

REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY



 **GPRC**
GRANDE PRAIRIE REGIONAL COLLEGE

Congratulations GPRC Grads

03

President's Awards

04/05

Need to Know: Degree-Granting

06/07

GPRC by the Numbers

08/09

“Message from the President YOUR COLLEGE’S SUCCESSES

GPRC HAS A LOT TO CELEBRATE AND WE WANT TO SHARE OUR SUCCESSES WITH OUR COMMUNITY.

Our community is the reason GPRC is here. GPRC’s successes, our students’ successes are our communities’ successes.

It was my pleasure to present parchments to graduates at GPRC’s Convocation in Fairview on March 12. These students worked incredibly hard to achieve their goals and GPRC is proud to be part of their success.

In Grande Prairie the GPRC Alumni/Foundation hosted the annual President’s Awards Luncheon on March 15. This is a special event where GPRC recognizes our community supporters and our Alumni who have made incredible contributions in the community and to their professions.

“GPRC is just as vital now as it was then and we’ll keep dreaming, building and growing for the next 50 years of students.”

It was a particular honour to see former Board of Governor Chair Michael O’Connor recognized with the Board of Governors’ Award of Distinction. Michael came to GPRC at a time when the College was at a crossroads and he worked tirelessly, often putting GPRC’s needs ahead of his own business and personal interests, to get us on the path to where we are today.

Throughout this Report you’ll see these aren’t the only reasons GPRC is celebrating. We’re building our case to attain degree-granting status as a Polytechnic University. Our Education Ambassadors are supporting and connecting students with each other and our services to ensure everyone who comes to GPRC can achieve their dream of higher education.

GPRC is fortunate to have a generous community that knows how vital post-secondary education is in our community. Our donors joined with us to help our students succeed with enhanced mental health wellness and programs as well as investing in GPRC to renew our facilities.

GPRC is pursuing opportunities to expand our West Yellowhead learning centres. We are working closely with industry and community leaders in Jasper to bring a new Culinary Arts program to that community. In Hinton we are moving quickly to respond to the community’s desire for us to do more Trades training in that part of our region. While we are doing that,

we are also working with the provincial government to address our space needs in partnership with the Hinton Training Centre.

In Fairview our Trades programs continue to grow and we are working with a group of community members interested in running a motorcycle promotional project. GPRC has an incredible collection of motorcycles in Fairview including some you won’t see anywhere else in the country. We’re excited about the chance to support the community on this project and share our motorcycle collection with the public.

Across the street from our campus in Grande Prairie work continues on the new regional hospital and the 4,000 square metres of health education space it adds to our campus. We are already working on

bringing new health programs to GPRC so we’ll be ready when this space opens with our Alberta Health Services partners.

We’re doing all this and we’re planning a party as GPRC turns 50 this year. The first class of students arrived at GPRC in September 1966 and we’re going to celebrate for the entire academic year right into Canada’s 150th Birthday in 2017. Half a century ago the citizens of Grande Prairie saw a vital need and had a dream of providing post-secondary education in our community. Their dream came true and over the past 50 years so too did the post-secondary education dreams of thousands of GPRC students.

GPRC is just as vital now as it was then and we’ll keep dreaming, building and growing for the next 50 years of students.

Original signed by

Don Gnatiuk
GPRC President & CEO

GPRC Board of Governors



Pete Merlo,
Board of Governors Chair



Stewart Wilson,
Board of Governors Vice Chair



Don Gnatiuk,
GPRC President & CEO



Patrick Coristine, Internal
Appointment, Board of Governors



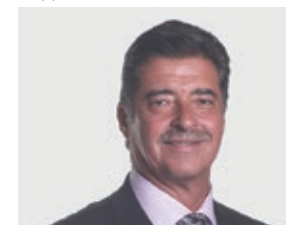
Carla Dodd, Internal Appointment,
Board of Governors



