

RED DEER POLYTECHNIC

Red Deer Polytechnic's apprenticeship training is recognized across Canada

When considering post-secondary education, students seek learning opportunities that offers industry-relevant, hands-on experiences that prepare them for rewarding careers.

Red Deer Polytechnic (RDP) offers an ideal higher learning model for a rapidly evolving world, combining in-depth study with advanced practical skills training and applied research opportunities. At RDP, students are immersed in technology-infused learning environments that are responsive to the needs of industry, resulting in highly qualified and employable graduates.

As a unique comprehensive polytechnic, RDP offers more than 80 industry-relevant programs in a range of credentials that include degrees, diplomas, certificates, micro-credentials and apprenticeships. This variety of programming helps to fulfill labour market demand in many sectors, including the skilled trades.

As the demand for skilled trades workers increases, Red Deer Polytechnic continues to offer programming in 17 skilled trades, including carpenter, gasfitter, sprinkler systems installer and welder, to meet the needs of industry and learners. With flexible learning options at the Polytechnic, apprentices can take courses and train in-person, online or in a blended format to accommodate their learning preferences, work schedules, location and life circumstances.

As the third largest educator of skilled trades apprentices in Alberta, RDP successfully trained more than 3,500 apprenticeship students in 2022/2023. Along with receiving instruction from experts at Red Deer Polytechnic, apprentices grow their skills, knowledge and professional relationships in real world settings through collaboration with industry partners.

Through dynamic learning environments and partnerships, Red Deer Polytechnic's reputation and impact in training skilled trades workers continues to evolve provincially and nationally. Over the past 20 years, RDP Apprentices have been among the top achievers at Skills Canada Alberta and Skills Canada National Competitions, demonstrating their exceptional competencies among their peers. Since 2003, Red Deer Polytechnic Apprentices have remarkably earned 79 medals provincially and nationally.

While RDP Apprentices have reached the podium in several skilled trades at these competitions, they have particularly excelled in welding at the national level. In May 2023, Red Polytechnic Welding Apprentice Ben Rainforth displayed unprecedented talent in his trade, earning a gold medal at the Skills Canada National Competition in Winnipeg. Rainforth's remarkable achievement was the fifth consecutive gold medal by RDP Welding Apprentices at the national level.

Rainforth, and all gold medalists from the Skills Canada National Competition, will represent their institutions and Team Canada alongside the top global apprentices next year.

"To compete in the 2024 WorldSkills Competition is an extreme honour that has not come easy," says Rainforth.

He attributes his extraordinary accomplishments at the provincial and national levels to the innovative and supportive learning environment at Red Deer Polytechnic.

"RDP has paved the way for my success, giving me the tools and resources that I need to excel in my trade. Having taken all three years of my technical training at RDP, I have been fortunate to have been instructed by the best of the best," says Rainforth. "With coaching and instruction from Lee [Yasinski], we have put in the time to become the national champion and can continue training at a world level."

The 47th WorldSkills Competition will be held in Lyon, France from September 10-15, 2024.

"I am very honoured to have this opportunity and am excited to represent not only RDP, but Alberta and most importantly, Canada," adds Rainforth.

**POLY-
TECHNIC
MEANS
MORE**



**Red Deer
Polytechnic**

**More ways to learn.
More industry connections.
More impactful experiences.
Apply today at rdpolytech.ca**