



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ALBERTA

News Release

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Athabasca University launches program at Alberta Legislature *Legislative drafting program provides open learning opportunity*

Edmonton – Students around the world will now have a new and unique opportunity to learn the fundamentals of legislative drafting following the official launch of Athabasca University's Graduate Diploma Program in Legislative Drafting, held in the Legislature Rotunda this morning.

The Hon. Ken Kowalski, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of Alberta notes: "The Legislative Assembly of Alberta is proud to have been a participant in the development of this unique learning opportunity where the global community will be able to benefit from the skills of its graduates. I congratulate all of the partners who came together, specifically the Commonwealth of Learning for developing the curriculum and Athabasca University for making the distance learning program a reality."

Due to the retirement of a large number of baby boom drafting experts, both in Canada and around the world and the limited number of educational opportunities in the field, a shortage of legislative drafting expertise is looming in a wide range of jurisdictions.

"This program is offered to people anywhere in Alberta and around the globe," said Doug Horner, Minister of Advanced Education and Technology. "It's another example of how Athabasca University is using leading-edge technology to respond to the needs of learners throughout the virtual world."

Alison Redford, QC, Minister of Justice and Attorney General adds, "A fair and orderly society is rooted in the law, and well-written, solid legislation is its foundation. This program will help students develop the skills and approaches to draft legislation that meets that test."

The Legislative Assembly of Alberta was instrumental in bringing this anticipated need to the attention of Athabasca University, a leader in distance education, and the Commonwealth of Learning, an intergovernmental organization created by the Commonwealth to encourage the development of open learning education. For more information on the program, visit www.athabascau.ca/gdld.

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