Thomas Petersen, Internal
Appointment, Board of Governors



Drew Lamont,
Board of Governors



Doug Morris,
Board of Governors



Tab Pollock,
Board of Governors



Natalia Reimen,
Board of Governors

Executive Team



Don Gnatiuk,
GPRC President & CEO



Susan Bangsgrove,
VP Academics & Research



Dwayne Hart,
VP Administration



Carmen Haakstad,
VP External Relations

LIKE FATHER, LIKE DAUGHTER

Father and Daughter graduate together from GPRC’s Motorcycle Program

Deanna Scott grew up following her Dad around the house helping fix anything that needed to be fixed. So, it seemed fitting the 27-year-old followed her dad David Scott, 58, across the stage to graduate from GPRC’s Motorcycle Apprenticeship program on March 12th.

“It was very cool. It is not often people can say they went to school and graduated with their dad,” said Deanna.

GPRC’s reputation for excellent instructors and a quality motorcycle program initially drew the father-daughter duo from their home in Stony Plain to Fairview.

“It was great, I feel very proud,” said David after the pair’s Convocation. Not many people get to go through an apprenticeship or college program with their child.”

Both are passionate about motorcycle repair and mechanics. When they aren’t in class David works at Wyld Bore Custom Cycles in Spruce Grove and Deanna works at Scanalta Power Sales in Hines Creek. Deanna is also the assistant coach for the Hines Creek Composite High School girls’ basketball team. In fact, Deanna missed coaching her team at the Zone Championships, taking place in Fairview the same day as the GPRC Convocation.

Instead her team showed up in time to see her graduate and then put the gold medal they’d won around her neck to go her graduation parchment and mortarboard.

David and Deanna were two of more than 450 students recognized as GPRC’s 2016 graduating class in Fairview.

Congratulations GPRC Graduates

“GPRC is proud of all its students and your success here is what everyone at GPRC strives for. I’m confident this is just the first of many achievements each of you will see as you go into your chosen careers,” GPRC Board of Governors Chair Pete Merlo told the 50 students who attended the convocation ceremony in the Fred Speckeen Theatre.

Shaylene Syrota, who received her Animal Health Technologist diploma delivered the Student Address.

“To our teachers, thank you,” said Syrota. “You have given us the skills, knowledge, and confidence to go forward in our careers and we cannot thank you enough for all the extra hours, extra help and extra support you have put in.”

Syrota also thanked her fellow graduates for the relationships they built during their time at GPRC. “It’s the support that’s been around when needed, the unlikely friendships that have been formed and all the laughter and goofiness I will remember most about being here,” she said.

GPRC President and CEO Don Gnatiuk led the students in a standing ovation for their family, loved ones, and friends in the audience, noting that their support has been essential for the students to achieve their goals.

“Congratulations on your achievement,” said Gnatiuk. “We know how much work, dedication and commitment it takes to complete a college education. Take pride in what you have accomplished.”



DEANNA SCOTT AND HER DAD DAVID SCOTT

Deanna Scott and her Dad David Scott graduated together from GPRC Motorcycle Apprenticeship program in March. Deanna is wearing the gold medal her high school basketball team brought to the ceremony. She’s the assistant coach of the team and missed their Zones Championship game to graduate with her dad.



STUDENT ADDRESS

Shaylene Syrota, Animal Health Technology graduate delivered the Address.



The Honourable Marg McCuaig-Boyd, Minister of Energy and MLA for Dunvegan-Central Peace-Notley brought greeting on behalf of the Province of Alberta.



Tiffany Duncan, Educational Laboratory Technologist, Katey Johnson, Educational Laboratory Technologist, Rhonda Shaw, Instructor, Penny Steffen, Instructor and Karlee Worobetz, Chair Animal Sciences Department were on stage to congratulate graduates of the Animal Health Technology program.



Richard McGrail, Heavy Equipment Instructor, speaks to graduates during the President’s Tea following the Convocation Ceremony in the Dr. Fred Speckeen Theatre in Fairview.



PRESIDENT'S AWARDS LUNCHEON



GPRC HONOURED SIX INDIVIDUALS WHOSE CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE COLLEGE AND THE COMMUNITY ILLUSTRATE THE VITAL ROLE IT PLAYS IN THE COMMUNITY when the GPRC Alumni/Foundation hosted the 2016 President's Awards Luncheon March 15.

