

# NEWS RELEASE

## **Prairie Land Awarded Collegiate Status by Alberta Education and Childcare**

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**Hanna, Alberta** - Prairie Land Public School Division is proud to announce that Alberta Education and Childcare has officially awarded the division Collegiate School status, recognizing our leadership and innovation in Agriculture, Environmental Studies, and the Trades.

This designation represents an exciting step forward for Prairie Land and reflects the innovative, hands-on programming taking place across our division. In Altario School, students engage deeply with agricultural education through field-based learning, livestock care, and crop production, while also exploring the business and science behind modern farming. Youngstown has become a hub for environmental studies, where students focus on land stewardship, sustainability, and conservation through real-world projects and community partnerships. At Berry Creek Community School, students benefit from a blended focus on both agriculture and horticulture, gaining practical experience that connects directly to career pathways and post-secondary opportunities.

Across the division, our schools are also building strong programming in the skilled trades. JC Charyk, Consort, and Morrin Schools are offering expanded trades and technology courses, including construction, welding, mechanics, and fabrication, giving students early exposure to high-demand skills in supportive, hands-on environments.

Together, these programs demonstrate Prairie Land's commitment to relevant, future-focused education that prepares rural students for success, whether they choose to pursue post-secondary studies, apprenticeships, or go directly into the workforce.

This achievement was made possible through strong partnerships with Lakeland College and Lethbridge College (Polytechnic), along with the support of local producers, tradespeople, and community champions who share our belief in practical, purposeful learning.

"This recognition is a testament to the vision and hard work of our staff, our students, and our partners," said Holli Smith, Board Chair of Prairie Land Public School Division. "Collegiate status gives us the ability to continue building programs that are deeply rooted in our rural context while opening new doors for students, both academically and professionally."

With this in mind, Prairie Land Collegiate will expand its dual-credit offerings, strengthen post-secondary connections, and enhance career pathways that reflect the interests and opportunities unique to our region.

For additional information, please contact:  
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