

Empowering Rural Alberta Youth!

Vulcan County – April 2, 2025 (10am)
Beaver County – April 2, 2025 (3pm)
Brazeau County – April 23, 2025 (2pm)
Town of Drayton Valley – April 23, 2025 (2pm)
Newell County – April 24, 2025 (1pm)
Town of Bassano – May 12, 2025 (6:30pm)
Town of Rocky Mountain House – May 20 (9:10am)
Brazeau County – June 3, 2025 (10:00am)
Clearwater County – June 10, 2025 (10:45am)
Canadian Conversation on Career Education – June 10, 2025 (11:30am)
M.D. Bonnyville – June 24, 2025 (10am)

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How many of you have CTS credits?
5 CTS credits from high school?



#1

contributing factor to
Alberta Workforce Challenges!

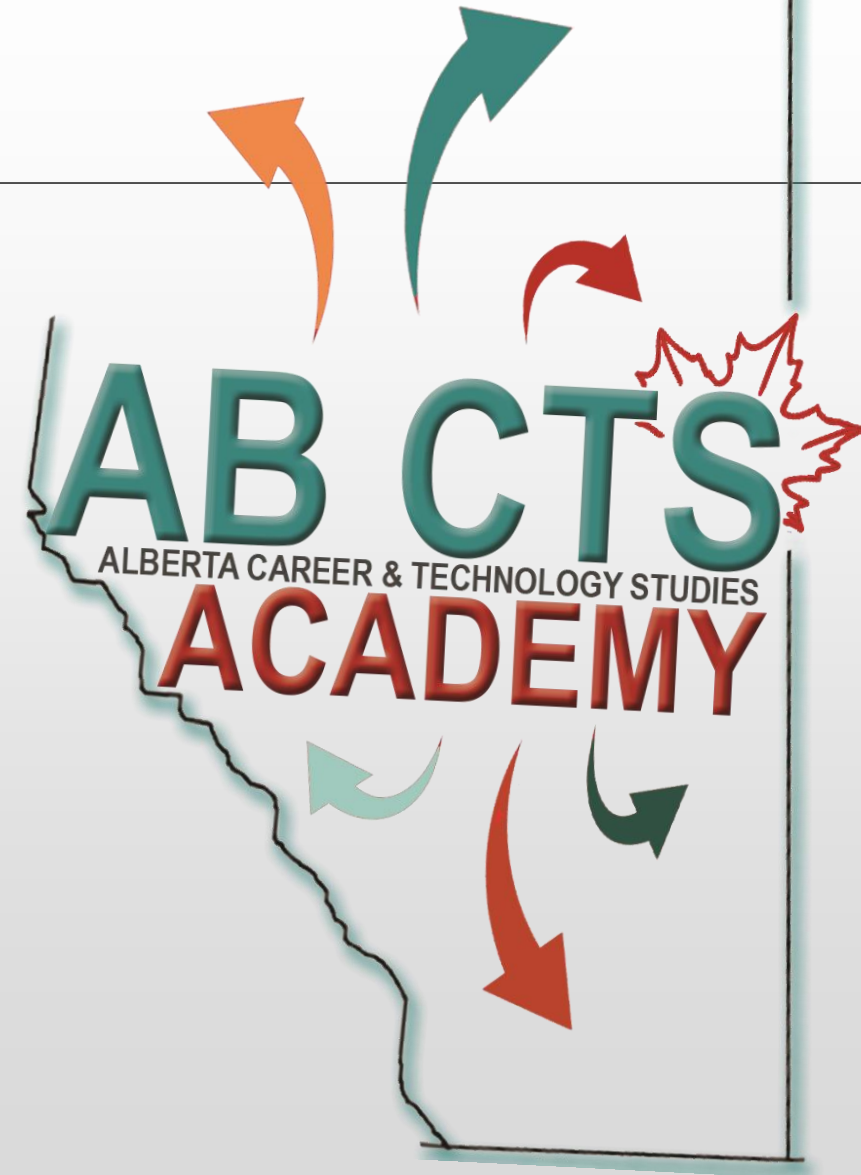
Who We Are...

Paul Bohnert...

- Currently Teacher in Lethbridge (32 years)
- U of A, and U of L Instructor in career education
- Career Education Researcher for past 15 years
- President of CTEC Council (2000 AB teachers)

AB CTS Academy Team...

- 13 AB teachers from across the Province
- 7 AB School Administrators Advisors
- 23 Vocational and Professional Advisors

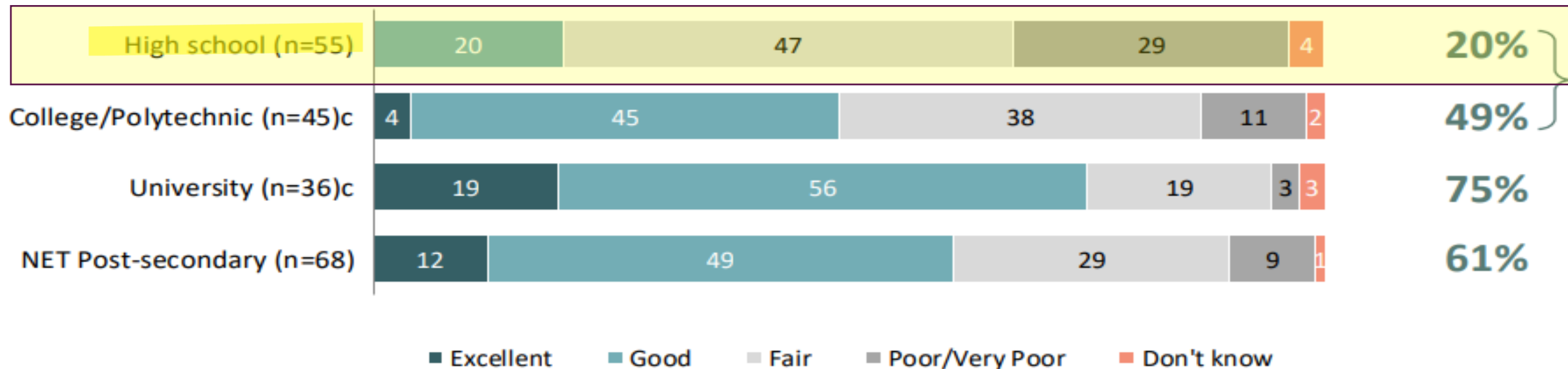


Work force Challenges...

