

# CONNECTION

Information *for* Teachers

January 2003

**Note:** All links in the articles of this edition of *Connection: Information for Teachers* were active and accurate at the time of publication. This may no longer be the case.



January 2003

## Aboriginal Studies

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### Aboriginal Studies 10-20-30

[Aboriginal Studies 10-20-30](#) is a provincially approved, optional program open to all senior high school students.

For more information, contact [Gloria Cardinal](#) at 780-415-1347. To be connected toll free inside Alberta, dial 310-0000 first.

### Authorized Resources

Review new resources authorized between November 1, 2002 and January 27, 2003.

### Aboriginal Studies 10-20-30

[Aboriginal Studies 10](#)

[Aboriginal Studies 20](#)

[Aboriginal Studies 30](#)

### Blackfoot Language and Culture

[Grade 7-Grade 9](#)

## Career and Life Management (CALM)

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### Building Tomorrow Today Conference

The Building Tomorrow Today (BTT) Conference will take place on April 30, May 1 and May 2, 2003 in Edmonton. This is an Alberta conference on career development for educators, counsellors, industry and government. More information regarding this conference is available through the [Career Development Association of Alberta \(CDAA\)](#).

**Note:** Links are provided to other sites as a service only to identify potentially useful ideas for teaching and learning. The responsibility to evaluate these sites rests with the user.

### CALM Contacts

For information about CALM in the English language, contact [Karen Fetterly](#) at 780-422-5079, fax 780-422-3745. For information about CALM in the French language, contact [Christine Bouchard](#) at 780-422-7989, fax 780-422-1947. To be connected toll free, inside Alberta, to either of these contacts, dial 310-0000 first.

## Career and Technology Studies (CTS)

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### Authorized Resources

Review new resources authorized between November 1, 2002 and January 27, 2003.

[Communication Technology](#)

[Financial Management](#)

[Foods](#)

[Information Processing](#)

[Legal Studies](#)

### Clarification of Prerequisite Requirement

The prerequisite requirement for COM3090: Printing Applications 2 is COM2080: Printing Applications 1, as outlined in the [Communication Technology Program of Studies](#) on page 29.

Inconsistent information regarding the prerequisite requirement for COM3090, as stated in the *Communication Technology Guide to Standards and Implementation* (GSI) on page F.31, will be corrected through a 2003 Amendment to the GSI.

### CTS Conference 2003: Focus on the Future

The CTS Council of the Alberta Teachers' Association is holding its annual CTS Conference in Edmonton at the Fantasyland Hotel and the Northern Alberta Institute of Technology (NAIT) on April 24-26, 2003.

A number of sessions and hands-on workshops are being planned for the conference. While many of the sessions will be offered at the Fantasyland Hotel, NAIT will be the host facility for most of the hands-on workshops. Teachers are encouraged to register early for the conference, as the workshops are open to a limited number of participants.

Online registration procedures and detailed descriptions of the sessions and workshops are available through the [CTS Council](#).

**Note:** Links are provided to other sites as a service only to identify potentially useful ideas for teaching and learning. The responsibility to evaluate these sites rests with the user.

### CTS Contacts

For more information about CTS in the English language, contact [Jan Mills](#) in Edmonton at 780-422-3275, fax 780-422-3745, or [Gary Bertrand](#) in Calgary at 403-297-5022, fax 403-297-3842.

For information about CTS in the French language, contact [François Lizaire](#) at 780-427-2940, fax 780-422-1947.

To be connected toll free, inside Alberta, to any of the contacts above, dial 310-0000 first.

### Discussion Draft for Information Processing

A [discussion draft](#) of changes proposed for INF1090: Information Highway 1, INF2200: Information Highway 2, INF3190: Information Highway 3, INF1010: Computer Operations and INF2010: Workstation Operations is now available.

Teachers and other education partners are invited to provide the CTS Unit with feedback on the discussion draft. Comments can be forwarded through the [Evergreening CTS: Survey and Response Form](#), or they can be faxed to the CTS Unit at 780-422-3745.

