

A stronger **West**. A stronger **Canada**.

# ACCESSWEST

fall/winter 2012

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## SUPPORTING JOBS AND GROWTH

State-of-the-art mobile training unit brings the classroom to the students in Northwestern B.C.

### FEATURE STORY: BUILDING STRONGER COMMUNITIES -

Government of Canada  
delivering new infrastructure  
improvement program



Western Economic  
Diversification Canada

Diversification de l'économie  
de l'Ouest Canada

Canada



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### ON THE COVER:

Minister Yelich meets  
with a future heavy  
equipment operator  
from Northwest  
Community College.





## MESSAGE FROM THE HONOURABLE LYNNE YELICH

The Honourable Lynne Yelich, Minister  
of State for Western Economic  
Diversification

The Harper Government is focused on what matters to Canadians: jobs and economic growth, in every region of the country. At Western Economic Diversification Canada (WD), we have helped to achieve these objectives by investing in new economic opportunities by working with industry and communities.

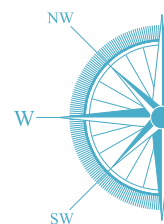
As you'll read in the following pages of Access West, WD is investing in the West and Canada's future. By partnering with industry and educators, we have made investments that will ensure Canadians have the skills and training required to meet market needs. For example, by investing in equipment that will create a mobile classroom, as we did at B.C.'s Northwest Community

College, students in rural communities can gain the necessary experience to participate in a booming resource sector. Or, as with our investment that will enable Red River College to purchase specialized food science equipment to expand technological capabilities at its new Paterson GlobalFoods Institute. Through these projects and many others, the Harper Government is continuing to ensure that Western Canada's need for skilled workers is met, while helping to create high-paying jobs and growing the economy.

I'm also proud to say that WD is continuing to deliver on its commitment to building stronger communities through its work on our Government's new Community Infrastructure

Improvement Fund (CIIF). As part of Economic Action Plan 2012, our Government is investing \$150 million over two years to support repairs and improvements to existing community facilities across Canada. At WD, we will be delivering \$46 million to strengthen our communities in Western Canada.

By working with industry partners and communities, we are creating a foundation for jobs, growth and long-term prosperity across Western Canada. Together, we are working to build a stronger West for a stronger Canada.





# CANADA'S FARM PROGRESS SHOW **WELCOMES THE WORLD**

After earning the distinction of being the largest agriculture trade show in Canada by the Trade Show News Network, the 35<sup>th</sup> annual Farm Progress Show broke its own attendance record yet again this year.



**Show Manager Rob O'Connor credits the Government of Canada's Incoming Buyers Program (IBP) and its unique ability to attract foreign investors to the Farm Progress Show for its success.**

"The Incoming Buyers Program brings businesses from around the world to Regina to develop opportunities that will create new jobs and economic growth for Canadians," said MP Tom Lukiwski. "This investment builds on the success of WD's support for the previous Incoming Buyers Program and illustrates our Government's commitment to supporting Canadian firms as they pursue exporting opportunities in the global marketplace."


The program, which has been in effect now for four years, brings businesses from around the world to Regina to develop opportunities that will create jobs and economic growth.

"By offering this carrot as a gesture to international buyers, they choose our show over those farm shows in France, the U.S. and a number of other countries," said O'Connor. "It was a fantastic year. Our international numbers have increased every year for the past three years thanks to this program."



A record 652 international buyers from 55 countries, including China, India, the United States, Russia, Kazakhstan, Australia and Mongolia, were in attendance. There were also some 806 exhibitors – another record.

Each international buyer spends, on average, \$2.5 million at the show, which is a tremendous return on investment, noted O'Connor.

Sales were brisk for land preparation equipment, harvesting equipment and tractors, said O'Connor, adding that this year, 24 companies used the venue to launch new products. 

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(From left): Former Minister of Tourism, Parks, Culture and Sport for Saskatchewan, Bill Hutchinson; MP Tom Lukiwski; Rob O'Connor, Show Manager, Farm Progress Show; and Mark Allan, President and CEO, Evraz Place at funding announcement for the Incoming Buyers Program.