"This is a very special event for GPRC every year," said Alumni/Foundation Board Vice-Chair Shirley McDonald. "It's an honour for the Foundation to host this event on behalf of the College and recognize these individuals who have contributed so much to GPRC, the community and their profession."

Along with the annual awards, new members of GPRC President's Council are inducted. President's Council members include individuals who have served on the GPRC Board of Governors or Alumni/Foundation Board of Directors, volunteered as Chair of a major fundraising event, made a planned gift to the College, or received a distinguished award at GPRC.

This year's President's Council inductees include:
In recognition of a Planned Gift

- ▶ Joanne Ballance

For Service on the Board of Governors

- ▶ Anita Luck
- ▶ Jackie Clayton
- ▶ Bryan Gouthro

For Service on the Alumni/Foundation Board

- ▶ Gwen Tegart

For Service to GPRC Events

- ▶ Carly McLeod

2015 President's Award Recipients

- ▶ Sharon Barr, Distinguished Volunteer Award
- ▶ Crystal (Cris) Seppola, Steps to the Greater Alumni Award
- ▶ Dr. Jeremy Begalke, Distinguished Alumni Award
- ▶ Chris Andersen, Board of Governor's Award of Distinction

2016 AWARD OF DISTINCTION

Michael O'Connor is the 2016 Award of Distinction recipient. The Award of Distinction is the College's highest tribute to honour individuals who have made exceptional contributions to our community and to the advancement of higher education.

Michael O'Connor served as a member of the GPRC Board of Governors starting in 2002 and became board chair in 2008.

"That was a pivotal time for the College and Michael worked tirelessly for the College often putting the needs and interests of the College ahead of his own and set the College on the solid track it is on now," said current Board of Governors Chair Pete Merlo.

O'Connor moved to Grande Prairie in 1973 initially working at Proctor and Gamble. In 1978 he pursued a career in the construction industry. In 1985 he established Mike O'Connor Construction and in 1993 joined with Cliff Turner to launch what's now known as TurCon Construction Group.

All the while O'Connor has been active in the community as a volunteer with numerous community groups including Grande Prairie Live Theatre, Camp Tamarack, Alberta Wine Education Society, Grande Prairie and District Chamber of Commerce, Alberta Chambers of Commerce, Swan City Rotary Club, Crystal Centre Advisory Committee and the Christ Church Anglican vestry.

Past recipients of the Award of Distinction include:

- ▶ Chris Andersen, 2015
- ▶ Fred and Ruth Estlin, 2014
- ▶ Fletcher Bootle, 2013
- ▶ Elizabeth Sheehan, 2012
- ▶ Vi Sunohara, 2011
- ▶ Kay and Mae Trelle, 2010
- ▶ William (Bill) and Margaret Bowes, 2009
- ▶ Paul Evaskevich, 2007-08
- ▶ Lyle Carlstrom, 2006
- ▶ Les Longmate, 2005
- ▶ Clem and Muriel Collins, 2004

2016 DISTINGUISHED VOLUNTEER

For the first time in the 12-year history of the Distinguished Volunteer Award GPRC recognized a current student. Nursing Student and Education Ambassador **Laura Rotaru** is the 2016 recipient of the awards which is presented in recognition of exceptional contributions of time and energy dedicated to the advancement of GPRC.

GPRC Education Ambassadors attract students who want to make a difference and be involved with building a student-centred community that supports every student in achieving their goals. This student mentorship group,

follows a mission of Student Led – College Facilitated and connects directly to GPRC’s goal to promote and enhance effective and comprehensive student support programs.

Rotaru has been a key member in the current group of Education Ambassadors who have shown initiative to support existing college activities, create new events, and be a support and resource for their fellow students while building their own leadership abilities.

2016 DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD

GPRC honours a ground-breaking alumnae in **Dr. Dana Goedbloed** with the Distinguished Alumni Award. The award honours outstanding accomplishments in an individual’s profession, service to the community, to society, or to GPRC.