## Evergreening CTS: Survey and Response Form

Teachers and other education partners are encouraged to use the [Evergreening CTS: Survey and Response Form](#) to provide the CTS Unit with strand-specific feedback on curriculum needs and general feedback on the implementation of CTS programs.

Information on CTS course changes effective September 2002 and priorities for evergreening CTS in 2002-2003 is available through the [CTS Program Update](#).

## Field Validation of Computer Networking Courses

In response to ongoing feedback and needs assessment, 10 new 1-credit courses in computer network design and implementation have been developed for the Electro-Technologies strand. The new courses address vendor-neutral standards for computer networking and will prepare students for emerging career paths and further training in network implementation and support.

School authorities have been invited to participate in the field validation of the following proposed 1-credit CTS courses in Electro-Technologies, effective February 2003:

### Intermediate Level

- Network Structures
- Network Media & Devices
- OSI Model (Open System Interconnection)
- Network Protocols
- Network Operating Systems

### Advanced Level

- Local Area Networks
- Wide Area Networks
- Routing Fundamentals
- Internet Processes
- Network Management

**Note:** Only **approved** field validation sites may award credits in these courses during the field validation.

Interim curriculum for each of the proposed new CTS courses, and procedures for participating as a field validation site, are available through the [CTS Field Validation Documents](#) section of the Alberta Learning Web site. Field validation will occur from February 2003 to February 2004. Pending successful field validation, these courses will be prepared for provincial implementation, which is scheduled for September 2004.

## Other Potential Resources and Contact Information

### Careers in Oil and Gas

The [Petroleum Services Association of Canada \(PSAC\)](#), in conjunction with Human Resources Development Canada (HRDC), has created a virtual career fair where youth across Canada can find out what it is really like to work in the service, supply and manufacturing sectors of the upstream oil and gas industry. The [PSAC Virtual Career Fair](#) features day-in-the-life storyboards, scholarship opportunities, industry videos and photographs, and company profiles.

PSAC recently distributed an information package about the Virtual Career Fair Web site to all senior high schools across Canada. For further information, contact:

Petroleum Services Association of Canada  
1150, 800 - 6th Avenue SW  
Calgary, AB T2P 3G3  
Telephone: 403-264-4195; toll free: 1-800-818-7722  
Fax: 403-263-7174  
E-mail: [info@careersinoilandgas.com](mailto:info@careersinoilandgas.com)

### **New Resources from Alberta Milk**

The Fall 2002 issue of the *Nutrition File for Health Professionals* quarterly newsletter is now available. Entitled "Milk—A Better Beverage for Children," the newsletter provides information about the importance of milk and the nutritional impact of other beverage choices.

In addition, Alberta Milk is pleased to release the 2002-2003 *Nutrition Education Resource Catalogue*. This year's catalogue features several new resources for health professionals and teachers.

To obtain complimentary copies of the newsletter and/or catalogue, contact:

Debbie Augustyn  
14904 - 121 A Avenue  
Edmonton, AB T5V 1A3  
Telephone: 780-453-5902 (ext. 315)  
Toll free in Alberta: 1-800-252-7530  
E-mail: [daugustyn@albertamilk.com](mailto:daugustyn@albertamilk.com)

### **Online Course Materials for Logistics**

Through the efforts of [The Alberta Joint Learning Initiative in Logistics](#), a consortium of Alberta Learning, government and business partners, course materials are being developed for a series of CTS courses in Logistics. It is anticipated that by September 2003, course materials will be available, both online and in print/CD-ROM formats, to support the delivery of:

- CTR1010: Job Preparation
- LOG1010: Logistics
- LOG1020: Warehouse & Distribute 1
- LOG1030: Traffic & Transport 1
- LOG1040: Purchasing 1.

The course materials are designed for delivery in traditional classrooms, in teacher-mediated online learning environments, or as self-directed units of study. Course materials for CTR1010, LOG1010 and LOG1030 have already been piloted and are in the final stages of preparation. Commencing February 2003, course materials for LOG1020 and LOG1040 will be piloted in Alberta senior high schools.