# SASKATOON HOSTS **AEROSPACE FORUM** TO SHOWCASE EXPERTISE



< Minister Yelich meets with Prime Contractors at the Saskatchewan Aerospace & Defence Opportunities Forum. From left: Stanley Ing, Mercedes-Benz Canada; Chris Dekker, CEO, Enterprise Saskatchewan; Laurie St. Louis, DEW Engineering; Brian Carter, President, Seaspan Shipyards; Minister Yelich; Eugene J. Stewart, MS2; Gerhard (Gary) Hones, LM Canada; Colin Preston, DEW Engineering; Doug Brown, General Dynamics Canada.

**Saskatchewan's small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) gathered in Saskatoon earlier this year to meet with major players in Western Canada's dynamic and growing aerospace, defence and shipbuilding sectors.**

WD and Enterprise Saskatchewan partnered to host the Saskatchewan Aerospace and Defence Opportunities Forum, which enabled the province's SMEs to establish valuable business connections with industrial titans, such as Seaspan Marine, General Dynamics and General Electric.

"Our Government is committed to supporting small and medium-sized businesses by connecting them with opportunities for reaching new markets throughout Western Canada," said Minister Yelich.

Mark Noete, Director of Manufacturing at Saskatoon's SED Systems, which manufactures and designs electronic systems and units, said the Forum was an excellent opportunity to showcase his company's expertise.

"Anytime you can get that quality of suppliers in our city it is exceptionally valuable," said Mr. Noete, adding that Seaspan, GE and others visited SED during their time in Saskatoon.

"It helps you build relationships with them, and it helps them understand your capabilities."

The Forum demonstrated the exciting opportunities resulting from the federal government's Industrial and Regional Benefits (IRB) policy, which requires companies that have been awarded federal projects to re-invest 100 percent of the contract back into Canadian industry. As well, Seaspan and other companies made presentations at the Forum to explain what they require from SMEs to fulfill their contracts, enabling them to learn how they could capitalize on these key opportunities.

The event particularly sought to showcase Western Canada's shipbuilding capabilities, which received a huge boost in October 2011 when the federal government's \$33 billion National Shipbuilding Procurement Strategy (NSPS) was announced.

"Many western businesses will have the opportunity to capitalize on secondary opportunities available through the strategy by offering their specialized expertise, skilled labour and products," explained Minister Yelich.

The NSPS is expected to create about 4,000 high-value jobs on the West Coast, and to produce a range of economic opportunities for local small- and medium-sized businesses throughout Western Canada.

Among those opportunities will be skilled work in a variety of sectors, such as steel manufacturing, information technology, and defence systems development and integration. As well, SMEs across the West will benefit not only through the construction of the vessels, but from work related to repairing and refitting. AW

# IMPROVED TESTING CAPABILITIES FOR MANITOBA'S GLACIER FACILITY

**The Canadian Environmental Test and Research Center Inc. (EnviroTREC)** recently received WD funding towards the purchase of new equipment to improve and expand environmental aerospace testing in Manitoba.

This equipment will be used at the Global Aerospace Centre for Icing and Environmental Research (GLACIER), a joint-venture partnership between jet engine manufacturers Pratt & Whitney Canada and Rolls-Royce Canada.

The GLACIER test facility is located in Thompson, where the subarctic climate allows for simulation of the icy conditions an engine may have to endure when flying through clouds at freezing temperatures.

Although temperatures in this northern Manitoba city stay well below zero for a significant part of the year, the new funding will allow the facility to offer more advanced types of testing outside of the coldest months. These added capabilities will bring in new contracts, and boost the economy.

"Our Government's top priority is creating jobs, growth and long-term prosperity," said Minister Yelich. "This investment will support the aerospace industry in Manitoba by strengthening the supply chain and providing opportunities to commercialize new products."

Through this project, specialized testing equipment will be purchased for testing aerospace engine emissions and



alternative aerospace fuels, as well as for aerospace engine design validation.

WD funding for this project builds on a previous investment towards the creation of the GLACIER facility. Federal support for the development of GLACIER, which opened in October 2010, promoted cutting-edge technology and created high-quality jobs and educational opportunities in northern Manitoba.

