

# FACULTY CIRCUIT

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER of ACIFA • April 2006



Photo courtesy of the Legislative Assembly of Alberta

Following the Progressive Conservative Association of Alberta's low endorsement of their Party Leader, Premier Ralph Klein announced on April 4, 2006, that he will urge the Party to convene a leadership race. "As soon as a successor is chosen, I will resign my position as Party Leader and Premier," said Klein.

## Advanced Education is a big beneficiary of the Alberta Budget

By Brett Bergie

Alberta Finance Minister Shirley McClellan tabled the government's 2006-07 Budget on March 22, 2006. The Budget estimates total provincial spending to be \$28.1 billion. To help finance what

amounts to record spending, the government will be amending its Fiscal Responsibility Act to increase the limit on the use of non-renewable resource revenue

See "Alberta budget" / p5

### IN THIS ISSUE

ACIFA Executive Council  
Nomination Form • 3

Spring Conference  
Registration Form • 7

Spring Conference  
Accommodation and Rate  
Information • 8

## Eye on government

By Brett Bergie

The race to replace Ralph Klein, retiring Premier and Leader of the Progressive Conservative Association of Alberta, has been heating up in recent weeks. The grassroots of the Party provided the Premier with only a 55.4% endorsement of his leadership at the recent Party Convention. The Party membership has seemingly rejected what would have otherwise been a drawn out and potentially divisive leadership contest. The low support for Klein has forced him to retire

See "eye on government" / p2

## “eye on government”

Continued from page 1

earlier than the October 2007 timeline he announced just a few weeks ago.

After taking a few days to mull over his options with his staff, family, and close supporters, Klein announced on April 4, 2006, that he will submit a letter to the Party sometime in September, 2006, and he will urge the Party to convene a leadership contest. It is now certain that the political landscape will change greatly in the days and weeks to come.

The likelihood is that the Progressive Conservative Association will have a new Leader by the late fall or early winter and, in effect, Albertans will have a new Premier. While still not official, there is little question that the leadership race is on.

Klein's Cabinet has already contracted by two members, Ed Stelmach and Lyle Oberg, both of whom are announced candidates in the leadership race. In the interim, Pearl Calahasen will head Stelmach's Intergovernmental Relations portfolio and Ty Lund will take over Oberg's Infrastructure and Transportation

portfolio.

The Premier recently ordered those Cabinet Ministers who aspire to be Party Leader to resign their portfolios by June 1 to remove any perception that they may be using the perks of their ministerial offices to further their leadership bids. The Premier is also interested in ensuring that all leadership candidates, from both within and outside the government, can compete on a level playing field.

David Hancock, Minister of Advanced Education, is a declared candidate for the party leadership. As such, Minister Hancock will have to step down from Cabinet soon, certainly not any later than the Premier's edict.

A cabinet shuffle, which is now imminent, may be limited to shifting players around. It may, however, also provide an opportunity for the Premier to restructure the ministries. Advanced Education is susceptible to restructuring since it was only recently made a stand-alone ministry following the 2004 Alberta Election.

From ACIFA's perspective, Advanced Education has functioned well as a stand-alone ministry. Since the 2004

Alberta Election, post-secondary education has been a top priority of the Alberta government. As such, post-secondary education initiatives have been centrepieces in the previous two budgets and in the 2005 Throne Speech.

The level of importance the government places in post-secondary education is demonstrated through several positive initiatives including: a significant funding increase to the post-secondary education institutions; a plan to increase learner capacity in the system; action on user affordability in the form of tuition relief and a promise for a new affordability policy; a review of the post-secondary education system; consulting with system stakeholders; and the creation of an endowment fund to support innovative and constructive projects within the system.

ACIFA will continue to monitor the political landscape to determine how the leadership race and the cabinet shuffle will impact post-secondary education and its priority level under new political leadership at both the helms of the Progressive Conservative Association of Alberta and the Advanced Education portfolio.