Due to lack of CTS offerings, exposure and training!

New staff hired direct from university (75%) were considered the most likely to be **workforce ready** in terms of technical skills and competencies (with 19% rated as 'excellent'). This declines to 20% among new hires direct from high school.

Ratings of Technical Skills and Competencies



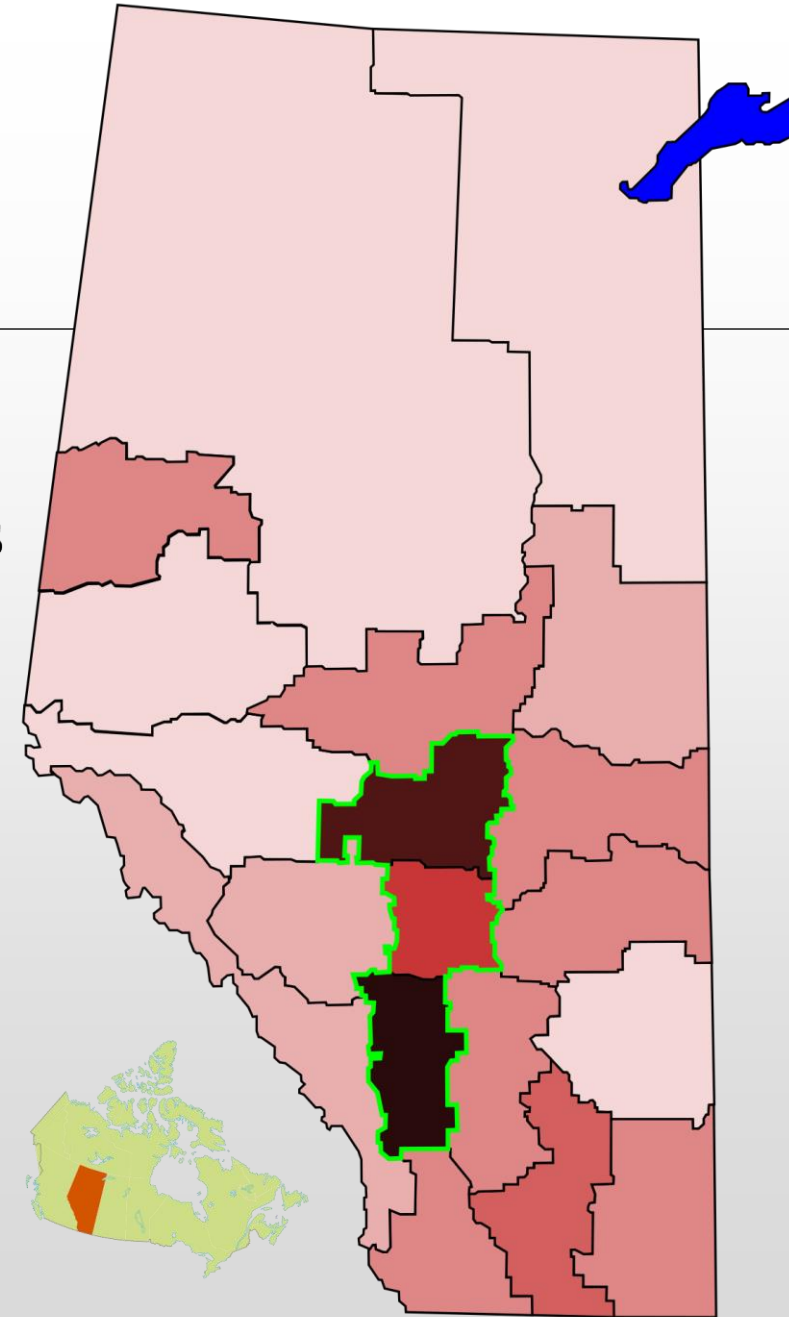
Alberta Challenges...

Workforce Challenges...

- AB currently needs 20,000 people to fill job vacancies
- Next 10 years
 - 61,000 new job openings a year
 - 75,000 new and replacement job openings a year

Alberta High Schools...

- Graduate more than 70,000 students/year
- Approximately 18,000 students from Rural Schools
- Next 10 yrs. AB will graduate 800,000 students
- Less than 10% of students will take career courses



Work force Challenges...

