

# Ideas

# CRI

CENTRE FOR RESEARCH & INNOVATION  
A GPRC/PREDA Partnership

June, 2010

## Inventor's workshop a success!

April 29, 2010 - Nineteen inventive Peace Country minds spent the day exploring Alberta's Innovation Services during the "Growing your ideas! Inventor's Workshop" at GPRC hosted by the Centre for Research & Innovation.

The aim of the workshop was to inform inventors of the programs available to assist them, as well as the opportunity to meet and question some of the persons providing support services.

CRI Director, Dr. Bruce Rutley opened the session with an explanation of the CRI. Rutley described the services provided to individuals and innovative companies, as well as identifying the CRI as a recognized Service Provider for the Innovation Voucher program.

Following Rutley was Lou Beres, Industrial Technology Advisor for the Industrial Research Assistance Program (IRAP). IRAP provides financial assistance (up to 75%) for qualified, protectable projects to assure design is done by appropriate professionals.

Dr Gary Albach, President and CEO of Alberta Innovates-Technology Futures, presented Alberta's newly re-organized innovation structure.

AI-TF is a realignment of a variety of R&D organizations whose emphasis is now more on the commercialization of new ideas rather than on research.

After lunch, Nathan Woodruff, representing Thompson & Associates, Patent Attorneys, gave an overview of patents, copyrights and industrial designs, demystifying each of them. It was obvious that some of the participants had varying experiences with patents, and the Q&A portion was most enlightening.

The final presentation was by Mary Zakordonski CMA, Financial Reviewer at Canada Revenue Agency. She spoke specifically about the Scientific Research and Experimental Development Program, which can return, in the form of a tax credit, as much as 35% of the qualified costs to the inventor. For definitions on qualification, visit the CRA website at [www.cra-arc.gc.ca/sred](http://www.cra-arc.gc.ca/sred). The province of Alberta has recently instituted a similar program, returning a tax credit of up to 10% of qualified costs.

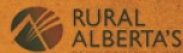
The discussion that followed the presentations lasted almost an hour. Judging from this and from the attendees evaluation sheets, the workshop was an overwhelming success.



Jim Letersky, CRI and Lou Beres, IRAP



Bruce Rutley, Director CRI



## LEAN 101 Well Attended

May 17, 2010 - Gary Loblick from the Winslow Group, delivered a LEAN Business Principles and Practices workshop to 18 participants at Centre 2000.

The workshop consisted of a working session/simulation, giving participants a quick overview of many of the LEAN Productivity principles in a very short period of time.

"In simple terms we define lean productivity as the elimination of waste throughout our entire enterprise while adding value as seen through the eyes of our customers. Through the elimination of waste, we get more done with less effort," says Loblick.

The five fundamental principles of LEAN are that to be productive:

- We need to learn to see value through the eyes of our customers;
- We need to learn to see the entire value chain where wealth is created;
- We need to create continuous flow through the value chain;
- We need to pull rather than push production service through the value chain; and
- We need to learn, visualize and pursue perfection on our journey of continuous improvement.

While here, Loblick also completed company visits to Kaymor Equipment, Endeavour Equipment, County Disposal and Blastaway.

## Over 660 Served So Far

Business is booming at the CRI's Innovation Client Services! From September '09 to April '10, Client Services has collected 35 new clients adding to the 628 persons who have attended workshops, Innovation Week and consulted with Doug Thompson our Patent Lawyer, for a grand total of 663. Impressive numbers for just eight months.

09/10    **New Clients**    **Interest & IP**    **Comment**

Sept	7	8	
Oct	5	220	<b>Innovation Week</b>
Nov	5	8	
Dec	3	6	
Jan	4	10	
Feb	5	168	<b>Workshops</b>
Mar	5	64	
Apr	1	144	<b>Workshops</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>628</b>	<b>663</b>

As part of these numbers, we will be including many of the 16 Peace Region innovation voucher recipients that were announced on March 2, 2010 by Alberta Advanced Education Technology. The voucher awards ranged from \$10,000 to \$50,000 for a total of \$320,000. The majority of the innovations were split between the energy sector, environment/clean technology and industrial technology; a definite reflection of the region.

At present, 10 of the recipients are already CRI clients.

## PeRMA - Full Steam Ahead!

April 8, 2010, Fairview - following their organizational meeting, the Peace Region Manufacturers Association is now fully defined and ready for work.

Open to rural manufacturers with less than 500 employees, PeRMA's vision is to create a network of manufacturers/fabricators in the Alberta Peace Region. These members would then communicate and collaborate on jobs resulting in an improved bottom-line for the businesses and improved economic situation for the local communities.

The initiatives spelled out at the Fairview meeting included:

- providing a website to enable communications between members.
- To form a cluster of industry members, academia and government.
- Survey companies to determine capabilities, resources, wants/needs, products and markets.
- Host a Cut & Weld Expo.
- Provide training and information on new technology as defined by the wants of the membership.
- Search for possible job, product and market opportunities and assist members in exploiting these opportunities.
- Provide members with information on requirements to bid large jobs.
- Initiatives in response to member and economic demands.