Goedbloed graduated from GPRC in 1975 with a certificate in Secretarial Science. She later went on to earn her Bachelor of Education and Masters of Education degrees. She eventually completed her PhD in Policy and Leadership at UBC.

In 2008, Goedbloed’s career took her to Kwantlen College in BC where she became the first female Dean of Apprenticeships in Canada.

2016 STEPS TO THE GREATER ALUMNI AWARD

GPRC presents the Steps to the Greater Alumni Award to a former student in recognition of outstanding achievements early in their careers.

This year GPRC recognized runner **Fiona Benson** who represented Canada at the 2015 World Cross Country Championships in March 2015. In July 2015 she won the Canadian Championship in the 800m. She’s achieved Olympic qualifying times in both the 800m and 1500m for the 2016 Rio Olympic Games. She ended 2015 ranked 10th in the world in the one mile, 31st in the 1,500 metre, and 41st in the 800 metre.

2016 ALUMNI AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE

GPRC recognized two alumni for their accomplishments in the past year. The award recognizes specific, recent accomplishments of our Alumni such as local, national or international honours, major championships and appointments to high office.

This year’s recipients include curler **Tom Sallows** and runner **Mirelle Martens**. Sallows competed at both the 2015 Tim Hortons Brier and 2015 Ford World Men’s Curling Championship as a member of Team Canada. The team won the 2015 Brier and won bronze at the World’s. Martens represented Canada at the 2015 World Cross Country Championships in March 2015 in the Junior Women’s race. She also represented Canada in the 2015 Pan American Junior Track and Field Championships in Edmonton where she won the silver medal in the 3,000 metre with a personal best time of 9:41. Martens also won the bronze medal at the 2015 Canadian Junior Track and Field Championships in the 5000 metre.



OPPOSITE, TOP LEFT: AWARD OF DISTINCTION

Michael O’Connor, past member and chair of the GPRC Board of Governors received the college’s highest honour, the Award of Distinction, by current Board Chair Pete Merlo.

OPPOSITE, BOTTOM LEFT: DISTINGUISHED VOLUNTEER AWARD

Nursing Student and Education Ambassador Laura Rotaru received the Distinguished Volunteer Award from Carmen Haakstad, GPRC Vice-President External Relations. This was the first time GPRC presented the Distinguished Volunteer Award to a current student.

OPPOSITE, TOP RIGHT: ALUMNI AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

Curler Tom Sallows received the Alumni Award of Excellence from Patricia Woronuk, GPRC Development Coordinator.

OPPOSITE, BOTTOM RIGHT: ALUMNI AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

Bob Martens accepted the Alumni Award of Excellence on behalf of his daughter, runner Mirelle Martens from Patricia Woronuk, GPRC Development Coordinator.

RIGHT TOP: STEPS TO THE GREATER ALUMNI AWARD

GPRC Cross Country Running Coach Bill Corcoran accepted the Steps to the Greater Alumni Award on behalf of runner Fiona Benson from Joanne Ballance, GPRC Director of Development.

RIGHT BOTTOM: DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD

Dr. Dana Goedbloed received the Distinguished Alumni Award from GPRC President and CEO Don Gnatiuk.

LEFT: MASTER OF CEREMONIES

GPRC Alumni/Foundation Board Shirley McDonald, Vice-Chair was the master of ceremonies at the 2016 President’s Awards Luncheon.

Q & A

09 Things You Need to Know About Polytechnic University

GPRC is currently talking to the provincial government about becoming a Polytechnic University. Don Gnatiuk, President and CEO of GPRC, answers nine questions about Polytechnic Universities and why it's good for students, the community and industry in our region.

Q1

Why does GPRC want to become a Polytechnic University?

The main reason GPRC is talking to its colleagues at the Government of Alberta is because our students, our community and industry in our region want GPRC to be able to grant its own degrees.

The level of economic activity and diversity of our economy makes it a challenge for businesses to attract the highly-skilled workforce it needs. With degree-granting status GPRC will be able to quickly respond to the education needs of the community.