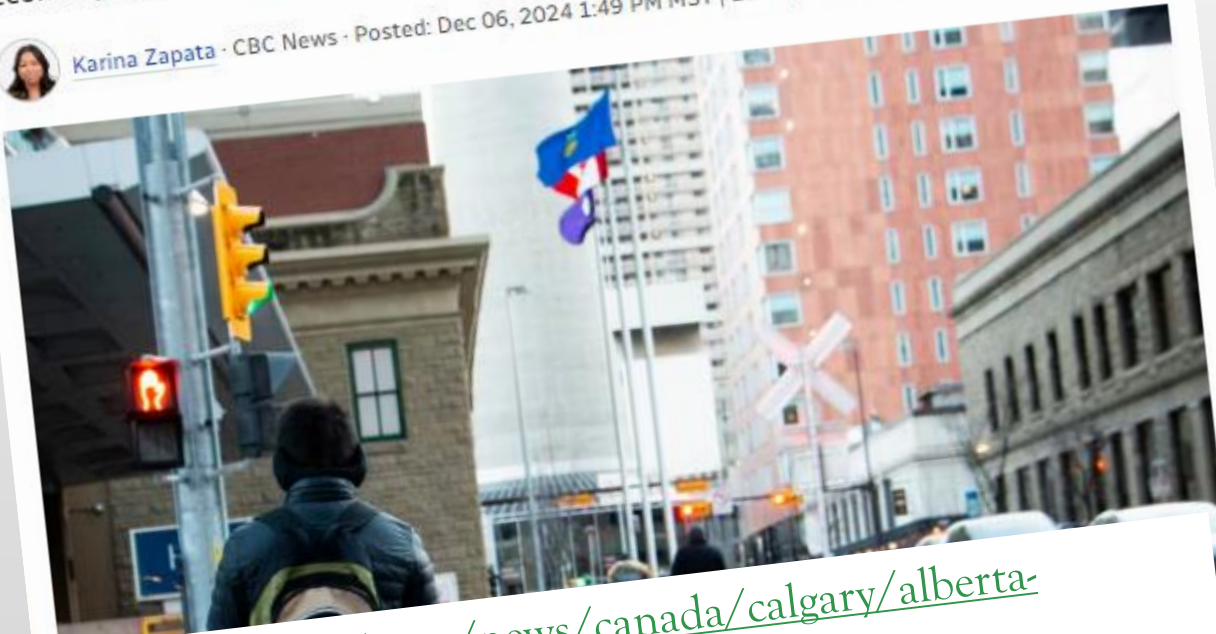
Why is there continued increase in job vacancies and increase in unemployment in Alberta?

- Youth intimidated by the unknown.
- Youth unprepared for jobs.
- Youth unaware of jobs.

**CTS high school courses
can alleviate all the above
factors.**

Alberta's unemployment rate rose to 7.5% in November, despite strong job growth
Economy can't keep pace with surge of people moving to province, says economist

Karina Zapata · CBC News · Posted: Dec 06, 2024 1:49 PM MST | Last Updated: December 6



<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/calgary/alberta-unemployment-november-1.7403502>

Potential solutions...

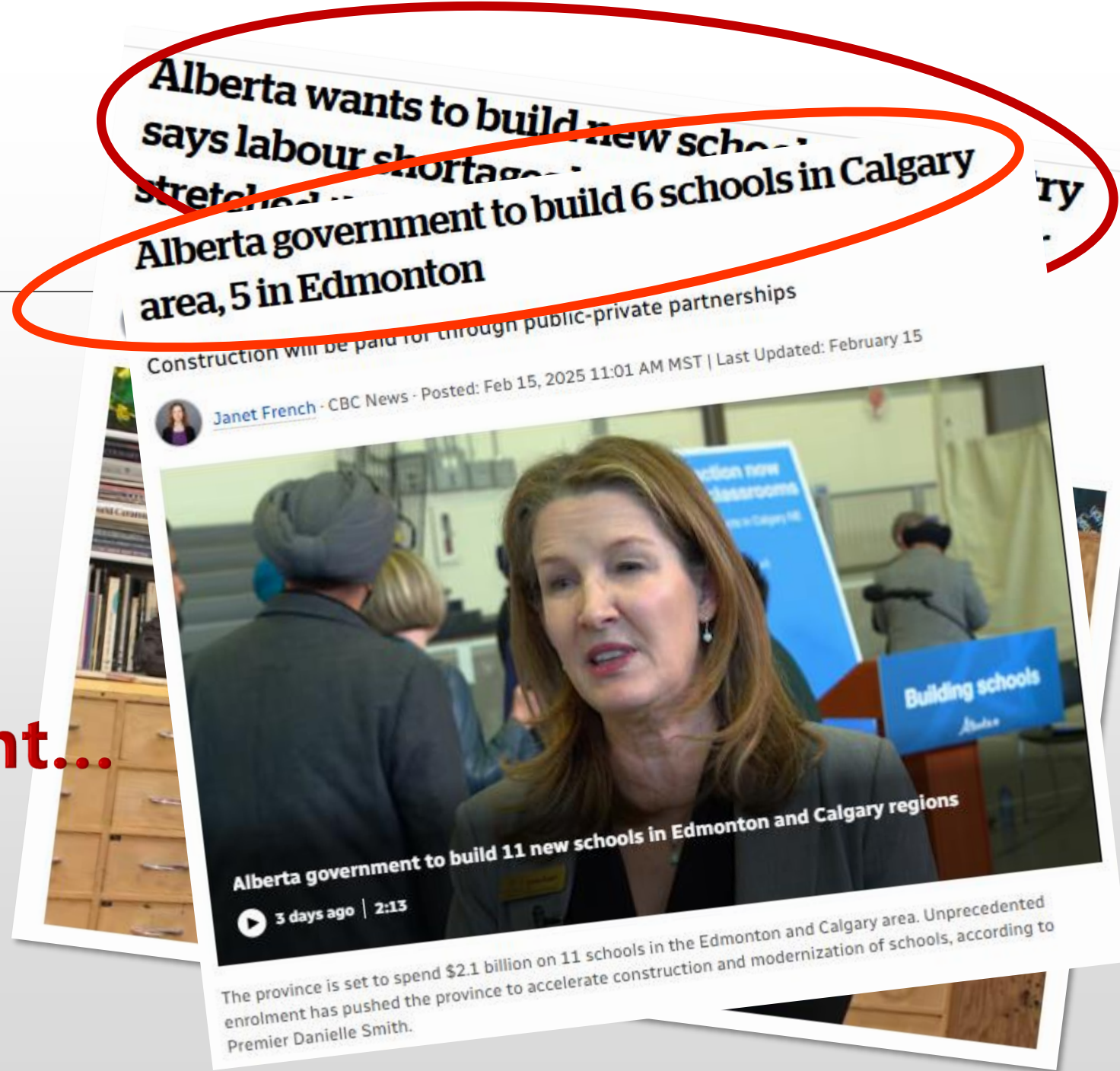
Building New Schools

Impact on student...

