

Q 13. What do we know about Campus Alberta Central?

- Campus Alberta Central is a joint venture between Red Deer College and Olds College, which offers access to post-secondary education programs and courses to youth and adult learners in more than 20 communities throughout central Alberta.
- CAC partners with local organizations in each community to provide technology-based learning and blended, face-to-face classroom learning with an online component at learning sites such as the one proposed for Ponoka.
- CAC is planning to partner with Ponoka/Rimbey Adult Learning & Family Literacy to help deliver its programming at the new Community Learning Centre to be constructed in Ponoka. A proposed agreement to provide grant funding to Ponoka/Rimbey Adult Learning & Family Literacy to provide administrative and learner support services on behalf of CAC in Ponoka has received preliminary approval and is in the process of being finalized.
- Other central Alberta communities with CAC learning sites similar to the one proposed in Ponoka include Stettler, Rocky Mountain House and Drumheller. Those communities report the following benefits of having a CAC learning site in their community:
 - Local access to post-secondary education is an anchor that persuades some residents to continue living in their communities rather than pursuing post-secondary education elsewhere.
 - A Town councillor in Rocky Mountain House has reported that several people have moved to that community to enrol in post-secondary courses offered at the local CAC learning site.
 - Both communities find that offering local access to post-secondary education is an advantage to local employers who are able to access a more skilled workforce to help meet their hiring needs.
 - At the CAC learning site in Stettler, some local high school students coordinate their Grade 12 schedules to attend CAC classes during the school year. The end result is that some of these students graduate with a Grade 12 diploma and a Health Care Aide Certificate – making them immediately employable.
- More information about Campus Alberta Central can be found at www.campusalbertacentral.com