Q2

How does it benefit students?

Accessibility is the key benefit for students. We know the closer a student is to a university the more likely they are to get a degree. In fact students more than 80 kilometres from a university are 58 per cent less likely to get a degree than students living within 40 kilometres of a university. Grande Prairie is 458 kilometres from Edmonton. In Alberta, no other city the size of Grande Prairie is that far from a university. GPRC also serves a vast region to the north and into the Northwest Territories. That means many students who would have achieved a post-secondary degree are missing out because it's simply not as accessible as it should be.

Q3

What will the community gain if GPRC becomes a Polytechnic University?

There is currently an education gap in Northwestern Alberta due in part to the lack of local access to post-secondary education. For example, in the City of Grande Prairie nine per cent of people have a university degree compared to the provincial average of 14.5 per cent. We also have a lot fewer high school students who attend post-secondary education after graduation. Again, looking at just the City of Grande Prairie 18 per cent of high school grads to go college in comparison to 33 per cent in Calgary, 32 in Edmonton and 28 in Lethbridge. If GPRC has the ability to offer a wider range of degrees that are responsive to the community's needs the entire region will benefit from a more highly-skilled and educated workforce. This will drive the economy and improve the lives of all Albertans.

Q4

Can't students already get degrees at GPRC? Why is a Polytechnic University any different?

Yes, GPRC offers degrees through collaborative partnerships with other universities. It does work well but is not without challenges that directly affect our students. These collaborative programs are, as is appropriate, controlled by the larger universities who own those degrees. Changes to entrance requirements, tuition, course content and graduation requirements can, and do, occur without any input from GPRC. Granting our own degrees as a Polytechnic University means degree programs will be developed and controlled locally so they respond to local student and community needs.



Q5 Why isn't GPRC pursuing University status rather than this new Polytechnic University status?

It is essential to our students, community and industry in the region that GPRC continue to be able to offer apprenticeship training, certificates and diplomas, non-credit programming as well as be able to offer its own degrees. University status would mean GPRC would focus only on degrees. Polytechnic University status gives us the best of both worlds, allowing us to grant degrees and continue to do all of the apprenticeship training, certificates and diplomas, and non-credit programming that students and industry in the region rely on.

Q7

Does Alberta really need another degree-granting institution? Grande Prairie isn't that far away from Edmonton.

Proximity to a post-secondary institution makes a big difference in the cost of an education for students. If a student can live at home while completing their degree the average cost is \$55,000. That same degree will cost \$84,000 for the student who has to move from home. That's a difference of almost \$30,000 for those students who have to leave their home and a significant financial barrier to education for youth in our region.

Q8

Is GPRC really ready to take on granting its own degrees?

Yes we are ready and are already delivering the programs. Most of our collaborative degree programs are taught entirely at GPRC by GPRC instructors. If successful in achieving Polytechnic University status GPRC degrees will be developed and governed by GPRC following the same provincial rules that apply to all degree-granting institutions.

GPRC will not rush into granting its own degrees. We'll start to offer the ones we can and continue to partner with other universities when that makes sense. Every decision we make around granting degrees will be focused on providing the best education to our students and meeting our community's needs.

Q9

Are there other examples of Polytechnic Universities?

Kwantlen Polytechnic University in British Columbia is likely the most similar to what GPRC proposes. It offers programs such as arts, sciences, health, education, business and engineering. What is really great about a Polytechnic University is that it can create various pathways for students to obtain a degree.

Perhaps they start with a certificate then they use that certificate to complete a diploma. With the diploma they can decide to complete their degree. This creates many more options for students. That is the kind of flexibility and responsiveness GPRC could offer as a Polytechnic University.

Q6

Is GPRC the only college in Alberta that wants to become a Polytechnic University?

GPRC and Red Deer College (RDC) are both working with the government to obtain Polytechnic University status.

Each college has unique needs in their communities for degree granting status and we both share the vision that Polytechnic University status would give GPRC and RDC the flexibility needed to respond even better to our student and community needs.

Q?

Do you have any questions?