The western Canadian aerospace industry employs approximately 27,000 people and generates more than \$4.5 billion in



Global Aerospace Centre for Icing and Environmental Research (GLACIER) in Thompson, Manitoba. Photo courtesy of Rolls-Royce.

annual revenues, and Manitoba boasts the largest aerospace industry in Western Canada. This new investment will help keep Manitoba and Western Canada at the forefront of aerospace research and development. **AW**

# SUPPORTING COMMUNITIES, CREATING JOBS

Communities across Canada are able to make much-needed repairs and improvements to their local infrastructure thanks to the federal government's Community Infrastructure Improvement Fund (CIIF), a \$150-million national investment made as part of Canada's Economic Action Plan 2012.



< L-R: Don George, Kenaston Lions Club, Minister Yelich, and Bernie Vossen, Viscount Archery Club at launch of CIIF in the West.

**WD is delivering the funding in Western Canada, with an allocation of \$46.2 million over two years to be divided between Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia.**

CIIF targets repairs to community infrastructure, such as local arenas, libraries, community centres, sports

fields and bike paths. Local, regional, and First Nations governments, as well as non-profit organizations like service clubs, were eligible to apply to get funding for their projects.

"Community facilities are the beating hearts of Canadian communities from coast to coast to coast, providing places where families, friends and

neighbours can gather," said Minister Yelich at the program launch in Kenaston, Saskatchewan on July 5. "But this new Fund is more than an investment in infrastructure, it's an investment in people. This Fund will create local jobs by stimulating construction activity for the next two years."

Construction is now underway on many of these projects, and must be completed by March 31, 2014. As part of the Government of Canada's Economic Action Plan 2012, this funding will provide broad-based economic benefits for western communities, including local job creation. AW



## PROJECT SNAPSHOTS: ACROSS THE WEST

### BRITISH COLUMBIA

The Castlegar and District Public Library will enjoy upgrades thanks to WD funding through CIIF. With federal support, the City of Castlegar will improve the energy efficiency of the library by replacing the library's heating, ventilation, and air conditioning system, in addition to three furnaces. This project will contribute to the development of the community by creating economic growth and improving local facilities.



Minister Yelich announces CIIF funding to make upgrades to the Castlegar and District Public Library's heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems.

Minister Fletcher with Don Pickering, President, Charleswood Legion, at CIIF funding announcement towards the Royal Canadian Legion



### ALBERTA

Thanks to federal support, the Walsh and District Community Association Hall is being enhanced to make it more accessible to the public. Through this CIIF project, the Community Association is renovating the hall's kitchen by improving access for mobility-impaired individuals and upgrading kitchen equipment. The renovations will create immediate short-term jobs and ensure that even more members of the community can easily and comfortably enjoy the hall.

### SASKATCHEWAN

With the help of WD funding through CIIF, the Village of Paradise Hill is upgrading its local arena to enhance public safety and create local jobs. Renovations to the arena include installing posts and tempered safety glass on the boards surrounding the ice surface. These improvements will allow the arena to remain operational and safe for public use while providing economic benefits and an improved space for the local community.

### MANITOBA

With CIIF funding, WD is helping to make the Royal Canadian Legion in Winnipeg more energy efficient while growing the local economy. By replacing its roof system, two rooftop heating and air conditioning units, a new lighting system, and the main floor ceiling, CIIF is creating local jobs and improving a space the entire community can enjoy.

# AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH TRANSFORMS FEEDSTOCK TO PHARMACEUTICALS

Cutting-edge Alberta agricultural research is moving from the lab to the marketplace by transforming feedstock into innovative new substances that can be used to make consumer products such as pharmaceuticals and foods.



**MP Blaine Calkins announces federal funding towards strengthening Alberta's agricultural sector through the development of new technologies and products.**

But first, the road to the marketplace runs through Lacombe, Alberta, where last spring WD teamed up with the Alberta Crop Industry Development Fund (ACIDF) to establish a manufacturing facility to test and commercialize the new crop-based products.

