

Creating Rural Connections

THROUGH EDUCATION

Education is every community's link to growth. It is the academic, professional, and personal improvement of skills and abilities. Rural citizens, young and old, and their communities benefit from increased education; it opens the mind and increases opportunities for the individual and contributes to the knowledge base within the community.

Though education is important, many rural citizens face barriers to accessing opportunities: remote location and limited resources are only two. The Alberta Rural Development Network (ARDN) partners with post-secondary institutions (PSIs) and rural community-based organizations to make education and training more available and provide links to some of the opportunities that already exist.

ARDN's member colleges, universities and technical institutes all contribute to adult learning. They offer certificate, diploma, and degree programs. Adults can benefit from continuing education and non-credit courses, available in class and online. Some examples are Basic Bookkeeping, Creating Web Pages, Grammar Refresher, and Secrets of Better Photography. Links to many of the education and training providers are available on www.ardn.ca. Opportunities are also available to the general public in other ways. ARDN works with many organizations, corporations, and local businesses that offer professional and personal development courses. We also work to make information on these courses more available to the public.

ARDN strives to find and fill gaps in education and training in rural areas. We partner with our PSI members and community-based organizations to determine what the gaps are. Once these gaps are found, the combined efforts of PSIs, the community, and other rural stakeholders work towards filling them. We post the results of gap analyses and needs assessments online once we collect and analyze the information.

ARDN's website (www.ardn.ca) is one easy way for people to find links to all kinds of opportunities. It also has information on rural research and projects in Alberta. We provide project information in plain language, making it available to anyone interested in rural development. Some examples of links that can be found on ARDN's website are listed below.

Community Learning Network

Access the 83 CALCs who address the part-time, non-credit learning needs of adults.
<http://www.communitylearning.info/>

eCampus Alberta

There are 400 online courses and 30 provincially accredited online certificate, diploma, and applied degree programs.
<http://www.ecampusalberta.ca/>

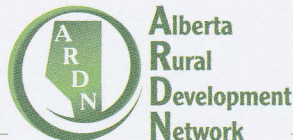
Government of Alberta – Alberta Learning Information Service (ALIS)

The provincial gateway for Albertans to plan and achieve education and career success.
<http://alis.alberta.ca/>

Ed2Go

There are many non-credit courses online through various post-secondary institutions.
<http://www.ed2go.com/>

Education is necessary to grow a community. ARDN works with its member institutions and community organizations to ensure that all rural Albertans know about available training opportunities. After all, education and training are our links to the future.



www.ardn.ca

EDUCATION RESEARCH COLLABORATION NETWORKING