If we didn't answer your question or you are interested in finding out more about GPRC's plans to become a Polytechnic University, see the entire Polytechnic University Business Case at gprc.me/reports

RESPONDING TO THE COMMUNITY

GPRC Polytechnic University Business Case



STUDENT SUCCESS



What our grads say about GPRC



GROWTH



9 School Districts WITH AGREEMENTS TO OFFER DUAL CREDIT PROGRAMS SO HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS CAN EARN COLLEGE CREDIT

5 5 DUAL CREDIT COURSES OFFERED IN 2014-15

32 DUAL CREDIT COURSES PLANNED FOR 2015-16 **32**



10 Partnerships BEING STRENGTHENED TO INCREASED PARTNER AND COLLABORATIVE PROGRAMS WITH 6 INSTITUTIONS INCLUDING:



10%
Increase in Apprenticeship Enrollment BETWEEN 2013-2016

4,000m² of Health Education Space

UNDER CONSTRUCTION IN THE NEW GRANDE PRAIRIE HOSPITAL AND GPRC IS PLANNING NEW HEALTH CARE PROGRAMS TO MEET THE NEEDS OF THE COMMUNITY



2 New Business Administration SPECIALIZATIONS PROPOSED BY GPRC

RESEARCH

3 International Research Scholars
2 FROM MEXICO AND 1 FROM URUGUAY – WELCOMED BY GPRC



1 Memorandum of Understanding

SIGNED WITH GPRC AND THE RCMP AS PART OF A MULTI-PROJECT RESEARCH STUDY LED BY GPRC INSTRUCTOR DR. CONNIE KORPAN



More than 20 GPRC Faculty and Staff
INVOLVED IN RESEARCH AND SCHOLARLY ACTIVITY CONNECTED TO COLLEGE GOALS



2 GPRC Students and 2 Area High School Students
PARTICIPATED IN RESEARCH AT THE GPRC NATIONAL BEE DIAGNOSTIC CENTRE – TECHNOLOGY ACCESS CENTRE IN BEAVERLODGE



2 GPRC Scientists,
DR. WEIXING TAN AND DR. ABIGAIL ADEBUSUYI,
PUBLISHED THEIR MICRO-ALGAE ORIGINAL SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH IN ALGAL RESEARCH

FACILITIES



INVESTED IN NEW EQUIPMENT THAT ENHANCED PROGRAMMING

2 New Tim Hortons Locations
ON CAMPUSES IN GRANDE PRAIRIE AND FAIRVIEW



\$1 Million

INVESTED IN MODERNIZATION OF CLASSROOMS IN GRANDE PRAIRIE AND FAIRVIEW



GPRC BY THE NUMBERS

Includes Highlights from Our 2014/15 Annual Report

See the entire 2014/15 Annual Report at gprc.me/reports



YOUR GIFTS AT WORK

Invest in our students, invest in our future

YOUR INVESTMENTS IN GPRC CREATE A SENSE OF DISCOVERY, BUILD COMMUNITY, AND INSPIRE OUR STUDENTS to seek the knowledge to become vital members of our community. Gifts to GPRC don't simply purchase the latest equipment, launch new programs or build modern spaces for students. They enable our students to create, to learn and find out who they are and how they can meaningfully contribute to their families, their community and their professions.

These are the long-lasting rewards our supporters see from their investments in GPRC. Our students graduate from GPRC and become the teacher who helps a child learn to read, the artist who connects with others by expressing thoughts and ideas in ways no one else has before, the trades person with the knowledge to build and innovate and keep our communities safe and our industries strong.

In October 2015 GPRC celebrated the more than \$2 million raised through community donations to the GPRC Alumni/Foundation and the Government of Alberta's Access to the Future Fund in the previous year.

The funds were used for one-time, capital projects and initiatives that have long-lasting benefits for GPRC students including student-focused programs, student financial aid, and campus improvements such as the Theatre Concourse restoration.

The project restored architect Douglas J. Cardinal's original vision for the Theatre Concourse and created new common space for students and the community to gather near the Douglas J. Cardinal Performing Arts Centre overlooking the Bear Creek reservoir.

