

Red Deer Polytechnic

Red Deer Polytechnic's apprenticeship training is recognized across Canada and around the world

With a variety of post-secondary options available, students seek an educational model that offers innovative, immersive opportunities that prepare them for rewarding careers.

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

As a unique comprehensive polytechnic, RDP offers more than 80 industry-relevant programs in a variety of credentials that include degrees, diplomas, certificates, micro-credentials and apprenticeships. This breadth 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 robust programming in 17 skilled trades, including carpenter, electrician, plumber and welder, to meet the needs of industry and learners. With flexible learning options at RDP, apprentices can take courses and train in-person, online or in a blended format to accommodate their learning preferences, work schedules, geographical 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 high-calibre competencies among their peers. Red Deer Polytechnic Apprentices have remarkably earned 79 medals provincially and nationally since 2003.

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 showcased exceptional talent in his trade, earning a gold medal at the Skills Canada National Competition in Winnipeg. Rainforth's impressive achievement was the fifth consecutive gold medal by RDP Welding Apprentices at the national level.

RDP has leveraged its provincial and national strength in technical and trades education to extend its impact globally. In November 2022, Red Deer Polytechnic signed a new Collaborative Agreement with NESIC Technical Institute to extend the partnership and support for apprenticeship training in Trinidad and Tobago until 2031. As experts in their fields, RDP instructors train and mentor instructors at NESIC Technical Institute.

In March 2023, RDP signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Trinidad and Tobago's NESIC Technical Institute and the University of Trinidad and Tobago to grow opportunities in training, research, innovation and certification of workers in Trinidad and Tobago and the Caribbean.

Through partnerships and offering nationally recognized apprenticeship programming, Red Deer Polytechnic helps to contribute to the accessibility of high-quality educational opportunities, skill development and economic growth in Alberta, Canada and around the world.

Learn more at rdpolytech.ca

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