- Takes time to build
- CTS labs not likely
- Pace still far behind demand

Impact on Rural student...

- Rural areas not priority
- Remote areas not priority



Potential solutions...

Registered Apprenticeship

Alberta – 840 (2021), 163 from CTS pathways,
Estimated less than 0.5%

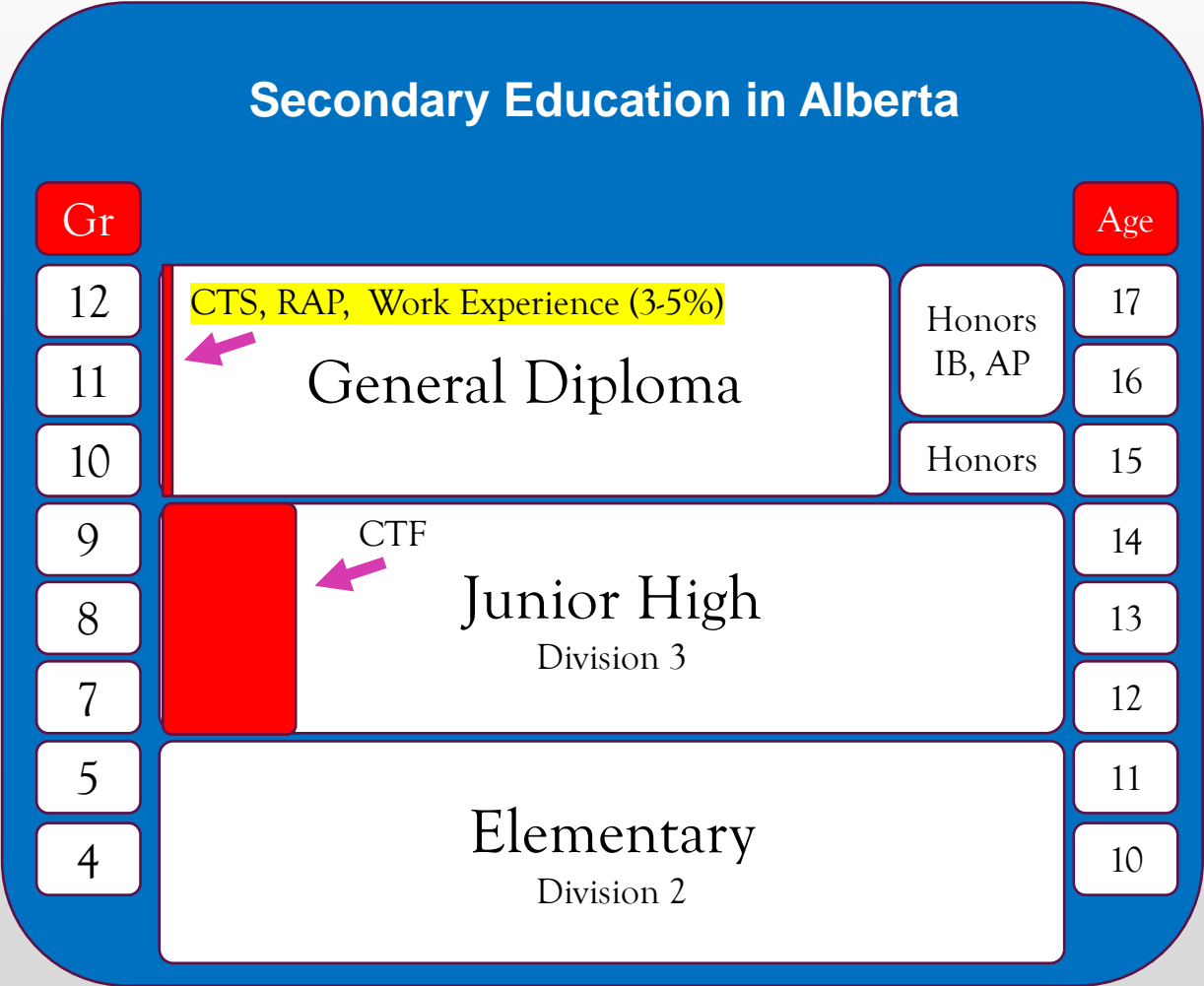
Impact on student...