# ACIFA Executive Council Elections

## 2006 Nomination Form

Positions Open:

- President (Term: 2006-08)
- Vice-President Negotiations (Term 2006-08)
- Secretary (Term: 2006-08\*)

We, \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_  
(name of nominator) (faculty association)

\_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_  
(name of nominator) (faculty association)

Nominate \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_  
(name of nominee) (faculty association)

For the position of \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
(signature of nominator)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(signature of nominator)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(signature of nominee)

\*Proposed amendments to the ACIFA Constitution will be brought to a vote at the 2006 ACIFA Annual General Meeting. Some of those amendments seek to change the composition of the ACIFA Executive Council, which may impact the term and definition of the Secretary position. If so, a subsequent motion will be entertained to limit the Secretary term to one year rather than two. For more information, contact the ACIFA office.

## Software integration into applied courses

Ken McKee, a NAIT instructor, has written numerous minimalist software training manuals for specific disciplines. His philosophy of “learning by doing” is reflected in the visual approach found in his manuals.

He will be piloting a business mathematics course combined with Excel, which will be used to do the applied financial calculations. In addition, an English/Business Communications course will include MS Word to assist in the writing of cover letters, resumes, memorandums, and PowerPoint to assist in classroom

oral presentations. This will result in a 64 hour saving and have the students integrating the software tools with business applications.

“I have long been discussing integrating software into applied courses,” says Ken, adding, “I know that students benefit greatly once they see the applications that the software has in their other classes and the business world.”

Look for Ken at the upcoming ACIFA conference in Jasper where he will be discussing minimalism and distance learning.

For more information, visit [www.GetToThePoint.ca](http://www.GetToThePoint.ca) or contact Ken at [kmckee@nait.ca](mailto:kmckee@nait.ca).

## Notice to all ACIFA Members

Re: Proposed Amendments to the ACIFA Constitution

All members are advised that a motion will be presented at the 2006 ACIFA Annual General Meeting that proposes numerous revisions and amendments to the ACIFA Constitution.

For more information, please consult your local faculty association or visit [www.acifa.ca](http://www.acifa.ca).





Glen Van't Wout (pictured right), Chair of ACIFA's Professional Affairs Committee, receives from Tim Rasmuson, acting on behalf of the Northern Lakes College Faculty Association, a donation of \$500.00 to ACIFA's Alberta Post-Secondary Education Trust Fund.

The Trust Fund generates revenues to support ACIFA's Teaching and Learning Action Research Awards (three grants worth \$500.00 each) and it provides financial support to bring ACIFA Teaching Award recipients to the Annual ACIFA Spring Conference.

The Annual ACIFA Climate Survey results will be distributed in the May edition of *Faculty Circuit*.

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## **“Alberta budget”**

Continued from page 1

for budget purposes from \$4.75 billion to \$5.3 billion.

The government forecasts a surplus of \$4.1 billion. In its calculations, the government forecasts \$50-a-barrel oil and natural gas at \$7.50 per gigajoule.

The Advanced Education budget will grow by 19.1% over 2005-06 budgeted figures. Minister David Hancock says Advanced Education’s budget increase “will bring our ministry’s budget to \$2.2 billion this year, allowing for increased spending on areas where it is needed the most – coverage of tuition

bump in tuition fees for students by September 2007. Also, the institutions will not have to absorb the costs of the two-year tuition freeze.

The Advanced Education Business Plan again calls for 6% increases to government base operation grants to post-secondary education institutions for each of the next three years. These increases are meant to address inflationary pressures including higher staff salary settlements and higher facility operating costs.

Expanding enrolment is a high priority for the government. To that end, the government will invest \$183 million through the Enrolment Planning Envelope.

professionals, and graduate students.

The government is planning to spend \$1.1 billion, over three years, to invest in post-secondary education infrastructure. Some of the major capital projects include a digital library at the University of Calgary, a redevelopment at Bow Valley College, an expansion of trades at Red Deer College, a new Health Learning Centre at MacEwan, an expansion at Lakeland College, a new Water and Environmental Science Building at the University of Lethbridge, and a new Centre for Apprenticeship Training at NAIT.

