

# Media Release



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 17, 2009

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### Adult learning programs to be resurrected under Rocky View Schools

Residents upset with the loss of community adult learning programs following the closure of Rocky View Adult Education can expect to see these local educational services resurrected with greater variety and impact, after Rocky View Schools' Board of Trustees agreed to add "adult learning" to its repertoire of program offerings.

At their Dec. 17, 2009, Board Meeting, Trustees approved of a new partnership with Advanced Education and Technology to ensure that adult learning programs continue to be offered to adults in the Rocky View area.

"It's a perfect fit for our jurisdiction," said Board Chair Sylvia Eggerer. "Not only does adult learning help to crystallize our desire to build 21<sup>st</sup> Century learning environments where learning transitions are seamless and services are available for learners of all ages, it will bring greater value and recognition to our education system from adults who may not have children in RVS."

As with other boards across the province, for years Rocky View Schools acted as the legal host for its adult education affiliate, Rocky View Adult Education (RVAE). RVAE, however, was governed and operated by a separate board of directors. Eggerer explained as legal host, Rocky View Schools oversaw RVAE's financial, human resource and insurance responsibilities, including payroll and audited financial statements.

"Since learning from RVAE's Board of Directors in late October that they would be dissolved, we have been in discussion with Advanced Education and Technology to determine how Rocky View Schools might continue to have a role in ensuring that adult learning programs are available for our residents," said Superintendent of Schools Greg Bass. "We are very happy to have reached an agreement, whereby a Community Adult Learning Advisory Board (CALAB) will be struck by our Board of Trustees to re-establish these services."

"Our jurisdiction will charge this council with developing a calendar of adult learning programs that respond to the needs, interests and preferences of adult learners in the communities we serve. This is an innovative approach and we are very excited to be a part of it," Bass stated.

Grants from Alberta Advanced Education and Technology are available to Community Adult Learning Councils to offer adult learning opportunities that meet priority community gaps in the areas of adult literacy, family literacy, English language learning, employability enhancement and community issues. As was the case with RVAE, interest courses like creative writing will need to be self-supported through registration fees. Adult learning courses will be open for registration as soon as possible, but no later than September 1, 2010.

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