Community support for this initiative turned a once dark hallway into a lively light-filled space where students gather to study and build those college relationships that last a lifetime.

GPRC is already on track for another successful year of connecting our donors with meaningful initiatives to support students, serve the community and meet the needs of industry.

“GPRC is already on track for another successful year of connecting our donors with meaningful initiatives to support students, serve the community and meet the needs of industry.”

The new RBC Centre for Student Wellbeing was launched in March. RBC's five-year, \$250,000 commitment is increasing access to Mental Health and Wellness for students with initiatives such as

expansion of the Peer Counselling program, Education Ambassadors and Experience GPRC that ensure our current and future students have the supports and resources they need to succeed.

Your support of your college is vital to our students, our community and local industry. Learn more about how you can be involved at gprc.ab.ca/alumni/donations.

LEFT: THE ROYAL ARCHITECTURAL INSTITUTE OF CANADA & THE HERITAGE CANADA THE NATIONAL TRUST PLAQUE

GPRC Alumni/Foundation Chair, Allan Kuechle along with Carmen Haakstad, Vice-President External Relations and Don Gnatiuk, GPRC President & CEO unveiled the plaque that The Royal Architectural Institute of Canada and the Heritage Canada The National Trust (formerly the Heritage Canada Foundation) presented to GPRC and Architect Douglas Cardinal. It was presented to the college to recognize GPRC and Cardinal's enduring excellence and national significance to Canadian Architecture in 2013. The plaque was installed in the Theatre Concourse which has been restored to Cardinal's original vision.

RIGHT: RBC CENTRE FOR STUDENT WELLBEING

Nathan Lazinchuk, 26, a GPRC Peer Counsellor and Education Ambassador speaks at the launch of the RBC Centre for Student Wellbeing on March 8. Lazinchuk, who is working on his education degree, spoke about the impact the \$250,000 commitment by RBC will have on the lives of students.



Ambassadors connect students & build community

STUDENTS SUPPORTING STUDENT'S SUCCESS

DANIELLE RIBAR SPENT HER FIRST TWO YEARS AT COLLEGE PUSHING HERSELF OUTSIDE HER COMFORT ZONE TO GET INVOLVED IN STUDENT ACTIVITIES. It was a scary experience for the 23-year-old Fine Arts student but GPRC's friendly, open atmosphere drew her out more and more.

In the fall of 2015 she decided she was done being tentative about jumping into the GPRC student life and signed up to be an Education Ambassador. "This was the year I decided to no longer be scared," she says.

"GPRC gave me such a good foundation to start and I wanted to pass along that feeling to others. That feeling of openness and being welcome," said the graduate of Grande Prairie Composite High School.

"Being an ambassador is a great way to create events and build community spirit that bring everyone together," says Ribar. "GPRC is a smaller college so there are great opportunities to interact with other students."

Everyone arrives at college with their own story, their goals and their fears, says Ribar. She saw how Education Ambassadors have the ability to link students to one another to share stories, achieve their goals and gain confidence.

"Everyone has a starting place and a point when they were nervous," says Ribar. "When you reach out and connect it's rewarding. You see the confidence and smiles on people's faces grow."

As an Education Ambassador Ribar took new students on campus tours during fall and winter orientations. What stood out for her was how quiet and nervous a lot of students are during their first days at college.

"Once you get them to open up and you offer a friendly smile and share your own experiences, they realise that they are

not the only ones who feel like that," she says. "I offer them the comfort and openness that is at GPRC so they have the confidence to seek out faculty and other students to build a support system so they can achieve their goals. If they can feel the spirit that is here on campus then I've succeeded."

As part of Stress Less week before exams in December Ribar was involved in organizing a college colouring contest. It was one of the fun events to give students a break from studying and worrying over exams.

"Being around people and organizing events is very rewarding and it doesn't take much," she says. "You get a sense of achievement when you can pass on a smile and create less stress for a fellow student."

Ribar is also taking that college spirit and energy off campus.