Last year, the government placed \$750 million into the Access to the Future Fund. The Fund, once fully topped up to \$3 billion, will generate \$135 million each year to benefit the post-secondary education system. The 2006-07 Budget does not contain any commitments to inject more money into the Fund. The Premier, however, has committed to topping up the Fund by 2008.

Overall, the 2006-07 Alberta Budget is respectable for its commitments to post-secondary education. The increases to funding are appropriate measures to help address rising operating costs and system infrastructure needs. The government’s commitment to post-secondary education will help to create a system that is better positioned to respond to challenges. This is important because the A Learning Alberta Review is near completion and, with its conclusion, new and broad policy demands will be placed upon the post-secondary education system.

**The increases to funding are appropriate measures to help address rising operating costs and system infrastructure needs.**

**The government’s commitment to post-secondary education will help to create a system that is better positioned to respond to challenges.**

increases for students, additional student spaces, increased scholarships, more skills training and institutional infrastructure.”

The government will pay the full costs of its two-year moratorium on levying tuition increases onto students, an \$87 million cost. The government will also place that money into the ongoing base operation grants of the institutions, effectively removing the threat of a triple

In its three-year business plan, the government projects the creation of 15,000 new learning opportunities by 2007-08 and 20,000 by 2008-09. This growth is part of the government’s previously announced plan to expand the system by 60,000 new learning opportunities by 2020.

The enrolment expansion is driven by the province’s need to create an abundance of skilled labour, highly trained

# ACIFA Spring Conference, 2006

By Brett Bergie

The Annual ACIFA Spring Conference offers a unique opportunity for individual faculty members from across the province to assemble and interact with one another. Conference attendees participate in sessions and workshops to learn more about teaching techniques, professional development initiatives, and employment conditions. Working and professional development sessions are balanced nicely with social and leisure activities.

Conference sessions operate concurrently and are sufficiently abundant to allow attendees to choose the sessions in which they

wish to participate based primarily on their own areas of interest. A full conference itinerary will be available shortly on the ACIFA website, [www.acifa.ca](http://www.acifa.ca).

The Conference is very much about promoting and safeguarding the teaching profession at Alberta's colleges and technical institutes. It is also about building connections among colleagues that can flourish into long lasting friendships and collaborative working relationships.

The Keyano College Faculty Association will host the Conference in Jasper, Alberta, at the Mountain Park Lodges

from May 28 to May 31, 2006.

The Conference's theme is, "Tell Me More." Conference sessions will operate under one of four sub-themes: Insights into ACIFA; Inspirations in Teaching; Innovations in Teaching; and Imagining the Future.

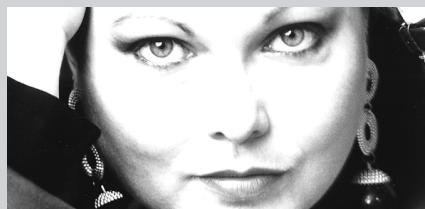
Each year, the ACIFA Conference attracts between 150 and 250 individual faculty members. All ACIFA members are encouraged to attend the Conference. Please see the conference registration form on page 7 or visit [www.acifa.ca](http://www.acifa.ca). Accommodation information can be found on page 8.

## Spring conference keynote speakers



Eric Newell is the 18<sup>th</sup> Chancellor of the University of Alberta. He is the retired Chairman of the Board and CEO of Syncrude Canada Ltd.

He holds a Bachelor of Applied Science in Chemical Engineering from the University of British Columbia and a Masters of Science in Management Studies from the University of Birmingham, England. He is an Officer of the Order of Canada and a member of the Alberta Order of Excellence.



Writer, motivational speaker, and Global television "Woman of Vision" award recipient, Zandra Bell is the driving force behind the innovative "infotainment" company, "at wit's end," specializing in customized motivational presentations. It started out as a creative sideline but eventually, as the demand for her public speaking talents increased, Zandra resigned from her thirteen year career as a regional director with the federal government to pursue her new venture on a full time basis.



Ben Gadd is the author of *Handbook of the Canadian Rockies*, which has sold over 50,000 copies, and has written seven other books. His first novel, *Raven's End*, has become an award-winning Canadian best-seller.