"This initiative will create additional demand for barley and other crops while providing new market and contract growing opportunities for western Canadian farmers," said Doug Walkey, Executive Director, ACIDF. "The pilot plant is another step leading towards realizing the potential for both branch plants of international companies and the development of new manufacturing companies here on the Prairies."

Alan Hall, Manager of New Initiatives for ACIDF, said the pilot project, which is expected to be operational in the summer of 2013, already has 32 companies from North America, Europe and Asia under contract and another 500 have expressed interest.

The new Lacombe plant will use feedstock, primarily barley proteins, as natural polymers – think plastic – in commercial products, instead of synthetic polymers.

This research is being done by the University of Alberta's Dr. Lingyun Chen, who in 2007 created a scientific program to determine if the different ingredients found in barley – such as lipids, carbohydrates, protein and cellulose – could have a use other than feeding livestock.

When she found that the barley proteins and cellulose could be used as a natural alternative to synthetic polymers in consumer products, the next step was to begin large-scale testing in order to prove its commercial value to industry.

That's when WD stepped in to provide ACIDF with the funding to buy and install the equipment needed to make the new Lacombe manufacturing facility a reality.

And already, the plant is showing signs of success.

"The level of interest that has already been generated within the private sector is an indication of the tremendous potential for this initiative to attract investment," said Minister Yelich. "This will lead to increased opportunities for manufacturing in our agricultural sector."

AW





Minister Yelich and Red River College executives with students of the College's Culinary and Hospitality Program at Paterson GlobalFoods Institute.

## RED RIVER COLLEGE HOME TO NEW FOOD TESTING CENTRE

**Manitoba's Red River College is poised to become one of Canada's top culinary and food-testing centres thanks to an investment by WD in its new Paterson GlobalFoods Institute.**

The funding enabled the college to purchase specialized food science equipment for its Paterson Institute, scheduled to open January 2013 in the historic Union Bank Tower in Winnipeg's Exchange District.

"Our Government's top priority is creating jobs, growth and long-term prosperity," said Minister Yelich. "This investment will help ensure the right conditions to develop, test, and commercialize products to bring to market in the food industry."

Ray Hoemsen, Director of Applied Research and Commercialization at Red River College, said the new equipment's advanced technological capabilities are helping establish the college as one of Canada's leading culinary and food-testing institutes.

"We now have one of the best-equipped facilities in terms of food preparation and advanced technology, particularly in the key areas of testing, tasting, preparation and storage for commercial use," said Mr. Hoemsen.

Equipped with this new technology, the College's students and faculty will work directly with local industry to develop and test new food products

and processes, ensuring healthier and tastier foods for Canadians.

By working in partnership with private industry, the College is translating its knowledge and technology into new commercial food products for large markets and creating new jobs.

As a result, Red River College is helping create new business opportunities by boosting the competitiveness of Manitoba's food and beverage processing industry – an industry that represents close to one quarter of the province's manufacturing output, and \$4 billion annually in shipments. 

# STRONGER PLASTICS ARE MANUFACTURING SUCCESS



## The sky's the limit for Alberta's already dynamic entrepreneurs and plastics manufacturing businesses.

The latest leap involves the collaboration between the Southern Alberta Institute of Technology (SAIT Polytechnic) and Alberta-based Alta Injection Molding (AIM) to establish and equip a Centre for Innovation. The new Enerplus Centre for Innovation, which was made possible by a WD investment in February 2012, supports companies working to create new products that use composite materials, generally known as reinforced plastics.

"For manufacturing businesses in Alberta, this translates into exciting new possibilities to develop applications for markets which range from transportation and construction to aerospace and defence," said Minister Yelich.

"Businesses in those sectors are increasingly using composite materials because they represent a durable, lower cost alternative to use in their manufacturing processes."

Broadly speaking, composite materials can be used to produce a large variety of high-quality products ranging from sporting goods and automobile parts to corrosion resistant pipes and commercial aircraft components.

Gerry Darichuk, President of AIM, said Enerplus, which opened in the fall, will help grow Alberta's plastics manufacturing industry.

