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Canadian Heritage, Marlin Schmidt, Minister of Advanced Education, Kim Schreiner, M.L.A. for Red Deer-North, and Barb Miller, M.L.A. for Red Deer-South.

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