

2017/2018

# Opportunity **within reach.**

GUIDE TO INDIGENOUS STUDENT LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES  
**FOR SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS & COMMUNITY LEADERS**



*Allison, Kainai High School*



*Angus and Verna (Elder), Nipisihkopahk Secondary*



**ADLC** | Alberta Distance  
Learning Centre

ALBERTA'S CHOICE SINCE 1923

# Opportunity **within reach.**

Alberta Distance Learning Centre | ADLC exists to put additional educational opportunities for all learners within reach, allowing them to complete requirements on their own terms, regardless of age, circumstance, or location.

Our goal is to help our partner schools—and their students—in their efforts to increase learning opportunities. We do this by collaborating with schools across the province.

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Caroline, Kainai High School

## Unique Opportunities **within reach.**

Alberta Distance Learning Centre | ADLC is both a distance-education provider and an Alberta public school with a unique mandate: To help all students, regardless of circumstance, interest, or location achieve success as learners.

### **HELP FOR YOUR STUDENTS IS WITHIN REACH.**

At ADLC, our goal is to unlock the potential of each learner through equitable, inclusive, and flexible educational opportunities. Together with our partners, we've been privileged to begin building resources and practices to support Indigenous students living in their communities and across Alberta, Nunavut, and the Northwest Territories. We've established relationships with several First Nation schools and have been working with provincial and territorial schools teaching Métis, Inuit, and First Nations students for many years. We're committed to continuing to tailor our support to best suit the individuals and communities we work with.

○ “I like the personal contact and support, quick response to requests and queries, flexibility in looking at special projects, frequent visits, and being contacted to pilot new courses.”

– First Nations school teacher



## COURSES, TEACHERS, AND RESOURCES WITHIN REACH.

When you partner with ADLC, we provide the courses and teachers your students need, both to complete high school and to prepare themselves for their next step, be it post-secondary, trades, or the workforce. We help adult and school-aged students alike, both directly and by partnering with you! Here are just a few of the benefits we provide to our partners:

- › Access to online or print versions of courses taught by ADLC teachers for reserve, provincial, or outreach schools
- › Access to online or print course materials for your teachers to use
- › Access to a range of options, levels of learning, and career exploration courses of interest to your students
- › Increased inclusion through access to Knowledge & Employability course resources (for delivery by local schools only)
- › High school science and other academic courses that may not be available in your community

You'll find more information about courses and costs on Page 12. We also invite you to visit [adlc.ca/courses](https://adlc.ca/courses) to learn more.

“Some schools (such as my school) may not offer certain courses. This ADLC program is great! And a great use for those who want to take school courses online.”

- Ethan Twoyoungmen, Morley Community School, Stoney Reserve





Shadow and Angus, Nipisihkopahk Secondary



## PRIVILEGED TO PARTNER WITH YOU.

ADLC has entered into partnerships with several First Nations and Métis outreach centres as well as schools with Indigenous populations. Some are long-standing partnerships, and some are just getting started. With the input of communities, Elders, and school leaders, we've been privileged to provide partners with a range of great options:

- › Additional teachers through flexible individual distance courses
- › A broader range of course offerings
- › Course options for Outreach schools
- › Special interest courses and hands-on simulator experiences
- › Homeschool supports for students learning from home and for students moving between school and home
- › Tracking and reporting systems for easier administration, including self-serve registration options that let you get started on your own
- › Training and knowledge sharing in distance-education best practice and technology system use

We offer all of this within many different timelines and semester systems to meet the specific needs of your students and your schools. If, for example, your students need to start at unusual times, pause for community needs, or restart for any reason, we adapt to those needs.

Not only do we adjust to your needs, we're also always constantly growing and learning new ways to better serve you and your students.

○ “I took an ADLC measurement unit and had them build inukshuks—it was the most engagement I ever had in Math.”

– Chris McCarthy, Teacher, Nunavut



## Many Ways to **Use ADLC.**

We know there's no such thing as "one-size fits all" when it comes to learning. That's why we've developed courses and course materials that can be used in many ways to reach goals that are as individual as your students. We're flexible in determining how courses should be delivered and how long it should take for students to get through them. If students want to go to the trapline with their grandparents, for instance, they can simply pick up where they left off when they return to their studies—no need to lose a semester or rush to the finish line.

