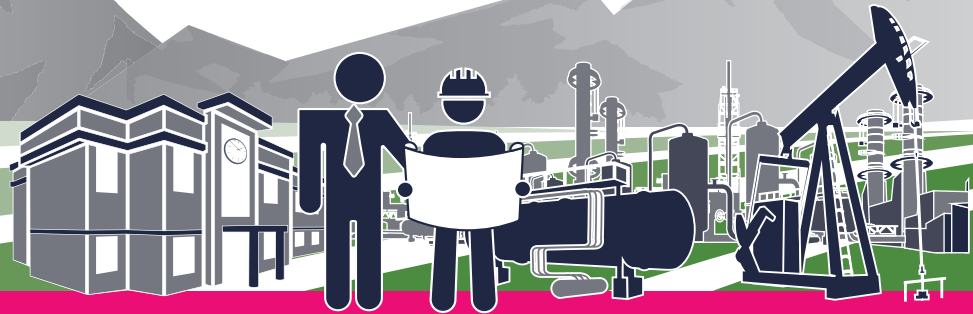


MOVING ALBERTA
forward 



**WORLD-CLASS POST-SECONDARY,
TRADES & SKILLS TRAINING**

WILDROSE
OFFICIAL OPPOSITION

WORLD-CLASS POST-SECONDARY, TRADES & SKILLS TRAINING

Alberta's post-secondary education system has been treated as an afterthought for far too long.

With years of wildly inconsistent funding, our trade and technical schools, colleges and universities have struggled to maintain affordability, relevancy and consistency for students. As a result, Alberta's employers – already dealing with labour shortages – haven't been able to rely on our schools to meet their needs.

Alberta's post-secondary system can be the foundation of our social and economic success for generations to come.

Wildrose recognizes the importance of a fully integrated and affordable post-secondary

education system and is committed to achieving that by reducing fragmentation and eliminating sharp funding changes.

We believe labour shortages should be addressed through innovative programs that match graduates with jobs through incentives. We believe there is room for co-operation between post-secondary schools and high schools to help students hit the ground running on their careers. And we believe in enhanced research through tax credits and other broad-based incentives.

With the right leadership, Alberta's post-secondary system can be the foundation of our social and economic success for generations to come.

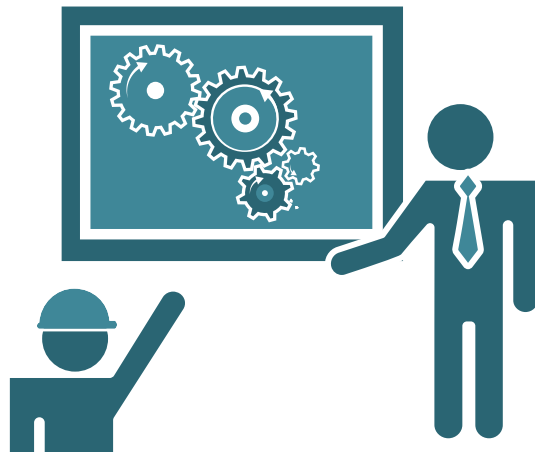
POLICIES

AFFORDABILITY & ACCESSIBILITY

- » *In consultation with post-secondary institutions and industry, identify Alberta's most serious shortages of skilled workers, and implement a 'Student Loan Forgiveness' program that will see up to 50% of a graduate's student loans forgiven for working in an identified area of labour shortage in Alberta for a pre-determined number of years*
- » *Limit all post-secondary tuition and fee increases (including non-instructional fees) to the rate of inflation*
- » Review the Alberta student loan application process to ensure loan amounts meet the basic living needs of students
- » Invest in Internet-based learning and other technologies for the purpose of opening up additional post-secondary spaces in a cost effective manner
- » Coordinate with all Alberta post-secondary schools to improve the seamless transfer of post-secondary credits between institutions

TRADES & SKILLS TRAINING

- » *In consultation with Alberta's post-secondary institutions, industry, students and professional associations, expand spaces for high demand degrees, diplomas, and trade certificates*
 - » *Work with our trade schools to co-locate additional campus sites and high schools on the same site, allowing students to receive joint credit toward both a high school diploma and a certificate in the trades simultaneously*
 - » Provide increased training and information to career counsellors at high school and post-secondary institutions to better instruct and counsel students on career and educational opportunities in the trades and other vocations with labour shortages
 - » Provide high schools with more flexibility and resources to provide specialized courses, curriculum and dual credit
- programs in the trades
- » In cooperation with post-secondary institutions and industry, permit trades students to select a written or verbal examination to complete their trade certification
 - » Collaborate with other provinces to create standardized trades training and recognition across jurisdictional boundaries



RESEARCH

- » Support research and development by encouraging private sector partnerships, without diminishing the value of pure research, academic freedom, and institutional autonomy
- » Work with the federal government to expand federal and provincial tuition and related tax credits, and implement tax incentives that promote the creation and growth of post-secondary endowment funds for scholarships, research and infrastructure projects from individual and corporate donors

