Government of Alberta News Release

"Education Week is set aside to recognize the important role education plays in our daily lives."

Dr. Lyle Oberg
Minister of Learning

October 28, 1999

Education Week provides endless possibilities to celebrate

Edmonton...Alberta will recognize November 7-13, 1999 as Education Week. With the theme "Endless Possibilities...Remember, Celebrate, Dream, Build" the opportunity to celebrate and recognize the importance of education will not be confined to just this week. The efforts of all partners in education will be showcased and recognized as we take our educational system into the 21st century.

The theme this year encourages schools and our many educational partners to talk about their learning successes and to share their ideas with others. The week provides an opportunity to celebrate the great learning experiences available to our students and encourage further partnerships in education.

"We have an excellent education system in Alberta and this week gives us the opportunity to highlight the many achievements of all those people involved in education," says Minister of Learning, Dr. Lyle Oberg. "Schools organize many events throughout the year to showcase student work; Education Week serves as one more way to highlight these activities and encourage a lifelong love of learning."

During the week there will be numerous activities in schools across the province. Many of the ideas will be shared through an interactive process on Alberta Learning's Education Week website at: www.educationweek.ab.ca. Through this website and other avenues, students, schools, school boards, parents and the community will be encouraged to explore the endless possibilities for demonstrating the importance of education, including ideas to celebrate the new millennium. Some of these activities will be ongoing throughout the school year and all learning stakeholders are encouraged to become involved.

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Editors note: Media kits are provided for supplemental information and additional ideas on how they might celebrate Education Week, they are attached.

For More Information Contact:
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Ed Greenberg - Learning Communications - (780) 427-2285
To be connected toll free, dial 310-0000
November 7-13, 1999

Endless Possibilities

Remember - Celebrate - Dream - Build

Education Week Celebrates - ENDLESS POSSIBILITIES

The theme: **Endless Possibilities - Remember - Celebrate - Dream - Build** truly explains our exhilarating future as we step into the 21st Century. It's a time to reflect on our past achievements and celebrate our successes. It's a time to dream about our future potential and to build on those dreams.

Alberta Learning's priority is to ensure this province has the best education system in the world. Alberta is rich with opportunities and possibilities. Capitalizing on these opportunities requires the involvement of every individual in the community. The dedication of parents, teachers, trustees, superintendents,
administrators and the media play an essential role to ensure our education system is the best.

This kit provides facts, information and activities on a variety of educational topics to inspire your celebration of Education Week with the citizens of Alberta.

Stay tuned for further details on Education Week.

Please call if you have any questions:

Ed Greenberg - Alberta Learning - (780) 427-2285

For toll free connection outside of Edmonton call 310-0000.

Let's CELEBRATE

Education Week is Coming November 7 to 13
Endless Possibilities - Remember - Celebrate - Dream - Build

Education Week is an opportunity for everyone to contribute to successful learning in Alberta. These ideas are designed to spark imagination and inspiration on how you can support our schools and our students.

"Make the Grade":
• Use our questions from provincial achievement tests, diploma exams and other sources for ideas. In the attached Media Kit.

"My Mentor":
• Ask people what was their greatest influence in choosing their careers or educational path - what was yours?

"Decade Differences":
• What about your experiences in school. What were the technological differences? What social and current events were occurring during this time. What were the medical breakthroughs? What was the popular culture like? What were the differences between 1900 and 2000? What education changes took place globally, nationally and locally. What are the top ten "100 year highlights"?

"Time Travel":
• Interview students in various grades and ask them to imagine what the future will be like. What is going to happen in the next 100 years? What will schools be like - will there be actual or virtual schools? What will their communities' look like - will buildings and houses be constructed of the same material? How will transportation change? What will the family unit be like? How will mapping DNA and genetic engineering affect us?
Numbing Numbers:

- Guess the numbers on our "Numbing Numbers" fact sheet. In the attached Media Kit.

Alberta All-stars:

- Who are some famous Albertans? In the attached Media Kit.