Enerplus will not only help to increase the number of new products using

composite materials that are commercialized and manufactured in Alberta, but will also create opportunities to train students preparing for careers in the composites industry.

"This investment allows us to optimize resources and give SAIT students, faculty and clients access to facilities that otherwise we wouldn't be able to extend to them," said Dr. Alex Zahavich, SAIT's Director of Applied Research and Innovation Services (ARIS). "This significant public partnership also gives AIM and its industry partners access to SAIT for future workforce development and will help retain intellectual capital." **AW**



# WESTERN PRODUCERS TO BENEFIT FROM NEW TECHNOLOGY

**Prairie grain producers will benefit from research using a new seed-sorting machine imported by the University of Saskatchewan (U of S).**

The Bo-Mill TriQ seed sorter has the capacity to separate top grade kernels of grain used for breads, beer and pasta, from the lower-grade kernels, such as those used for animal feed.

With support from WD, the U of S's Canadian Feed Research Centre in North Battleford purchased the revolutionary seed-sorting machine from Sweden. Commercial adoption of this machine has the potential to increase the value of western Canadian grain by as much as \$320 million per year.

"Our Government's first priority is creating jobs, growth and long-term prosperity and we are confident this equipment will increase the value of cereal crops produced in Canada," said Agriculture



▲ Dr. Tom Scott, Research Chair, Feed Processing Technology, University of Saskatchewan, demonstrates how the BoMill Seed Sorter operates at the Canadian Feed Research Centre.

Minister Gerry Ritz. "Using this technology to sort and grade each kernel will generate greater profits for our grain producers, creating jobs and lasting economic growth."

The Bo-Mill TriQ seed sorter is able to assess each kernel of grain using an infrared light for weight, protein, starch and moisture. It also has a high-volume sort capacity for commercial volumes of grain, which means it can sort 30,000 seeds per second, or three tonnes per hour.

The existing seed grading system does not allow for such precision in sorting grain kernels. Often, the lower-quality

kernels make up a very small portion of a producer's entire load of grain, but the price the farmer or producer receives for that load is based on the few bad kernels.

U of S scientists and graduate students are investigating how to adapt the Bo-Mill seed sorter to western Canadian crops, such as wheat, barley and durum.

"This technology will potentially open up new markets for very high end premium breads or new types of pasta or beer, and improve the safety and consistency of these products," said U of S Research Chair Tom Scott. AW



▲ BoMill seed sorter in operation

# MOBILE FACILITY SAVES SOUTHERN B.C. MEAT PRODUCERS **TIME AND MONEY**

**Residents of south-central British Columbia will soon be enjoying a lot more locally-produced, higher-quality meat and poultry on their dinner plates.**

That's because earlier this year, the Grand Forks and Boundary Regional Agricultural Society (GFBRAS) received funding from WD to acquire and set up a licensed mobile abattoir to serve the region.

"Our Government is proud to invest in the agri-food industry," said MP Dan Albas. "By supporting local meat and poultry industries, we are working to

promote a solid foundation that will create jobs while growing the local economy in the Southern Interior Region of B.C."

"We foresee that this project will not only improve the quality and availability of food in the region, but will significantly bolster the economic stability of the southern interior and build more sustainable economies in these communities," said Roly Russell, President of the Grand Forks and Boundary Regional Agricultural Society.

Due to tightened safety regulations that require all meat for human consumption to come from a licensed processing

facility, it has become difficult for small-to medium-scale meat producers to compete with bigger companies.

This was particularly the case for those producers in Grand Forks and region. The closest licensed facility was located 100 kilometres away in Rock Creek, which left farmers facing prohibitive transportation costs to ensure their products met current safety standards.

Bringing the abattoir directly on-site saves farmers time and money, which translates into better food and an economic boost for the region. **AW**

## **OIL SANDS OPPORTUNITIES** ABOUND FOR SKILLED WORKERS

**Portage College has purchased 14 new pieces of equipment to expand its Heavy Equipment Operator (HEO) training program in Boyle, Alberta, thanks to support from WD.**

"Our Government's top priority is the creation of jobs, growth and long-term prosperity," said Fort McMurray-Athabasca MP Brian Jean. "This initiative will help to develop a highly skilled and flexible workforce, while ensuring small- and medium-sized businesses remain competitive in the local and global marketplace."