### **ADDITIONAL COURSES WITHIN REACH.**

With a full teaching staff and an offering of over 275 courses total for Grades 1 to 12, we have a breadth of course options that would be difficult for most school divisions to maintain. We do this to ensure that all students have equal access to specialty, academic, and career exploration courses, no matter where they are or what level they're at.

### **CORE SERVICES**

#### ***Student Instruction (SI)***

Student Instruction is what we call it when ADLC's professional teachers teach students using ADLC materials. We have over 275 courses to choose from (visit [adlc.ca/courses](http://adlc.ca/courses) to explore the options), and they can be started anytime, completed at the student's own pace, and could include cultural art forms. (See *Indigenous Cultural Learning for Credit within Reach* Page 6). This means your school can offer most of the courses in the Alberta curriculum, without having to provide specialized teachers for each subject.



Lloyd, Alexis School



### **Teacher Support (TS)**

Teacher Support is what we call it when *your* teachers are teaching students using ADLC materials. We provide the materials online and/or in print, and allow your teachers to tailor them for their classroom and their students. This is especially helpful to teachers who are new to teaching or to a particular subject area have been tasked with teaching outside their area of expertise, or have varied levels of ability within a classroom.

We also provide Teacher Support schools with access to teacher-coaches who are experts in the subject area and Learning Network Liaisons who help get them set-up to use the materials and our systems. Our liaisons also work with your administrators to brainstorm additional ways ADLC can help your students attain success.

To contact your Learning Network Liaison, please see Page 14.

“The service is great—especially at the beginning to help with assessment, and personalized service to learn how to use the system and credits, etc.”

– Ona Fiddler-Berteig, Fort McKay Outreach Centre Coordinator





### ***Indigenous Cultural Learning for Credit within Reach***

We offer a number of Career and Technology Studies (CTS) and Elective courses that are project based. Where your community can provide a mentor for a cultural skill or art form, we can provide the teacher and the structure to ensure curriculum outcomes are met so students get credit. Here are just a few of the subjects we've had Indigenous students earn credit in (and we're always open to new ideas!):

- › **Traditional arts:** painting, drawing, sculpture and drum and rattle making
- › **Foods:** harvesting buffalo, cooking moose stew and bannock, preparing for a community feast
- › **Outdoor skills:** survival, stewardship, hunting, and firearm safety
- › **Fashion:** moccasins, jingle skirts, and powwow dresses

### ***Outreach within Reach***

Many outreach schools and centres across the province (both in Indigenous communities and urban settings) take advantage of ADLC services. Not only is outreach often easier to set up than a school, it's also more cost-effective, particularly for students who need flexibility and extra support. Many communities staff outreach centres with coordinators or teachers who act as mentors for students, guiding them through their learning and keeping them on task while directing subject matter questions back to ADLC teachers.

Our flexible self-serve options make ADLC a perfect fit for outreach situations, and many of our courses are available in both print and online, ensuring that a lack of technology or internet access doesn't inhibit students' ability to access opportunities.





Alexis Robotics Club (all)



### ***Flexibility and Individualization within Reach***

Because we focus on flexibility and individual needs, students benefit from additional support offered by mentors and facilitators. Students have the option of starting, pausing, and restarting as their individual situations demand. We also offer assessments to help gauge where students should restart when they return to their learning.

We have both teachers and support staff available to help with many aspects of technology, administrative, and teaching needs. We offer specialized courses and options that may not be otherwise available to your students, such as Career and Technology project courses and English 30-1 and 30-2 for Adults. Students are welcome to take as many or as few courses as they feel comfortable with.

Through conversation with our outreach partners, we've heard about the life-changing difference participation in cultural activities has on students' outlooks and lives. See *Indigenous Cultural Learning for Credit within Reach* (Page 6) to learn more about how we can help students get credit for cultural arts.

○ ADLC started a robotics club with Kainai High School on the Blood Reserve. Our teacher helped Kainai's teacher access the necessary courses and materials and provided support as the teacher at Kainai brought local kids on board. Now, Kainai robotics **students are competing in national competitions with other clubs** from Indigenous schools across the province.



## Advice on Starting an Outreach **within reach.**

We have a publication aimed at helping communities understand what's entailed in starting an outreach centre—what it takes, how much it costs, and where to start. Several of our partners may be willing to speak with you about the process and what's worked in their communities. Please contact us by phoning 1-866-774-5333 or email [learningnetwork@adlc.ca](mailto:learningnetwork@adlc.ca) to request a copy of the publication and find out more.