- Effective, but not engaging large #s
- Student drop-off is high
- Enrollment process challenging
- Limited RAP (50) programs in Alberta
 - Scotland (700) – 39,000 enrolled
 - Germany (350) – Dual program – 50% - about 1.5M enrolled
 - Ireland (73) – 27,000 enrolled
- Rural placements are limited
- Very intimidating for students

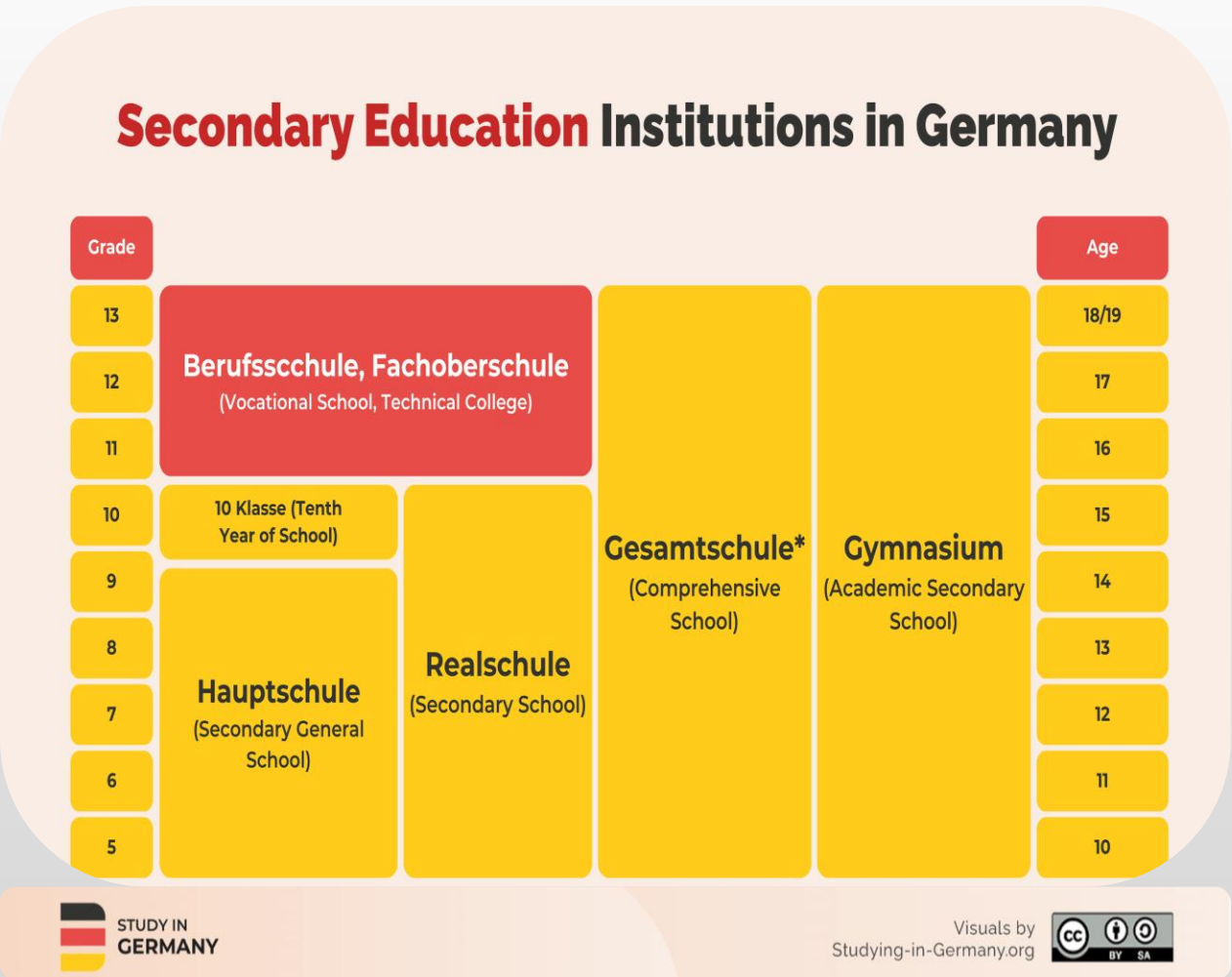


Educational Systems

Alberta



Germany



Potential solutions...

Alberta Collegiate Institutes

Realities of Collegiates

- \$108M spent in the last two years.
- Currently 12 (+12) Collegiate schools
- Avg. \$9,000,000/school
- About 1000 full time students
- 8/12 based in large Urban areas
- Rural – very specialized and small



Our Solution...



Where Students drive their own learning...
...providing opportunities that benefit
Rural Alberta in the future!



Our solutions

Alberta CTS Academy

WHAT, WHY, WHO, WHERE, WHEN, HOW

AB CTS Academy

PROVIDING CAREER OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUR TEENS' FUTURE

WHAT is the AB CTS Academy?

The AB CTS Academy is a virtual high school partnership that focuses on vocational and professional career education designed specifically to meet the needs of rural and remote Alberta students within their community schools.

The AB CTS Academy will provide an innovative career education and hundreds of connections to vocational and professional opportunities for grade 10 to 12 students.

WHY support the AB CTS Academy?

More than 52,000 rural and remote high school students throughout Alberta have limited opportunity for career and occupational education, which impairs employment preparation and career scope.

The AB CTS Academy will provide more than 200 introductory and 300 intermediate professional and vocational 1-credit courses that are combined to create a gateway to a personalized career and employment preparation education.

Alberta CTS Academy

Grade 10 – 12 Courses Offerings

205 Introductory credits
351 Intermediate credits
Brackets (#) indicate number of 1-credit courses

Trades, Manufacturing and Transportation Courses

- Construction (56)
- Electro Technology (43)
- Fabrication (51)
- Logistics (19)
- Mechanics (63)
- Power Engineering

Health, Recreation and Human Services courses

- Community Care (26)
- Cosmetology (16)
- Criminal Justice (28)
- Esthetics (33)
- Foods (46)
- Health Care (28)



Our Solution...

