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Immediate Release

News Release

Lethbridge College beneficiary of Canada-Alberta funding partnership initiative

LETHBRIDGE – A \$5.48-million upgrade awarded to the Lethbridge College for infrastructure modernization to the Technology Building is a boost not only to the post-secondary institution, but also to the local economy, say two Lethbridge politicians.

Announced today on behalf of the Government of Canada, by Lethbridge, Member of Parliament Rick Casson, and the Government of Alberta by MLA Greg Weadick - Lethbridge West, the federal-provincial partnership will ensure the college's technology wing remains a high quality training facility.

“Infrastructure improvements to the Lethbridge College will ensure the long-term viability of this nationally recognized institution,” says Rick Casson, Lethbridge Member of Parliament. “In the short-term however, the economic stimulus and job creation for the Lethbridge region resulting from this substantial investment will be greatly welcomed by our local contractors and trades people.”

The federal portion of the money -- \$2.74 million -- is part of a two-year, \$2-billion Knowledge Infrastructure Program (KIP) national plan to repair and expand research and educational facilities at Canadian colleges and universities. The support is for deferred infrastructure maintenance, repair and expansion projects intended to ensure Canada's colleges and universities remain at the forefront of scientific advancement. The Alberta government's \$2.74 matching investment comes under the \$400-million capital plan for Campus Alberta outlined in the 2009 Alberta budget.

The funding partnership demonstrates the commitment shared by the Government of Canada and the Government of Alberta to building a knowledge-based economy for future generations, says Greg Weadick, MLA for Lethbridge West. The fact that the projects will also generate new jobs is an added bonus.



“This is a great example of different levels of government working together to recognize an opportunity and run with it,” said Weadick. “It’s also an acknowledgment of the very important work being done in the college’s Technology Building.”

This major funding investment enables the Lethbridge College to now move forward on planned campus development.

“This funding allows us to take the first step in our campus development plan,” says Tracy Edwards, college president. “We’ve committed to investing in the future of our 51-year-old campus and making the changes needed to be environmentally sustainable.”

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