The new equipment means Portage College no longer has to lease or borrow equipment, which gives students guaranteed training hours with specific equipment – motor graders, excavators and track dozers – something for which employers are looking.

"When we were leasing or borrowing equipment, we were subject to the needs of the companies that we were leasing from, so we couldn't always get the equipment we needed," said Stuart Leitch, Dean of Community and Industry Training Initiatives.

Hands-on experience with a range of equipment means that new graduates

are unlikely to require additional training when they find employment. That's good news for Alberta businesses, as they can reduce their overhead costs while increasing efficiency and productivity.

The investment will not only help address the growing shortage of skilled labour in oil sands development, but will also contribute to the sustainability of smaller communities. This is because many oil companies sub-contact the construction of sites – tasks such as building roads or excavating drainage ditches – to local firms in the areas where they operate. **AW**



# BRINGING THE CLASSROOM TO THE STUDENTS



Student Stephen Wagner watches as Minister Yelich tries her hand at operating a virtual excavator.

## As Canada's economic recovery gains momentum, the demand for skilled workers is steadily increasing.

This is especially true in Northwestern British Columbia, where the number of mining, power, port and industrial development projects is growing faster than the workforce.

As the demand for skilled workers in the Northwest continues to climb, Northwest Community College (NWCC) is taking steps to ensure that this need for expertise is met and that the Northern economy continues to prosper.

WD provided funding for NWCC to expand its heavy equipment operator training across the region. The expansion involved the purchase of 10 virtual training simulators, along with a heavy-duty truck and 32-foot trailer.

"This investment is an excellent example of how our Government is working to create jobs, growth, and long-term prosperity in Western Canada," said Minister Yelich. "Through this support, we are ensuring our northern communities have access to the essential equipment and programs they need to capitalize on their economic opportunities."

These simulators will allow students to attempt challenging maneuvers in dangerous occupational scenarios, with no risk to themselves or the equipment. The truck and trailer make it possible to bring this technology to students in rural communities, where they would normally have little or no access to this type of training.

"The state-of-the-art mobile training unit allows NWCC to deliver the highest quality programs and training in all communities, including the rural and remote communities and industrial work

sites in our region," says Beverly Moore-Garcia, Vice President, Education and Student Services, NWCC.

Jessie Louie of the Tahltan First Nation, a recent graduate and one of two female students in the program, is a prime example of how successful the program has been.

Debra Wall, Marketing Communications Advisor at NWCC, said Jessie was "immediately hired by Finning and has been operating heavy equipment all summer. She loves the work and is very happy with the program and the doors NWCC has opened for her."

As it did for Jessie, heavy equipment operator training prepares students for a wide variety of jobs because the skills apply to many different facets of industrial development, such as road building, forestry, excavation and mining site preparation. AW

## ACADEMIC INTERNSHIPS BUILDING GLOBAL CONNECTIONS



^  
Minister Yelich announces pan-western funding for Mitacs to deliver three internship programs. Photo credit: Marilyn Mikkelsen

**A WD investment in academic internships will help western Canadian companies gain a competitive advantage by attracting international students to Canadian universities which will develop linkages between Canada and emerging economies.**

"Our Government's top priority is creating jobs, economic growth and long-term prosperity," said Minister Yelich. "Through this project we will strengthen Western Canada's international engagement and foster

commercialization and business development."

The funding was provided by WD to Mitacs, a national organization based in B.C. that offers research and training programs to the next generation of scientists and entrepreneurs.

The investment will support three internship programs in Western Canada over three years.

The Accelerate and Elevate programs connect Canadian businesses with graduate students to help the companies solve tough business problems and work on leading projects.

The programs enable students to work on the commercialization of new products, technologies and services, which in turn help the business increase its competitiveness.

The Globalink program recruits international students to work on important projects for western Canadian universities. Since the launch of this program three years ago, it has welcomed more than 300 undergraduate students from India, China, Brazil and Mexico to 28 Canadian universities. **AW**

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