Economic Development

Alberta, Regional & Local

Municipality

Mayors, Reeves, Councils & CAOs

**Alberta
Education**

Students & Families
Partner High Schools

**School
Boards**

**Professional
Organizations**

AB CTS Academy
Community Partners

**Industrial
Associations**

Chamber of Commerce
Alberta & Local Chapters





Community Partnerships

Current dialogue with...

Beaver County – Ryley – Viking
Bonnyville – Glendan
Brazeau County – Drayton Valley
Clearwater County – Rocky Mt. House
Grande Prairie County
Municipality of Bonnyville
Municipality of Drayton Valley

Initiated dialogue with...

Birch Hills County – Foxcreek
Diamond Valley
Foothills County

Newell County
Ponoka County
Town of Bassano
Town of Rocky Mountain House
Town of Vulcan
Vulcan County

Kneehill County - Drumheller
Lethbridge County – Picture Butte
M.D. of Greenview





Industry Partnerships

Current dialogue with...

Alberta Reg. Council of Carpenter
& Allied Workers
Allied Beauty Asso.
Alberta Electrical Alliance
Alberta Ironworkers
Baking Asso. Of Alberta
Concrete Alberta
Mechanical Contractors Asso. Of AB
Specialty Vehicle Auto Asso.

Initiated dialogue with...

AB Asso. Of Agricultural Societies
AB Chapter – Baking Asso. Of Canada
AB Electrical Alliance
AB Forest Products
AB Machinist
AB Roadbuilders & Heavy Constr. Asso.
AB Roofing Contractor Asso.
AB Metal Workers
Agrium Inc.
American Welding Soc. – AB Section
Building Trades of Alberta
Gas Fitters (UA Union 488)
Inter. Brotherhood of Electrical Workers
Landscape Alberta
Masonry Contractors Asso. Of Alberta
Suncor



Economic Partnerships

Current dialogue with...

Alberta Chamber of Commerce
Business Council of Alberta
Chamber of Commerce – Local Chpt.
Economic Developers AB
Work NW Alberta – Honeycomb Inc.

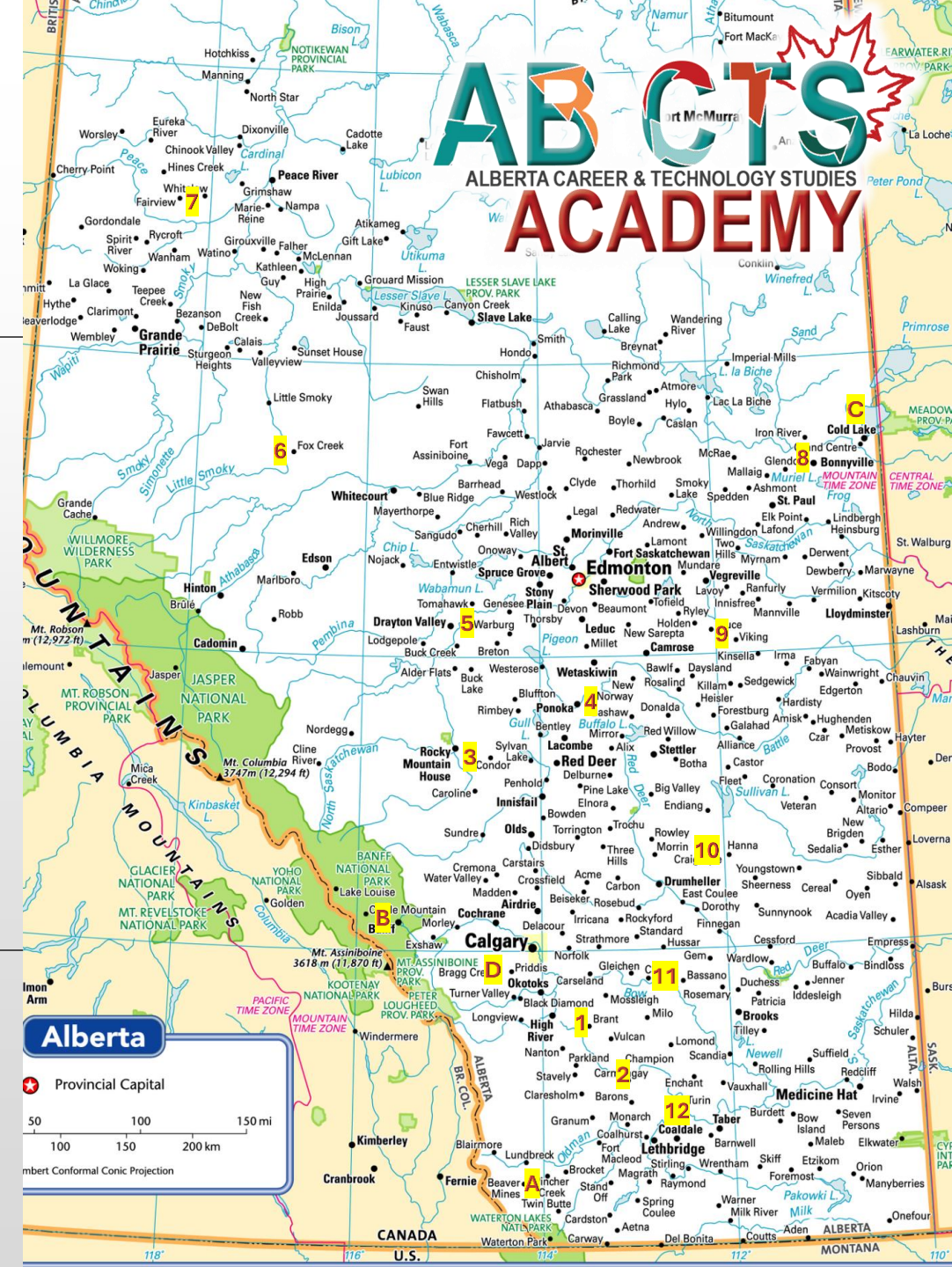
Initiated dialogue with...