Ben is a recognized authority on the Rocky Mountains. Educated as a geologist, he has pursued a career in natural history.

Ben is heard frequently on CBC radio and has appeared in many television items and several documentaries on the Rockies.





# CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FORM

## ACIFA 2006 Annual Spring Conference

Mountain Park Lodges, Jasper

May 28 to 31, 2006

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Institution: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

[Please note that ACIFA welcomes non-members to its Annual Conference.]

### Registration Deadline: May 15, 2006

Cancellations must be received in writing by May 19. Refunds, minus a \$50.00 processing fee, will be processed after the conference. Conference fee cannot be returned for cancellation after May 19, but can be applied toward a future conference. You are responsible for payment if you do not cancel and do not attend. Participant substitutes can be made at any time.

### Early Bird Registration Draw:

All paid registrations received by April 24, 2006, will be eligible for a prize draw of \$250.00.

### FEES

Full Registration includes reception on Sunday, keynote and session registration, Monday breakfast, lunch & banquet, and Tuesday breakfast, lunch & BBQ, and Wednesday breakfast.	\$375.00 [non-members]	\$_____
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Monday only registration includes keynote, sessions, breakfast, lunch and banquet	\$195.00	\$_____
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Extra complete meal package(s) for your guest (includes banquet ticket and BBQ ticket)	_____ X \$195.00 =	\$_____
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Extra Monday banquet ticket(s) only for your guest(s)	_____ X \$ 45.00 =	\$_____
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Extra Tuesday BBQ ticket(s) only for your guest(s)	_____ X \$ 45.00 =	\$_____
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TOTAL: \$\_\_\_\_\_

Special dietary requirements: \_\_\_\_\_

Return completed form with payment [cheque payable to ACIFA] to:  
ACIFA #412, 10357-109St., Edmonton, AB T5J 1N3. Phone: 780-423-4440 FAX: 780-423-4515

### Delegates are responsible for their own accommodation arrangements:

**The Mountain Park Lodges Jasper • Book via phone: 1-888-852-7737**

**Ask for the ACIFA conference Rate • Quote GROUP CODE**

**LODGE: AMETHYST(#424419) or LOBSTICK(#552171) or MARMOT(#346182)**

Please indicate your t-shirt size:

small \_\_\_\_\_  
medium \_\_\_\_\_  
large \_\_\_\_\_  
extra large \_\_\_\_\_

Are you interested in participating in a session on BEST PRACTICES in teaching? This two hour session, for up to 25 participants, will ask you to share a best practice (approximately 5 minute presentation each) with the group. There will be some time for discussion. Please register by emailing your best practice to devlinl@acifa.ca

Please note: only registrations in by May 5th will be guaranteed to receive a t-shirt

# Spring Conference 2006

## Accommodation and rate information

Conference delegates are responsible for their own accommodation arrangements at the Jasper Park Lodges.

For information and reservations, please contact the Mountain Park Lodges at 1-800-852-7737 and ask for the special rates for ACIFA conference participants as listed below:

### Amethyst Lodge

Group code 412156 • standard room \$99.00  
• superior room \$119.00

### Lobstick Lodge

Group code 552171 • standard room \$99.00 • deluxe \$109.00  
• kitchen \$119.00

### Marmot Lodge

Group code 346182 • standard room \$89.00 • deluxe \$119.00  
• kitchen \$119.00, with fireplace \$129.00.

GST and Provincial Room Tax will be added to your rate.

Rates are based on single or double occupancy, consecutive nights at one lodge. **Please book by May 5, 2006.**

### Come early and stay late

ACIFA has made arrangements for you to extend your stay in Jasper and still enjoy the same low, special accommodation rates. Conference rates can be extended to ACIFA delegates from Saturday, May 27, through to Wednesday, May 31, 2006.

Visit [www.mplijasper.com](http://www.mplijasper.com) to see and learn more about Jasper Park Lodges facilities.



## Editorial

The views expressed in Faculty Circuit are those of individuals and do not necessarily reflect ACIFA's policies and positions.

Please direct all inquiries to:

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