

The Right Angle

Learning Technologies Branch and Alberta Distance Learning Centre Divestiture Update

The transfer of the Alberta Distance Learning Centre's (ADLC) instructional services to Pembina Hills Regional Division No. 7 was effective June 2, 1997. ADLC will continue to operate from its present locations in Barrhead and Edmonton, providing the same courses, at the same cost, with the same commitment to quality.

Alberta Education will continue its responsibility for the design, development, production and distribution of distance courses. Course design and development will be the responsibility of the newly named Learning Technologies Branch directed by Gary Popowich. (A new name is necessary because the name Alberta Distance Learning Centre is being retained by the operation which is becoming part of Pembina Hills Regional Division No. 7). The production and distribution of material will remain in the hands of the Learning Resources Distributing Centre.

The Learning Technologies Branch will share the Barrhead facility with the Alberta Distance Learning Centre. The newly named branch will maintain its current mailing address (PO Box 4000, Barrhead T7N 1P4), along with its main telephone number (403-674-5333) and main fax number (403-674-6561).

For more information, visit the Learning Technologies Branch Web site: <http://ednet.edc.gov.ab.ca/ltb/>

Why Distance Learning?

What do all these scenarios have in common?

- A dropout returns to study in a storefront school.

- A student finds that a self-paced program in a city high school provides the freedom that keeps him in school.
- A parent in a home-schooling situation finds materials superbly tailored to his children.
- A youngster works on a self-study program while sailing the globe.
- A young teen receives honors grades in her studies as she and her family follow the traditional path of their trapline.
- A promising skier completes high school as she earns her way onto the Olympic ski team.

All these situations have one element in common: students experiencing distance learning with all of its flexibility and ability to be tailored to their personal situations and learning styles.

Distance learning offers adults the ability to upgrade and complete their high school education. It offers alternatives to students in schools—in the types of courses available and the flexibility of time-tabling. It offers education to those who choose paths of education that are alternatives to the traditional classroom.

And today, distance learning offers more choice than ever, not just in the course selection available, but in the pathways of learning provided by the latest in technology. The learning packages allow students to pursue their learning in the ways they desire, not only through the attractive student-centred print medium but also through audiocassettes and videocassettes, through telephone and fax contact, through CD-ROM and CDI, through e-mail and the Internet. These technologies make learning choices unlimited.

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