For a demonstration of sample course content, activities, assignments and assessment strategies for CTR1010, LOG1010 and LOG1030, view the [Proof of Concept Courses](#).

Further information on the availability of these course materials for Logistics will be provided in subsequent editions of this newsletter.

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## Career Initiatives

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### Building Tomorrow Today Conference

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## English as a Second Language

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### Authorized Resources

Review new resources authorized between November 1, 2002 and January 27, 2003.

[Grade 10-Grade 12](#)

### English Language Arts

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### Authorized Resources

Review new resources authorized between November 21, 2002 and January 27, 2003.

[Grade 4-Grade 6](#)

[Grade 7-Grade 9](#)

[English Language Arts 10-1/10-2](#)

[English Language Arts 20-1/20-2](#)

[English Language Arts 30-1/30-2](#)

## French as a Second Language

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### Conference

The [Intercultural and Second Languages Council \(ISLC\)](#) and the [Canadian Association of Second Language Teachers \(CASLT\)](#) will be holding a one-day symposium for teachers of all international languages, including French as a second language, on Saturday, March 15, 2003 at Barnett

House, 11010 - 142 Street, Edmonton. The keynote speaker is Dr. Brian Gill of the Language Research Centre at the University of Calgary.

For more information regarding this professional development activity, contact [Jutta McAdam](#) at 780-459-3477 or [Carolyn King](#) at 780-433-9440.

### Teacher Bursaries

[Teacher bursaries](#) are available for conferences and courses.

For more details, contact [Carole Pelé](#) at 780-427-2940. To be connected toll free inside Alberta, dial 310-0000 first.

### Summer Teacher Training Opportunity

The Centre d'enseignement et de recherche en français at the [Faculté Saint-Jean](#) (University of Alberta) will offer a summer immersion course at La Pocatière, Québec for French as a second language and French immersion teachers. This 3-credit course is entitled *EDSE 501 - Advanced Strategies for Teaching FSL - From Theory to Practice*.

For further information or to apply, view [French for Teachers](#) or contact Normand Fortin at 780-465-8601.

### Research Findings

A study done by the University of Nebraska has demonstrated that beginning second language readers can transfer first language strategies to new reading situations and that they are able to manage authentic texts of several hundred words after only 12 hours of second language instruction. Students involved in the study were able to tolerate word-level and sentence-level ambiguity and still get the gist of the text (*Foreign Language Annals*, Vol. 35, No. 5, Sept.-Oct. 2002, pp. 554-560).

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## Guidance and Counselling

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### Building Tomorrow Today Conference

The Building Tomorrow Today (BTT) Conference will take place on April 30, May 1 and May 2, 2003 in Edmonton. This is an Alberta conference on career development for educators, counsellors, industry and government. More information regarding this conference is available through the [Career Development Association of Alberta \(CDAA\)](#).

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## Health and Life Skills

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### *Kindergarten to Grade 9 Health and Life Skills: Guide to Implementation*

The print version of the *Kindergarten to Grade 9 Health and Life Skills: Guide to Implementation* is now available through the [Learning Resources Centre](#).

### Authorized Resources

The [Health and Life Skills, Kindergarten to Grade 9 Alberta Authorized Resource List](#), January 2003, is now available.

Review new resources authorized between November 21, 2002 and January 27, 2003.

[Kindergarten-Grade 3](#)

[Grade 7-Grade 9](#)

For more information about Health and Life Skills in the English language, contact [Karen Fetterly](#) at 780-422-5079, fax 780-422-3745. For information about Health and Life Skills in the French language, contact [Christine Bouchard](#) at 780-422-7989, fax 780-422-1947. To be connected toll free, inside Alberta, to either of these contacts, dial 310-0000 first.