“This course gives opportunities to those wanting to take a leap forward in education.”

– High School Student



## Hands-on learning, dual credit, and enhancements **within reach.**

Hands-on learning opportunities can sometimes require investments of capital and resources that put them out of reach for individual schools. By partnering with industry and other institutions, ADLC strives to make additional learning opportunities available across the province, equalizing opportunities for your students.

### **SIMULATORS WITHIN REACH.**

Through physical, equipment-reliant, simulators and virtual simulators, ADLC can provide your students with options in the following areas:

- › Forestry career explorations and skills building
- › Service Rig Hand skills building (including certification)

### **CODING AND ROBOTICS WITHIN REACH.**

Through basic coding and robotics offerings, ADLC helps schools across the province deliver next-generation skills to today's classrooms.

Last year, ADLC was the proud recipient of a grant to support the creation of robotics clubs in several Indigenous schools across the province. The \$40,000 USD grant was awarded to us by FIRST (*For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology*).





Angus, Nipisihkopahk Secondary



Jade, Nipisihkopahk Secondary

## DUAL CREDIT WITHIN REACH.

ADLC is proud to announce a pilot project with NAIT (Northern Alberta Institute of Technology) to provide students across the province with access to post-secondary dual-credit courses. The courses will be available for your school to register students in and will be listed in our online Course Catalogue. Each course allows students to earn both high-school CTS and post-secondary credits simultaneously. Additional costs may apply; please look for more information at [adlc.ca/dualcredit](http://adlc.ca/dualcredit).

## SUCCESSMAKER® FOR ANY AGE.

SuccessMaker is an online program that enhances math skills, develops elementary math concepts, increases reading skills, and provides differentiated instruction for individual students. The instructional software provides Kindergarten to Grade 8 level instruction to students of any age through adaptive, personalized paths that help students master math and reading concepts. For younger students, the program can be delivered through a highly engaging interface that makes instruction, practice, and assessment fun. ADLC provides additional supports for SuccessMaker, including an individualized program monitored by a supervising ADLC teacher and monthly reports that outline progress and any changes that have been made to the program to accommodate the individual needs of each student. Please look for more information at [adlc.ca/successmaker](http://adlc.ca/successmaker) or call 1-866-774-5333.

“Amazing! Our students show improvement every term, and this next term will be even better.”

– Teacher at Nipisihkopahk Secondary School, Maskwacis



Sunny, Kainai High School



## PREVIEW/REVIEW WITHIN REACH.

Available from the ADLC online store, each *Preview/Review* package has 12 to 15 lessons that cover the most important areas or concepts in the Alberta Program of Studies and are intended for use in catching up or working ahead. All materials have been developed by certificated teachers at ADLC. *Preview/Review* also more closely emulates summer school workloads than our full courses do, although *Preview/Review* is not for credit.

Each lesson contains explanations and examples of the concepts covered, takes about 90 minutes to complete, and is suitable for use in a classroom setting or by students working alone. Each lesson includes various activities and exercises to help students learn and retain the concepts. Three quizzes are included with each package.

Student Packages and Teacher Keys are sold separately, and a number of versions are available at [adlc.ca/preview-review](https://adlc.ca/preview-review):

Elementary Grades 4 to 6

- › Language Arts
- › Math

Junior High Grades 7 to 9

- › Language Arts
- › Math
- › Social Studies
- › Science



## Low Cost Access **within reach.**

Depending on where your Indigenous students are, and where they're going to school, costs can be quite low. We offer free tuition for all provincially-funded students, in both SI and TS courses.

### **SENIOR HIGH**

For those using federal funding\* exclusively, we charge \$110/credit per student when ADLC is doing the teaching (SI). Where your teachers use our materials (TS), the cost is \$5/credit per student. There are no costs for provincially funded students.

### **ELEMENTARY AND JUNIOR HIGH**

Federally funded students are charged \$550 per course when ADLC does the teaching. Where your teachers use our materials, the cost is \$25/student per course. There are no costs for provincially funded students.

Grants are available from various sources for Indigenous students, including those completing high school or returning as adults. Please contact us at 1-866-774-5333 or email [learningnetwork@adlc.ca](mailto:learningnetwork@adlc.ca) to learn more.

For more on funding and costs, see [adlc.ca/fees](http://adlc.ca/fees).

\* Students in Nunavut and the Northwest territories are considered federally funded.