Link & Logons:

- A list of websites that are an educational must. In the attached Media Kit.

Our Website:

- For additional ideas or information, our special Education Website will be up and running on Wednesday November 3rd at: www.educationweek.ab.ca

These are just a few of the endless possibilities you can use to help create awareness.

Contact: Ed Greenberg - Alberta Learning - (780) 427-2285

Numbing NUMBERS

Education Week - November 7 to 13

Endless Possibilities - Remember - Celebrate - Dream - Build

Boggle their mind with these numbers!

Q: What was the fastest growing international language program in Alberta schools?
A: Between 1992 and 1998, courses in senior high Spanish increased by 450 percent.

Q: How many certificated teachers does it take to work with our students in the (kindergarten-12) public school system?
A: 32,212 certificated teachers work in public, separate, Francophone, charter and accredited private schools.

Q: How many schools for Kindergarten to Grade 12 students do we have in Alberta?
A: There were 2,001 schools in Alberta in June 1999.

Q: How much money was awarded in scholarships to high school students through the Alberta Heritage Scholarship Fund in 1998/99?
A: $12.5 million in scholarships was received by students in 1998/99.

Q: How many students in Alberta attend an accredited private school?
A: In 1998/99, 14,000 students attended accredited private schools.

Q: How many children attended kindergarten or an Early Childhood Service (ECS) program in 1998/99?
A: More than 37,000 students were registered in Kindergarten/ECS in 1998/99.

Q: How much money does the province spend on education?

Q: How many students in Alberta schools take French as a second language classes?
A: Approximately 133,000 students took French as a second language classes last year.

Q: How many students were registered in Alberta's public school system in 1998/99?
A: There were 530,000 students in Grades 1-12 in 1998/99 in the public school system.

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Alberta ALL-STARS

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Education Week - November 7 to 13

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Celebrate famous Albertans with a quiz:

Q: Who was the 16th Prime Minister of Canada?
A: Joe Clark, born in High River, Alberta.

Q: Who is the famous musician, pianist, composer, bandleader and arranger who taught music at Grant MacEwan Community College?
A: Tommy Banks

Q: Who is the famous person from St. Albert with a green thumb and a number of gardening books to her credit?
A: Lois Hole, also chancellor of the University of Alberta

Q: Which former Canadian Governor General was born in Lacombe?
A: Roland Michener. He was considered to be the most physically fit Governor General.

Q: Who was the first Premier of Alberta?
A: Alex Rutherford. Scholarships are awarded each year to top Grade 10 - 12 students in his name.

Q: Who is the famous figure skater from Caroline?

A: Kurt Browning was the first skater to successfully land a quadruple jump in competition.
Q: Name one of five famous Alberta women who secured legal recognition of women as "persons" and later the right to vote and become members of the Canadian Senate?
A: Emily Murphy, Nellie McClung, Irene Parlby, Henrietta Edwards and Louise McKinney

Q: Who is the famous animal conservationist who traveled with a cheeta?
A: Al Oeming. A graduate from Strathcona High School in Edmonton.

Q: What famous Alberta writer, teacher and conservationist has a college named after him?
A: Grant MacEwan. Now in his late nineties, Mr. MacEwan still writes and speaks to students.

Q: Who was Alberta's version of Davy Crockett, helping guide the Northwest Mounted Police?
A: Jerry Potts a "dead shot," was the Alberta guide and interpreter for the Northwest Mounted Police.

Q: Who was the famous Alberta singer in the musical South Pacific who graduated from St. Joseph's High School in Edmonton?
A: Robert Goulet

Q: Who were the Calgary newly weds who survived the sinking of the Titanic in 1912?
A: Albert and Vera Dick tell their stories in a 1912 issue of the Calgary Herald

Q: Who is the former Edmonton school principal awarded the Order of Canada?
A: Steve Ramsankar, former principal of Alex Taylor school was given the award for his work in encouraging open and caring schools

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**LEARNING**

Links & Logons

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**Education Week - November 7 to 13**

Endless Possibilities - Remember - Celebrate - Dream - Build

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Here are just a few of the must-see educational websites:

- [http://www.learning.gov.ab.ca](http://www.learning.gov.ab.ca)
  - The website for Alberta Learning with search capabilities to information on education in Alberta along with ALIS, your Internet gateway to career, learning and employment information in Alberta.