## Integrated Occupational Program (IOP)

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### Authorized Resources

The resource review of materials supporting the implementation of IOP Career Development, IOP English Language Arts, IOP Mathematics, IOP Science, IOP Social Studies and IOP Universal Strategies is now complete. View the [Integrated Occupational Program \(IOP\), Grades 8 to 11/12 Alberta Authorized Resource List](#).

Review new resources authorized between November 1, 2002 and January 27, 2003.

### Career Development

[Grade 8-Grade 9](#)

[Grade 10-Grade 12](#)

### English Language Arts

[Grade 8-Grade 9](#)

[Grade 10-Grade 12](#)

### Mathematics

[Grade 8-Grade 9](#)

[Grade 10-Grade 12](#)

### Science

[Grade 8-Grade 9](#)

[Grade 10-Grade 12](#)

### Social Studies

[Grade 8-Grade 9](#)

[Grade 10-Grade 12](#)

### Universal Strategies

[Grade 8-Grade 9](#)

[Grade 10-Grade 12](#)

## International Languages

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### Authorized Resources

Review new resources authorized between November 21, 2002 and January 27, 2003.

### German Language and Culture

[German Language and Culture 30/30S](#)

### Ukrainian Language Arts

[Kindergarten-Grade 3](#)

[Grade 4-Grade 6](#)

[Grade 7-Grade 9](#)

[Grade 10-Grade 12](#)

## Learning Resources Centre (LRC)

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### Save Money When Purchasing Learning and Teaching Resources

Alberta's [Aggregate Order Discount \(AOD\) Program](#) is back. Order between January 1 and April 30, 2003 and save 7.5% on AOD eligible resources.

### Online Services

Browse [Learning Resources Online](#) and take advantage of 24-hour access to LRC resources and services.

### What's Happening at the LRC?

Check out the LRC's [Bookmark](#) to find out more about the AOD program, online ordering and the latest *Resources Catalogue*.

### We're Going on the Road ...

Come by and visit us at one of the [events](#) we will be attending in February and March 2003.

### More Than Just Books ...

The LRC offers services for students with [visual impairments](#) in addition to producing and selling audiotape resources for students with [physical and/or learning disabilities](#).

For more information, e-mail [lrcustserv@gov.ab.ca](mailto:lrcustserv@gov.ab.ca), contact the LRC at 780-427-5775 (dial 310-0000 first to be connected toll free inside Alberta), or visit the [LRC](#) Web site.

## Mathematics

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### Authorized Resources

Review new resources authorized between November 1, 2002 and January 27, 2003.

[Kindergarten-Grade 3](#)

[Grade 4-Grade 6](#)

[Grade 7-Grade 9](#)

[Applied Mathematics 10](#)

[Applied Mathematics 20](#)  
[Mathematics 24](#)  
[Mathematics 31](#)

## Other News

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### **The Edge: Career Information Magazine**

*The Edge* magazine provides career development information for Canada's youth. Visit [The Edge](#) for recent issues of the magazine, for related information and resources to help students make decisions regarding careers and employment, and for information regarding writing and editing work experience opportunities currently available to students.

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## Physical Education

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### **Kindergarten to Grade 12 Update**

#### **Program Implementation**

Teachers are encouraged to visit the [Physical Education Online](#) Web site for materials to assist them with implementation of the [Physical Education Kindergarten to Grade 12 Program of Studies](#), 2000. Included on this site is the [Physical Education Guide to Implementation, Kindergarten to Grade 12](#), 2000, as well as other teacher resources, lesson plans, interactive skill segments and activities to meet every specific outcome for all grades.

#### **Safety Resources**

Watch for the revised *Safety Guidelines for Physical Activity in Alberta Schools* resource, which is scheduled to be available for purchase from the [Learning Resources Centre](#) (LRC) early in 2003. *Safety Guidelines for Secondary Interschool Athletics in Alberta* is also scheduled to be available for purchase from the LRC early in 2003.

#### **CPR in Physical Education 10**

CPR teacher training continues throughout the province, including in several rural areas. There are currently 91 senior high schools offering CPR as part of their Physical Education 10 program. The CPR outcomes within the Physical Education 10 program will be mandatory in September 2006.

