

Environment Training

The Project

The Environmental Training Centre (ETC) has the potential to be used in a greater capacity than dictated by its current mandate with Alberta Sustainable Resource Development.

The existing facility could be made into a world-renowned training center by providing forest/wildland fire management courses to provincial, national, and international clients.

Background

Alberta Environment operates the Environmental Training Centre (ETC) in Hinton.

It was officially opened in October 1960 and operated by the Alberta Forest Service to provide training to Alberta's Forest Rangers.

In 1994, the Forest Technology School became the Environmental Training Centre (ETC) to reflect the more diverse types of training offered. The main training courses offered by the ETC in 2001/2002 encompass:

- Alberta Advanced Forest Management Institute's (AAFMI) six-module course program, including:
 - Forest Ecology Principals
 - Silviculture Regeneration Principles
 - Strand Development and Forecasting
 - Silviculture Planning and Practices
 - Strategic Forest Level Analysis
 - Ecosystems Management
 - Landscape Planning
- Year 2 of the NAIT Forest Technology program
- Wildland Fire Management Courses
- A variety of short forest management courses, such as:
 - Alberta Vegetation Inventory
 - Log Scaling Certification

Implementation

The Environmental Training Centre could be developed into a world-renowned facility through privatization as a:

- Separate college
- Joint venture with an existing college
- Private corporation with a number of partners

It would be necessary and prudent business strategy for the ETC to continue serving the Alberta Government.

ETC management needs to prepare a concept paper describing the Environmental Training Centre as a world-renowned facility for training in forest management and wildland fire management.

If the Board of Directors approves the concept, the ETC should arrange for a viability study on the best way to establish the training facility. An outside consultant should address:

- Privatization of the facility
- Organization structure
- Examples of other privatization models
- Risk assessment
- Market analysis (current and new)
- Projected financial statements (income statement, cash flow, balance sheet)
- Sources of financing
- Economic impact on the region

Meetings may be required with appropriate Government of Alberta officials, depending on the Board of Director's reaction to the study.

Key Contacts

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