- [www.2learn.ca](http://www.2learn.ca)

- TELUS learning connection site, a joint project with many Alberta learning partners

- [www.educationindex.com](http://www.educationindex.com)
• An annotated education index site with links to other education related sites
  
  www.exploratorium.org

• Museum of science, art and human perception site
  
  www.schoolnet.ca

• Federal government site for educational resources and links to other educational sites
  
  www.amazing-kids.org/

• A non-profit educational organization celebrating the achievements of children
  
  www.nationalgeographic.com

• A site of world geographic wonders and information
  
  www.public-library.calgary.ab.ca/2000/ge_who.html

• Great Canadian Contest initiated by the Calgary Public Library, with additional Canadian historical information
  
  www.sln.org
  
  Science & Learning Network

• www.visi.com/~eduweb/
  
  Educational Web Adventures

• www.cochran.com/theodre/beritsbest/
  
  Recommended educational websites for children

• http://www.scitechweek.gov.ab.ca/
  
  Site promotes innovation, science and technology in Alberta

• http://www.albertaconnects.gov.ab.ca/students/studentlinks.cfm
  
  10 useful links to Alberta information for students

• http://www.accesslearning.com
  
  The learning website for Access TV, including L&J News
Sample questions from provincial achievement tests and diploma exams

(Grade 9 mathematics)

1. The members of a student council held a school dance. The DJ they hired charges a basic fee of $300 and an additional charge of $1.50 per student that attends the dance.

If the DJ charged the student council $487.50, how many students attended the dance?

A: 125 students attended the dance.

(Grade 6 mathematics)

› At the airport, your friend Michael goes to a gift shop with $45.00. He spends 2/3 of his money on a new shirt. He spends 1/5 of the money on a Logic Puzzle Magazine. How much money does Michael have left?

A. $6.00
A: is $6.00 or A.

› $12.00
› $24.00
› $30.00

(Grade 6 science)

3. Sam wanted to find out if salt affects the time it takes for water to boil. He knew that before heating, each solution must be at the same temperature. He also identified the following variables.

1. Amount of salt used
2. Amount of water used
3. Type of container used
4. Time taken to heat the water to boiling point

To conduct a fair test, the variables that Sam kept the same were

A. 1 and 2
(Grade 9 mathematics)

4. Two buses leave from a particular gas station at the same time. One bus travels east at 90 km/h. The other bus travels west at 100 km/h. How long will it take before the buses are 570 km apart?

   A. 6 hours
   B. 5.7 hours
   C. 3 hours
   A: is C, 3 hours.

   1.5 hours

(Grade 9 mathematics)

5. One of Joe's drawers contains ten identical red socks and ten identical blue socks. If Joe does not look in the drawer, what is the least number of socks he must remove from the drawer before he is certain of getting a matched pair?

   A. 2
   B. 3
   C. 10
   D. 11
   A: is D, 11

(Grade 12 - mathematics 30)

6. The manufacturer of glass has determined that the width of each piece of glass is normally distributed with a mean width of 4.00 cm with a standard deviation of 0.05 cm. Any piece with a width less than 3.90 cm or more than 4.10 cm cannot be used for a chandelier. If 100 000 glass pieces are selected at random for chandeliers, how many pieces from this initial selection will not meet the size requirement?

   A: 4560 pieces will not meet the size requirement

(Grade 3 mathematics)

7. ADMISSION TO PIONEER VILLAGE IS: Adults $5.00 each, children (7-17) $2.00 each, Children (under 7) - Free. A family has two adults and three children. The children's ages are 12, 9, and 6 years. How much does the family have to pay to go to Pioneer Village?