#### **Health and Physical Education Council (HPEC) Conference**

The annual Health and Physical Education Council (HPEC) Conference will be held in Red Deer from May 1-3, 2003. View [more details regarding this conference](#).

For more information regarding physical education, contact [Joy Taylor](#) at 403-297-7911. To be connected toll free inside Alberta, dial 310-0000 first.

## Science

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## Authorized Resources

Review new resources authorized between November 1, 2002 and January 27, 2003.

[Kindergarten-Grade 3](#)

[Grade 4-Grade 6](#)

[Grade 7-Grade 9](#)

[Science 14](#)

[Biology 20](#)

## Grade 9 Science E-textbooks

### Accessing the Grade 9 Science E-textbooks

The [Grade 9 Science e-textbooks](#) are now easier to use. Students and teachers in most Alberta schools can now access the e-textbooks directly without entering a userID and password. This automated service is provided to all Alberta schools that have applied for an Extranet ID and are registered on NetCensus. Schools that have not already applied for an Extranet ID address can submit an application using the form provided at <https://phoenix.edc.gov.ab.ca/>. Contact the Information Exchange Services Help Desk at 780-427-5318 if you have questions regarding this application process. To be connected toll free inside Alberta, dial 310-0000 first.

Teachers, parents and students will still need to use their LearnAlberta.ca **userID and password** to access the e-textbooks from computers outside of school. If you require a password for the LearnAlberta.ca Web site, or further information on accessing the e-textbooks, contact [Gail Drouin](#) at 780-415-0323. To be connected toll free inside Alberta, dial 310-0000 first.

### Grade 9 Science E-textbook Pilot Project

Students, staff and others using the new Grade 9 Science e-textbooks can provide feedback that will help guide future planning of the e-textbook project. A seven-question [online survey](#) has been prepared for users to comment on the e-textbooks. Data from the survey is being compiled by Academic Technologies for Learning (ATL) at the Faculty of Extension, University of Alberta. This research group is serving as a partner to Alberta Learning in evaluating this pilot project.

A formal pilot of the e-textbooks is also under way. The formal pilot project involves 11 school authorities and 28 participants across the province. Participants are providing written feedback as well as verbal input through a series of meetings during the 2002-2003 school year. Project participants have five opportunities during the year to meet with the University of Alberta researchers and with Alberta Learning project staff.

For more information on the pilot project, contact [Phil McRae](#) at 780-415-0820. To be connected toll free inside Alberta, dial 310-0000 first.

## Secondary Science Update

### Field Validation of Science 24

Fourteen teachers from across the province were involved in the field validation of the [Science 24 Resource Development Draft](#) and the draft resources being custom-developed by McGraw-Hill Ryerson in partnership with CLR Consultants Inc. The field validation was completed in December 2002. The feedback that the teachers submitted is providing valuable information for revising the program of studies and draft basic resources.

Provincial implementation of the revised Science 24 will occur in September 2003.

## Field Validation of Science 10

Field validation of the [Science 10 Resource Development Draft](#) and draft resources will take place from February to June 2003. Field validation sites were selected from the nominations submitted by school jurisdictions. Forty-eight teachers were chosen to represent diversity in Alberta schools, e.g., public/separate, urban/rural, large/small, inner city and regional. The selection represents a cross section of teacher expertise.

It is the responsibility of teachers who participate in the field validation to provide feedback for revising the program of studies, as well as to make recommendations for improving draft resource materials. The provincial implementation date for Science 10 is September 2004.

## Science 20-30

[Science 20](#) and [Science 30](#) are now at the resource development draft stage. Alberta Learning is investigating options for providing updated resources for these courses.

## Biology 20-30, Chemistry 20-30, Physics 20-30

Review and revision of these programs has begun. Development work is being guided by input that was submitted at the program review stage and will be further guided by stakeholder consultations and reviews as work proceeds. Consultation drafts of the programs are expected to be ready for previewing in the spring of 2003.