# Ideas

## GPRC and AAFC to work together

April 9, 2010, Grande Prairie Regional College (GPRC) and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) acknowledging their mutual interest in developing agriculture in the Peace Region. This development would include innovation in the agricultural sector and education and/or training of students for employment in the agriculture sector.

“This is a great moment for our College”, says GPRC President, Don Gnatiuk. “Our mandate includes support of applied research and development of innovation capacity, and the Centre for Research & Innovation will be a key contribution to advancing this region in those areas.”

The MOU indicates several areas in which AAFC and GPRC will cooperate including educational opportunities for students, cooperative research, and participation in training, research and development of aboriginal communities.

“Seven GPRC students are currently employed this summer at the research farm,” says Bruce Rutley, CRI Director. “This is a win/win situation in that, AAFC has staffing and the students receive hands-on experience in applied research.”

Other examples include cooperative research in livestock and honeybee projects at GPRC’s Fairview campus and the development of an agricultural strategy for the greater Peace River Region.

## Bill 1 Increases Alberta’s Competitiveness

New legislation passed by the Alberta legislature lays the groundwork for the province to be among the most competitive jurisdictions in the world through enhanced government partnerships with industry, business and Albertans.

The *Competitiveness Act* will help increase the province’s ability to compete by:

- advancing current Alberta competitiveness initiatives, such as the oil and gas competitiveness review and the Western Economic Partnership;
- developing strategies to encourage innovation, productivity and the adoption of technology;
- promoting effective policies and regulatory systems that deliver the positive economic,

environmental and social outcomes Albertans expect; and

- measuring progress and reporting to the public about how Alberta’s competitiveness contributes to the province’s prosperity, environment and quality of life.

To help implement the Act and enhance Alberta’s ability to compete worldwide, Doug Griffiths, MLA for Battle River-Wainwright, has been appointed Parliamentary Assistant to the Hon. Ted Morton, Minister of Finance and Enterprise.

In his new role, Griffiths will also address regulatory reform needs to reduce red tape and improve business competitiveness in the province, as well as help to develop a renewed fiscal and savings plan for the future.

## Last Call for FYI - Youth Technopreneurship Program

The June 11th deadline for the CRI’s FYI—Finance Your Idea Competition is looming and as of yet, no one has met the criteria for application.

Funded by AET, the program is designed to assist young entrepreneurs with the start up of their technology, science or knowledge based business.

The competition has two categories: the first is for college students under the age of 35, who have completed two years of study or are in their final year at an Alberta Post-Secondary Institution, and reside in the Peace Region. The prize for this category is

valued at \$20,000. The second is for persons under the age of 25, who have graduated from high school in the past two years and reside in the Peace Region. The prize in this category is valued at \$10,000.

To enter, you need a viable technology, science or knowledge based idea that you can develop into a business plan for consideration.

Interested participants need to log onto the CRI website at [www.theCRI.ca](http://www.theCRI.ca) and click on the button marked FYI for entry information or call 1-877-539-2808 for more information.

## CRI Ambassadors Meet

May 20, 2010 - Word of mouth is one of the most effective means of spreading the message of any organization. The CRI has adopted and utilized this premise in the development of their Innovation Ambassadors' program.

"Our Innovation Ambassadors have turned into a terrific vehicle for increasing awareness," says Dr. Bruce Rutley, CRI Director. "Trying to reach the always busy small business owners and inventors in the region is tough, so we developed our ambassador system."

This recent training session was for individuals interested in becoming Innovation Ambassadors and for Ambassadors wanting to refresh their knowledge of what the CRI has to offer. The session covered the history, programs and services of the Centre.

"It's a perfect fit with my economic development work," says Jennifer More, new Economic Development Officer for the Smoky River Region. "I've worked with a variety of not-for-profit groups for nearly 20 years and enjoy working with innovators wanting to start or expand business with fresh ideas."

New Ambassador, Brian Glavin, Economic Development Officer for the City of Grande Prairie, decided, "I'm in! The introduction of businesses to the CRI's services that can connect them to research, the college and real life tools makes sense."



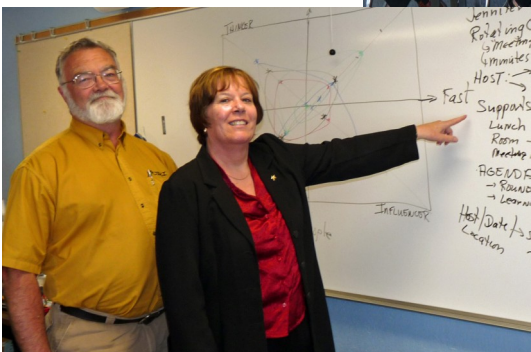
### Top Picture

**1st Row:** Connie Korpan, Jennifer Moore, Bruce Rutley, Janet Plante, George Brightwell

**2nd Row:** Brian Glavin, Delvin Napin, Ada Lovmo, Ray Skrepnek, Alex Gustafson.

### Lower Picture

Ray Skrepnek & Marg McQuaig-Boyd.



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Your comments and feedback are appreciated. Articles on topics relevant to innovation may be submitted for consideration.

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