   A. $7.00
   B. $12.00
   C. $14.00
   D. $16.00
   A: C, $14.00

(Grade 9 mathematics)

8. A rope that just reaches from the top to the bottom of a well can be wrapped around a cylindrical drum 10 times. How many meters deep is the well if the drum has a diameter of 30 cm?
9. Write a letter to the editor that will convince Nalwen residents that the process followed by the high school graduation council to select a supplier of graduation rings for the Grade 12 students at Nalwen High School was both open and fair.

(Grade 12 - Science 30)

10. Assume that you have been given a light bulb, a voltmeter, an ammeter, two 6 volt batteries, and wire. Describe how to determine the resistance of a light bulb. Draw a diagram to show the circuit. Include the formula you would use to calculate the resistance of the light bulb.

General knowledge questions

Why do we wear poppies on Remembrance Day?

Pappy seeds can lie on the ground for years, and only when someone roots up the ground will they sprout. The battlefields of the Western Front consisted of churned up soil, so poppies grew.

Quick Facts...About Alberta

What is the:

- Provincial Flower of Alberta (The wild rose)
- Provincial Bird of Alberta (The Great Horned Owl)
- Provincial Tree of Alberta (Lodgepole Pine)
- Provincial Mammal of Alberta (Big Horn Sheep)
- Provincial Motto (Strong and Free)
- Provincial Tartan (the colors of the Alberta tartan tell the story of our land, and what it has given to us: the green is for forest, the gold for wheat fields, blue represents clean skies and sparkling lakes, pink is for the wild rose and black is for oil).
- What is Alberta's highest mountain peak (Mount Columbia)

Give an example of a conjunction and use it in a sentence. (A conjunction is a word used to connect clauses or sentences or other words in the same clause, e.g. and, but, if. Example: Jim will empty the garbage if he gets home in time)

Give an example of a verb in the past tense and use it in a sentence. (e.g. ran, slept - He slept in and nearly ran to get to work on time.)

Spell the three versions of the word "to", (too), (two) and use each one in a sentence to show its meaning. (He went to the store. He is too slow in adding a long list of numbers in his head. I have two birds in the house.)
Alberta's Learning System

Alberta Learning: A new look at education in Alberta

On May 25, 1999, the Premier of Alberta announced a significant restructuring of the provincial government. The intent was to group like services and responsibilities within new and existing departments to focus on Albertans' priorities and to improve the way government works internally—with more emphasis on teamwork and cross-government collaboration. Part of the restructuring saw components of the former departments of Education and Advanced Education and Career Development combined into one entity called Alberta Learning.

In this information age, a good education must be more than a good start on life—it must be an on-going commitment for life. The new Department of Learning signals the Alberta government's commitment to lifelong learning from early childhood to the later years. We want to see every student regardless of age, acquire and continue to develop the knowledge and skills they will need for a trade or profession, to meet their social and cultural needs and to fulfil their personal goals as they contribute to our shared prosperity and quality of life.

As Alberta Learning, we have the opportunity to provide a seamless learning system that allows Albertans to move easily between school and work as many times as they need. We can look at the lifelong learning needs of Albertans—not just their learning needs as children or young adults. The constant upgrading of skills is becoming a prerequisite for sustaining a country's socio-economic development. So lifelong learning is now both a necessity and a reality.

Alberta Learning consists of the following:

- Education (Early Childhood Services to Grade 12)
- Advanced Education
- Apprenticeship and Industry Training
- Adult Learner Supports (Student Finance)

Alberta is one of the most educated provinces in the country

Alberta has one of the most educated populations in the country. In 1997, according to Statistics Canada, 49 per cent of the province's population over the age of 24 had completed a degree, diploma or certificate program at a post-secondary institution. This is the highest level in the country.

In 1997/98, 111,220 students were registered in a post-secondary institution on a full-time basis.