## Innovation **within reach.**

We're always trying to improve service to all our students. Here are just a few of the new initiatives we've been working on:

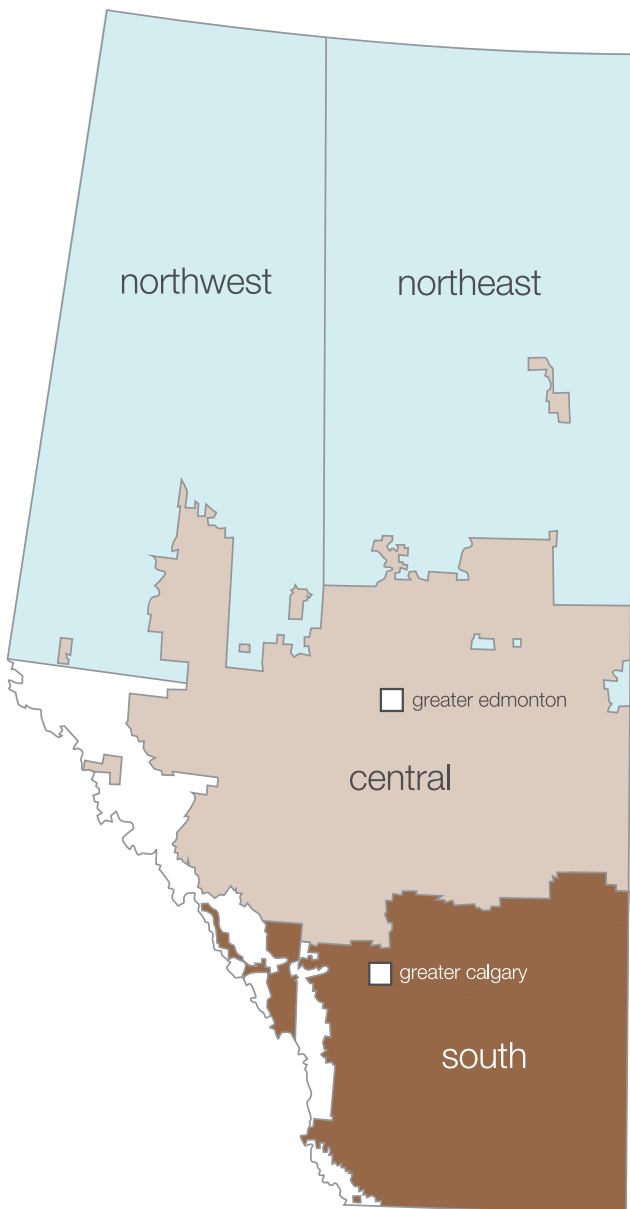
- › Piloting new Indigenous student offerings, including new methods of support
- › Providing low-cost (or no-cost in special circumstances) supports to Indigenous communities
- › Serving Indigenous robotics teams in First Nations and provincial schools (established thanks to a grant from *FIRST* Robotics International)
- › Developing resources to help increase understanding of Indigenous history and culture across the province
- › Administering the Test of Workplace Essential Skills (TOWES)

If you have ideas for other ways we can help our Indigenous partners or you want to try new things in your own community, please contact us at 1-866-774-5333 or [learningnetwork@adlc.ca](mailto:learningnetwork@adlc.ca).

“I have more time to work with the students because less time needs to be spent planning.”

– Teacher at Nipisihkopahk Secondary School, Maskwacis

# Your Learning Network Liason is always **within reach!**



Call your Learning Network Liason today at 1-866-774-5333 and use the extension listed below.

***Northwestern Alberta, Home Education, Colony Schools, and Religious Education:***

Jake Warkentin  
(Jake.Warkentin@adlc.ca), ext. 5297

***Northeastern Alberta:***

Denise Tournier  
(Denise.Tournier@adlc.ca), ext. 7203

***Greater Edmonton:***

Dominick Gallo  
(Dominick.Gallo@adlc.ca), ext. 6103

***Central Alberta:***

Stacy Harper  
(Stacy.Harper@adlc.ca), ext. 6215

***Greater Calgary:***

Sarah Davies  
(Sarah.Davies@adlc.ca), ext. 6222

***Southern Alberta:***

Gary Frederickson  
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***French Immersion:***

Carl Asselin  
(Carl.Asselin@adlc.ca), ext. 6115

***External Partnerships, Coordinator Educational Technology:***

Chris Pethybridge  
(Chris.Pethybridge@adlc.ca), ext. 6138



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