AB Asso. of Agricultural Societies
Alberta Municipalities
Rural Municipalities of AB – Eco. Dev.
Rural Development Network
Clark Builders
Enbridge
South Grow Economic Development
Stantec

Proposed Pilot Schools

School Populations - < 400 students

1. County Central – Vulcan – 112
 2. Willow Creek High – Claresholm – 201
 3. West Central High – Rocky Mt. House – 348
 4. Ponoka Secondary – Ponoka – 271
 5. Frank Maddock High – Drayton Valley – 349
 6. Fox Creek School – Fox Creek – 66
 7. Fairview School – Fairview – 152
 8. Bonnyville Central – Bonnyville – 243
 9. Viking School – Viking – 63
 10. J.C. Charyk Hanna School – Hanna – 109
 11. Bassano School – Bassano – 56
 12. Picture Butte Secondary – Picture Butte – 96
- 2066**

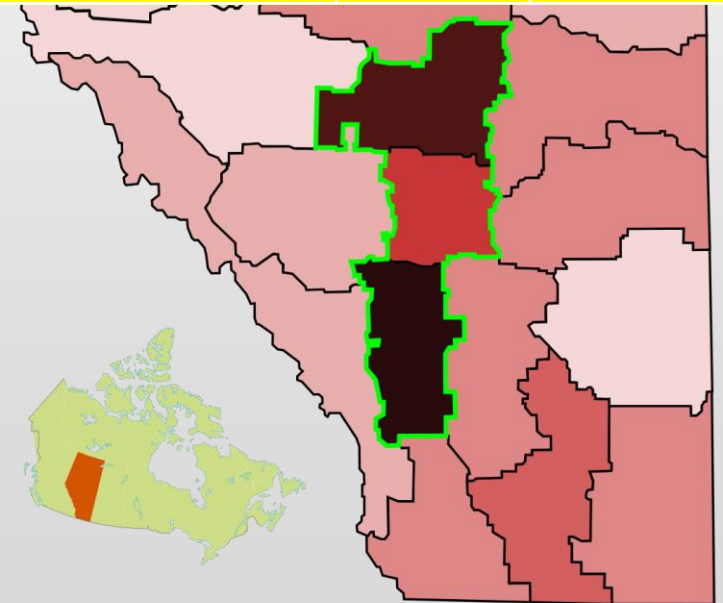


OUR Solution...

Impact for Students ...

- Rural students could access more
- Remote students could access more
- Flexible school schedule (8am-5pm)
- Personalized course development
- Diverse course alignment
- Focus on EMPLOYABILITY (soft) skills
- Exposure to multiple careers and pathways
- No tuition fees to sample career pathways
- More confidence in pursuing post-secondary
- More confidence in seeking employment

	# schools	# students
< 500 students	19	8459
< 400 students	29	10295
< 300 students	49	12029
< 200 students	94	13212
< 100 students	362	12438
Totals of <500	553	56433
> 500 students	108	132533





Impact for Partner Schools ...

1. Rural schools with small populations would be able to offer a significantly broader curriculum.
2. More course offerings would reduce student migration to larger schools.
3. Provides schools with additional dedicated CTS teachers and permit in-house teachers to focus on core specialty.

The Academy would partner with schools and not draw from school funding totals.



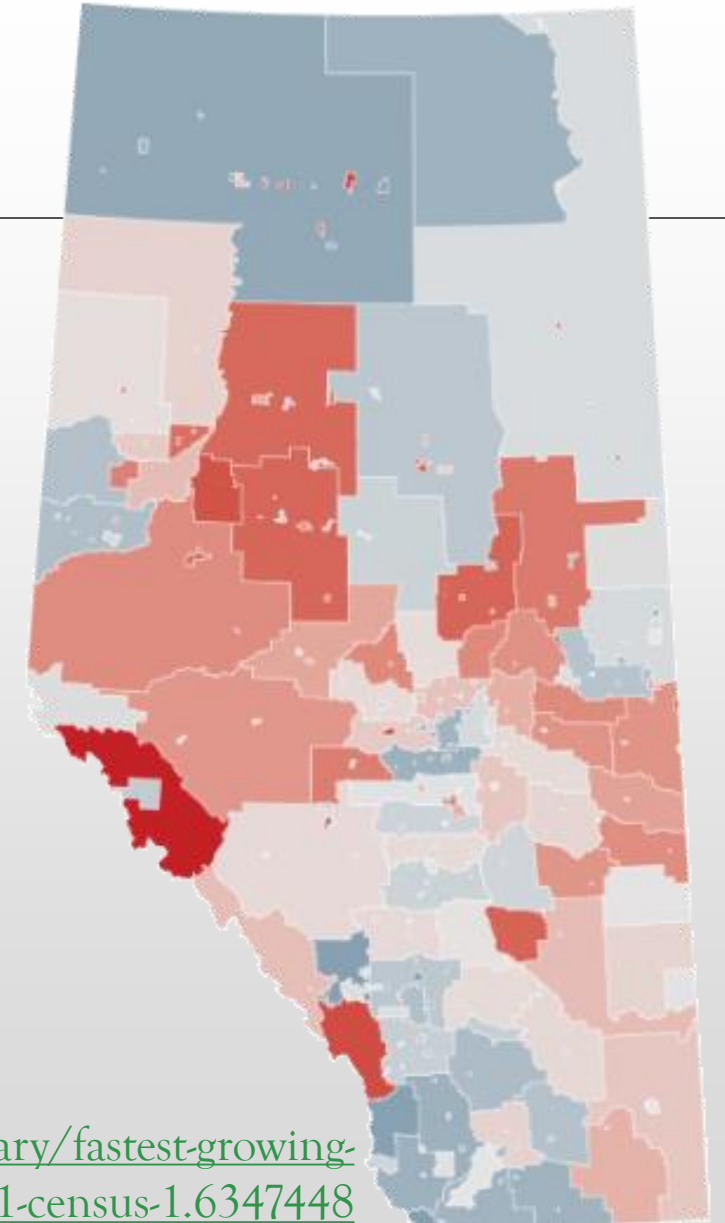
OUR Solution...