- 47% were enrolled in Universities
- 26% were enrolled in Public Colleges
- 17% were enrolled in Technical Institutes
- 8% were enrolled in Vocational Colleges
- 2% were enrolled in private University Colleges

Graduates from post-secondary institutions

In 1997/98, 22,928 people graduated from post-secondary institutions in the fall of 1998
• 3,105 graduated from one-year certificate programs
• 7,351 graduated with diplomas
• 12,472 graduated with degrees
• In addition, 4,321 trades people achieved journeyman status in 50 trades in 1998.

**Enrolments in the basic school system as of September 1998**

For the 1998/99 school year an approximate total of 530,000 students attended public schools.

• Over 37,000 students in Kindergarten ECS
• 369,558 students were in grades one to nine
• 125,145 students were in grades ten to twelve

For the 1998/99 school year an approximate total of 14,000 students attended accredited private schools

• 11,889 students were in grades one to nine
• 2,752 students were in grades ten to twelve

**Schools in Alberta**

An Alberta school is defined as a school governed by a public, separate, francophone, charter, early childhood operator or private school authority.

*As of June 1999, there were a total of 2,001 schools in Alberta*

• 1,352 Public Schools
• 305 Separate Schools
• 189 Accredited Private Schools
• 15 Francophone Schools
• 9 Charter Schools
• 131 Early Childhood Operators

*These numbers do not include the Lloydminster Public School Division or the Lloydminster Roman Catholic Separate School Division.

**Teachers**

In 1997/1998 there were 32,212 certificated teaching personnel employed by the Alberta basic education system. This number includes teachers, principals, assistant superintendents and superintendents.

The table below provides a breakdown of certificated teaching personnel employed in the K-12 system.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Employing Authority</th>
<th>Certificated Teaching Personnel</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Public School Boards</td>
<td>23,026</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Separate School Boards</td>
<td>6,357</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Francophone School Boards</td>
<td>141</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Alternative Programs

Many alternative programs are offered across the province. An alternative program emphasizes a particular language, culture, religion or subject-matter or uses a particular teaching philosophy. They cover a wide-range and include the following:

- Logos Christian schools
- Edmonton Christian School programs

## General Information (continued)

- Talmud Torah School
- Alternative High School for the Fine Arts
- Cognito "back to basics"
- Bowden Model Technology School
- Nellie McClung Junior High for Girls
- Programs for pregnant and parenting teens
- Ukrainian Bilingual programs
- Ben Calf Robe Aboriginal program
- Banded Peak School for Teaching and Learning in Technology
- Over 70 outreach programs

## Language Instruction

- Approximately, 133,000 students attended French as a Second Language classes in 1998/1999.
- About 27,000 students attended French Immersion programs in 1998/1999.
- About 3,700 students were enrolled in francophone programs, from kindergarten to high school in 1998/1999.
- In 1995/1996, one in three high school students studied a language other than English.
- Last year, 50 school boards provided course in 17 languages other than English or French. Alberta high school students completed 4085 Spanish courses, 974 Japanese courses and 1800 Chinese language courses.

## Funding to Post-secondary Institutions

Post-secondary institutions will receive nearly $960 million in funding in 1999-2000, an increase of 5.4 per cent from 1998/99.

Financial support to post-secondary students will increase to $113 million in 1999-2000, a 12.3 per cent increase. This increase includes the following:

- Increase in the value of individual Alberta Heritage Scholarships
- Increase in needs-based bursaries
- Legislated cap on tuition fees (no more than 30 per cent of cost of education)
- Adjustments in student assistance support

Total number of learners awarded financial assistance
In 1998-1999, a total of 60,808 learners received $412 million in assistance.

- 11,733 individuals awarded Alberta Opportunities Bursaries in 1998/99
- 344 students from Northern Alberta received the Northern Student Supplement
- 9,785 recipients received approximately $12.5 million in scholarships from the Alberta Heritage Scholarship Fund