Year	Program(s)
2002	Science 7-8, Science 14
2003	Science 9, Science 24
2004	Science 10
2005	Science 20
2006	Biology 20, Chemistry 20, Physics 20, Science 30
2007	Biology 30, Chemistry 30, Physics 30

For more information regarding science programs and resources, contact [Stella Shrum](#) at 780-422-3219 or [Bernie Galbraith](#) at 780-422-3218. To be connected toll free inside Alberta to either of these contacts, dial 310-0000 first.

## Social Studies

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### Alberta Justice Resource

A teaching resource for Social Studies 10, Topic B: Citizenship in Canada, entitled *Teaching About Justice, Rights and Responsibilities: A Teaching Resource for Social Studies 10*, is being made available to schools in Alberta. This resource was developed by Alberta Justice and can be accessed free of charge on the [Alberta Justice](#) Web site. The resource is also available in print form by contacting the [Education Coordinator for Alberta Justice](#) at 780-427-8530. To be connected toll free inside Alberta, dial 310-0000 first.

## Authorized Resources

Review new resources authorized between November 21, 2002 and January 27, 2003.

[Grade 4-Grade 6  
Social Studies 20](#)

## Resources Survey

Consultation sessions held in September, October and November of 2002 for the Social Studies Kindergarten to Grade 9 Program of Studies Consultation Draft provided a forum for commentary about resource development. Much interest was shown and many suggestions were offered regarding new K-12 resources for social studies.

As a follow-up to conversations at consultation sessions, information was provided to those individuals who wished to have further input into resource development for the new social studies program. This included a Social Studies Resources Survey, as well as information about taking part in resource field testing and/or contributing to the writing of the social studies teacher guide to implementation.

The date for returning the [Social Studies Resources Survey](#) has been extended. If you are interested, please fill out the survey and return it to [Ann Marie Ruddell](#) by February 21, 2003. E-mailed responses are preferred; however, responses can also be faxed to 780-422-0576 or mailed to Ann Marie Ruddell; Resource Manager, Social Studies; 5th Floor, West Tower; 11160 Jasper Avenue; Edmonton, Alberta; T5K 0L2.

Alberta Learning would like to thank those who have already submitted their names at consultations and filled out a resources survey. The input and suggestions received have helped guide the planning for upcoming resource development. Alberta Learning looks forward to receiving further input and suggestions and to communicating further with all who are interested in field testing and/or writing.

## Senior High School Program

Alberta Learning will continue to seek input on the senior high school program from key stakeholders and partners as program development continues. The writing team met in early January for three days to begin the process of writing outcomes for the senior high school courses. The contracted writing team, composed of practising classroom teachers from across the province, brings to the project a variety of expertise and backgrounds in social studies.

The Alberta senior high school social studies program will ensure that the course equivalent to the current Social Studies 30 will prepare students to meet requirements for university entrance. The program will also ensure that the course equivalent to the current Social Studies 33 will prepare students to meet senior high school graduation requirements and be recognized by those post-secondary programs that currently require Social Studies 33 as a prerequisite.

A preview draft of the senior high school program is scheduled to be available in the spring of 2003.

## Social Studies Contacts

For more information regarding K-12 Social Studies in the English language, contact [Shirley Douglas](#) at 780-422-3282, fax 780-422-3745. For more information regarding K-12 Social Studies in the French language, contact [Daniel Buteau](#) at 780-427-2940, fax 780-422-1947. For information on Aboriginal content, contact [Debbie Mineault](#) at 780-427-0156, fax 780-422-3745.

To be connected toll free, inside Alberta, to any of the contacts listed above, dial 310-0000 first.

## Update on K-9 Program of Studies

Consultations on the Social Studies Kindergarten to Grade 9 Program of Studies Consultation Draft are complete. The online Consultation Draft and Response Form generated 642 responses, representing over 900 individuals. Individuals and groups also provided responses via e-mail, fax and mail. In addition to these responses, written submissions were received from education stakeholder organizations. Qualitative and quantitative data were also collected during a series of public consultations, forums and sessions held throughout the province, including consultations in Aboriginal communities. Over 500 individuals attended these public consultations, forums and sessions, which were held in both English and French.