Impact for Community ...

1. CTS education for Rural students provided locally.
2. Locally developed mentorships build capacity and preserve the community size and economic viability.
3. Promotes Rural resiliency and the importance of regional growth

Hover over or tap any point on the map to see the amount of population change for that area.

-100% 0% 1840%



<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/calgary/fastest-growing-communities-alberta-2021-census-1.6347448>

OUR Solution...

An alternative for Alberta's Indigenous communities...

- Course content can be aligned with specific traditions, culture and interests
- Focus on EMPLOYABILITY (soft) skills
- Exposure to multiple careers and pathways
- No tuition fees to sample pathways
- More confidence in pursuing post-secondary
- More confidence in seeking employment

FIGURE 2: Map of First Nations Communities in Alberta



Source: Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada. (2010). Alberta First Nations Map.



OUR Solution...

AB CTS Academy Advantages...

For Rural and remote Students and Families

- CTS programming for Rural Students expanded and enhanced
- Flexible schedule programming to accommodate student schedules
- Personalized course development for each student
- Daily instruction and mentorship
- Focus on Employability skills in Introductory Courses
- Identification of regional and global workforce opportunities
- Exposure to multiple career pathways
- Minimal cost (no tuition fees) to sample career pathways
- Improve skill, knowledge, and confidence to pursue post-secondary education
- Improve skill, knowledge and confidence in seeking employment
- Provide a more culturally sensitive pathway for Indigenous students
- Increased high school graduation rates
- Improved academic performance

For Rural and remote schools and communities

- Provide a greater breadth of course opportunities for youth
- Maintain school enrollments and basic funding
- Reduce migration of students to distant, larger centers
- Immediate implementation of CTS programming to meet regional needs
- Cultivate regional employment opportunities for youth
- Maintain rural populations to support regional economy
- Expand available regional workforce
- Facilitate relationships between regional youth and employers

Strand	Credits		
	Intro	Inter	Adv
Computer Science	7		
Enterprise and Innovation	3	7	
Financial Management	5	8	
Information Processing	5	9	
Management & Marketing	6	14	
Networking	2		
Community Care Services	4	7	
Cosmetology	3	6	
Criminal Justice			22
Esthetics	5	11	
Foods	9	18	
Health Care	7	10	
Human & Social Work	8	9	
Legal Studies - Law	4	8	
Recreation Leadership	6	13	
Tourism	8	10	
Communication Tech	13	19	
Design Studies	7	9	
Fashion Studies	9	20	
Agriculture	10	11	
Environmental Stewardship	7	11	
Forestry	5	8	
Primary Resources	5	8	
Wildlife	11	11	

Impact for Students ...

- 195 Introductory courses available – Year 1
- Additional 320 Intermediate courses – Year 2
- Daily instruction/mentorship
- Multiple in-person visits from teachers
- Establish relationships local businesses
- Connections with industry professionals
- Connections to employment opportunities
- Learn about Alberta career opportunities
- Partner with ACC Job Fairs

Courses available to Alberta Students (# of credits available for students)

CTF (Gr.5-9) link Career & Technology Foundations -5 clusters -28 Occupation Areas	TMT (CTS) link Trades, Manufacturing, Transportation (368 credits)	HRH (CTS) link Health Recreation Human Services (286 credits)	MCD (CTS) link (Media, Design & Communication Arts) (143 credits)	BIT (CTS) link Business Admin, Finance, Info. Technology (151 credits)	NAT (CTS) link Natural Resources & Agriculture (145 credits)
3 Main Goals: 1. is exploring interests, passions and skills while making personal connections to career options. 2. is planning, creating, appraising and communicating in response to challenges. 3. is working independently and with others while exploring careers and technology.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction (56) • Electro Technology (43) • Fabrication (51) • Logistics (19) • Mechanics (63) • Power Engineering • 4th Class(31) • 5th Class(15) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Care (26) • Cosmetology (16) • Criminal Justice (28) • Esthetics (33) • Foods (46) • Health Care Aide • Health Care (28) • Human & Social Services (27) • Legal Studies (22) • Recreation Leadership (40) • Tourism (29) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Design Studies (33) • Communication Technology (58) • Fashion Studies (52) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Computer Science (29) • Enterprise & Innovation (12) • Financial Management (24) • Information Processing (21) • Management & Marketing (37) • Networking (28) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agriculture (42) • Environmental Stewardship (29) • Forestry (21) • Primary Resources (21) • Wildlife (32)

1093 credits
Equal to 11 high school diplomas



AB CTS Academy needs from **Partnership Potential...**

1. Formal **endorsement** to Alberta Government.
2. **Advocate** for AB CTS Academy impact on regional students.
3. Assistance with community **networking**.
4. **Suggestions** of potential work experience placements.
5. **Recruitment** of regional partners and champions.
6. '**Spread the Word**' with regional and Provincial leaders, industry, business owners.

Questions!

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