May 25, 2005

Scholarship to commemorate Royal Visit to Alberta

Calgary... A graduate scholarship program has been named in honour of The Queen's visit to Alberta in May 2005 to commemorate the province's centennial year. The announcement was made by Premier Ralph Klein May 25 in Calgary.

"The Queen Elizabeth II Graduate Scholarship Program will be a lasting legacy of Her Majesty's visit - one that honours the pursuit of knowledge, understanding and truth," said Klein during an Alberta government luncheon in honour of Her Majesty at Calgary's Stampede Roundup Centre.

The program will provide awards to Canadian citizens or permanent residents who are enrolled full-time in a master or doctoral program at a designated Alberta university. The value of each scholarship will be $9,300 for study at the master's level or $10,500 for study at the doctoral level. Through this program, approximately $3 million will be awarded to 300 outstanding graduate students in 2005-06. As the number of eligible students grows, so will the fund, ensuring that the program remains a significant, relevant scholarship well into Alberta's second century.

"Graduate students play an important role in the current and continued success of Alberta, and this award is designed to reward students' role in unleashing innovation, leading in learning and competing in a global marketplace," said Advanced Education Minister Dave Hancock. "Alberta's future prosperity and economic success depends on the ability to attract and retain the people needed to compete in a global marketplace. This scholarship helps achieve that and is a centennial gift to graduate students."

Universities will administer the awards, with funding provided by the Alberta government. Each institution will be allowed one award for every 30 full-time eligible graduate students. Students interested in applying for the award are encouraged to contact the graduate faculty at their university.

In 2005-06, more than $43 million in scholarships and bursaries will be awarded to outstanding Alberta high school students, undergraduate students, graduate students and apprentices. For more information about the program and other scholarships available through Alberta Scholarship Programs, visit www.alis.gov.ab.ca/scholarships

- 30 -

For further information contact:

Cameron Traynor
Communications, Advanced Education
(780) 422-4495

Dial 310-0000 for toll free access outside Edmonton
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Return to Government Home Page