Comprehensive results of the consultations are contained in the [Report on Consultations: Alberta Social Studies Kindergarten to Grade 9 Program of Studies Consultation Draft](#).

Revisions to the program of studies, based on the consultations, response forms and written responses, are continuing and will be completed in February 2003. The Social Studies K-12 Advisory Committee met in January 2003 to review recommendations from consultations. In addition, a focus group comprising key stakeholders in the consultation process will have an opportunity to review the recommended changes to the program of studies.

## Special Programs

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### ***Standards for Special Education***

Recommendation 28 of *Shaping the Future for Students with Special Needs: A Review of Special Education in Alberta* stated "that Alberta Learning revise the *Guide to Education for Students with Special Needs* (1997)." After extensive consultation, the Guide has been revised and published as the *Standards for Special Education*.

[Standards for Special Education](#) outlines the requirements for school boards regarding the delivery of education programs and services to students with special needs in Grade 1 to Grade 12. The requirements are effective September 1, 2003.

### ***Charter Schools Handbook (December 2002)***

The [Charter Schools Handbook](#) has been prepared to assist Albertans in understanding the provincial charter school concept, to assist charter organizers with their planning and preparation for the establishment of charter schools, and to assist those responsible for processing charter school applications.

### ***Supporting the Social Dimension: A Resource Guide for Teachers, Grades 7-12 (2002)***

Alberta Learning has published a new resource for teachers and parents on social skills. *Supporting the Social Dimension: A Resource Guide for Teachers, Grades 7-12* provides guidelines, objectives and strategies to assist secondary school teachers with enhancing the social competency skills of students in five focus areas: personal growth and goal setting, health and well-being, appearance and manners, ethical behaviour, and accountability. The objectives and strategies in this resource may be used across grades, subjects and student populations. This resource is now available for purchase from the [Learning Resources Centre](#).

### ***The Learning Team: A Handbook for Parents of Children with Special Needs (2003)***

Alberta Learning invites parents, teachers and other community members to participate in the field review of the new resource, *The Learning Team: A Handbook for Parents of Children with Special Needs*. This is a

revised and expanded version of the 1996 resource, *Partners During Changing Times: An Information Booklet for Parents of Children with Special Needs*. It contains additional and updated information for parents on policies, procedures and individualized program plans for students with special needs; transition planning for students; the appeal process; and working collaboratively with the school and other service providers.

The field review continues until February 28, 2003. The [draft resource and response guide](#) are available for downloading. If you would like a print version of this resource, please contact [Fran Schmidt](#) at 780-422-1733. To be connected toll free inside Alberta, dial 310-0000 first.

## Technology Integration

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### Grade 9 Science E-textbooks

#### Accessing the Grade 9 Science E-textbooks

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Teachers, parents and students will still need to use their LearnAlberta.ca **userID and password** to access the e-textbooks from computers outside of school. If you require a password for the LearnAlberta.ca Web site, or further information on accessing the e-textbooks, contact [Gail Drouin](#) at 780-415-0323. To be connected toll free inside Alberta, dial 310-0000 first.

#### Grade 9 Science E-textbook Pilot Project

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For more information on the pilot project, contact [Phil McRae](#) at 780-415-0820. To be connected toll free inside Alberta, dial 310-0000 first.

### LearnAlberta.ca—Online Learning Resources for Albertans

#### Visit the LearnAlberta.ca Team at Conferences, Conventions and Presentations

Members of the LearnAlberta.ca Team will be making presentations, conducting workshops and setting up booths at events throughout the year. We invite discussion, suggestions and the exchange of ideas with the learning community to help continue the collaborative development of LearnAlberta.ca. See the [LearnAlberta.ca Calendar](#) for upcoming events.

## Digital Learning Resources

Alberta Learning's [LearnAlberta.ca](http://LearnAlberta.ca) Web site offers engaging digital learning resources that are directly correlated to the Alberta programs of study. These learning resources are in the form of multimedia learning objects that can be accessed at school, at home or from any computer with an Internet connection, e.g., in public libraries.

### New Resources Available Via the Online Reference Centre: *Bigchalk Library Canada* and *Bigchalk Library Canada Elementary*

An enhanced version of *Electric Library Canada*, *Bigchalk Library Canada* offers the same great content and functionality as existing *Electric Library* products, but it provides additional content and search options.

Highlights of *Bigchalk Library Canada* include:

- subject and topic searching
- audio and video clips
- Editor's Choice (links to over 160 000 Web sites selected by teachers)
- Reference Desk (reference sources, including encyclopedias, dictionaries, almanacs and atlases).

Highlights of *Bigchalk Library Canada Elementary* include:

- a search interface geared to the needs of younger searchers
- audio and video clips
- links to 75 000 Web sites selected by teachers.

As of January 2003, selected Canadian newspapers will be available full text on *Bigchalk*. *Bigchalk Library Canada* will eventually replace *Electric Library Canada* at the [Online Reference Centre](#).

For more information, contact [Anne Carr-Wiggin](#), Project Manager, Online Reference Centre, The Alberta Library, at 780-414-0805.

## Web Awareness CD-ROM Distribution

The revised Web Awareness professional development workshops—*Fact or Folly*, *Kids for Sale* and *Safe Passage*—are now available in both English and French in CD-ROM format. **All CD-ROMs distributed in the 2001-2002 school year should be discarded.**

The new CD-ROM was mailed to all school principals on January 6, 2003. The licence for the workshop materials expires on August 31, 2003.

For more information, contact [Bonnie Brooks](#) at 780-415-1148 (dial 310-0000 first to be connected toll free inside Alberta), or go to the [Web Awareness](#) section of the Alberta Learning Web site.

## Testing

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### Achievement Testing Program—Accommodations Requests

The deadline for submitting the Special Format Materials Request Form to the Learner Assessment Branch is

February 27, 2003. Because of the large number of requests, it is critical that all requests are submitted by this deadline date. Requests will not be considered after the deadline date.

For more information, contact [Jo-Anne Hug](#) at 780-427-0010. To be connected toll free inside Alberta, dial 310-0000 first.

## **Deadlines for Requesting Accommodations or Special Writing Centres—June 2003 Diploma Examinations**

The deadline for receipt of all June 2003 accommodations requests for students with special diploma examination writing needs is March 14, 2003.

The deadline for mailing applications for special writing centres is May 1, 2003.

Because the numbers of these requests continue to increase, it is critical that the requests are submitted by the deadline dates. Requests will not be considered after the deadline dates.

For more information, contact [Jo-Anne Hug](#) at 780-427-0010. To be connected toll free inside Alberta, dial 310-0000 first.

## **Diploma Examinations Program Calendar**

School staff members are asked to discontinue their use of the Diploma Examinations Program wall calendar for 2002-2003, which was sent to schools in August 2002. Due to the changes in the examination administration schedule for the current school year, the information on this calendar is now inaccurate. For current information, please refer to [Provincial Testing](#).

For more information about significant dates related to the diploma examinations, contact [Jo-Anne Hug](#) at 780-427-0010. To be connected toll free inside Alberta, dial 310-0000 first.

## **January 2003 Diploma Examinations**

### **Individual Student Results**

Individual results statements for the January 2003 diploma examinations will be mailed to students on February 21, 2003. Transcripts will be available to students at that time as well.

### **Release of Part A Components**

The written-response components of the January 2003 humanities diploma examinations will be released immediately following the January administration. However, the machine-scorable components of these examinations, along with all the January 2003 mathematics and sciences diploma examinations, will still be secured.

For more information, contact [Jo-Anne Hug](#) at 780-427-0010. To be connected toll free inside Alberta, dial 310-0000 first.