Ribar's Education Ambassador experience gave her the confidence to get more involved in the community. She's started volunteering at the Centre for Creative Arts manning a children's activity booth during its 20th Anniversary in January. She also initiated a campus-wide event to collect socks, mitts and toques for Rotary House to help Grande Prairie's homeless population.

"I find it's a stress reliever every time I can give to someone else," she says. "We are a large student body so if you can get students to work together as a team it can go a long way."

The Education Ambassador program offers opportunities to build relationships, work with an amazing group of people and achieve your goals and remove the tunnel vision one can get when just going to class and doing homework, says Ribar.

"There are a lot of opportunities you can participate in that will build connections with other people," she says. "It's important to make memories here and get a good start."



RIGHT: DANIELLE RIBAR

Danielle Ribar sets up the mini-golf hole in the GPRC Theatre Concourse during Winter Welcome Week. Education Ambassadors was one of the college programs that set up mini-golf holes to welcome students back to class in January.



GPRC Education Ambassadors continue to attract students who want to make a difference and find themselves in the position to get involved. This student mentorship group, follows a mission of Student Led – College Facilitated. The ideas, vision and contributions are from the students with guidance and resources to create and implement activities provided by GPRC.

This vision connects directly to GPRC's goal to promote and enhance effective and comprehensive student support programs. GPRC sees substantial growth for the program with continued development of leadership training and a student-hosted leadership summit in the works for the next year.

LEFT: FRESH FRUIT FRIDAYS

Every Friday of a GPRC Wolves home game Education Ambassadors run Fresh Fruit Friday to hand out healthy snacks and tickets.



COMMUNITY EVENTS Watch for '16 College Classic & President's Ball



Title Sponsor

THANK YOU 2015 COLLEGE CLASSIC SPONSORS

Silver Sponsors: Chrenek Dion & Associates, Great Northern Casino/Service Plus Inns & Suites, Helix Engineering Ltd., Ken Sargent GMC Buick Ltd. & Sean Sargent Toyota, KMSC Law LLP, Northstar Hydrovac, Northern Metallic, Pomeroy Hotel & Conference Centre, Thomson Group, Wapiti Gravel Suppliers

Bronze Sponsors: Alberta Blue Cross, AON Hewitt Consulting, Aquatera, CAREERS: The Next Generation, City of Grande Prairie, County of Grande Prairie, FYI Doctors, Heat Oilfield Rentals Ltd, HWD Construction, Jade Cash ATM, Pembina Pipeline Corporation, Reed Energy Group Inc., Stantec, TD Insurance (EDM) & TD Canada Trust (GP), Willsey Davis & Co.



SEVEN GENERATIONS
ENERGY LTD



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Gold Sponsors

PARTICIPANTS

144 golfers participated in the 28th Annual College Classic.

2015 TITLE SPONSOR FLETCHER-MUDRYK & CO.

Featured in photo—L-R: Devon Wardley, Dara Lalonde, Lydelle Torgerson, and Wes Mudryk.





STAR STUDENTS

The star power at the 2015 President's Ball was even brighter this year. Nine students, selected by staff and faculty were honoured guests at the event. It may have been academics, athletics or attitude—or all three—that has made these students shine uniquely among all our stars. Featured in photo—L-R: Durai Haakstad, Brooke Backer, Oluwaseyi Ogunkunle, Shayna Jenkins, Kate Epifantseva, Renae Mutch, Amber Dobos, Bobbi Craig, and Jamie Wigmore.



THANK YOU JIM AND MARYHELEN BOCCIOLETTI

GPRC President and CEO Don Gnatiuk along with GPRC Board of Governors Chair Pete Merlo recognized Jim and MaryHelen Boccioletti from Canadian Tire for their years of generous support for GPRC during the 2015 President's Ball. In 2005 Canadian Tire joined GPRC as the Band Sponsor for the President's Ball and then for 10 years Canadian Tire was the title sponsor of the gala event. Canadian Tire has also been a major supporter of the College Classic.



Titanium Sponsor



SEVEN GENERATIONS
ENERGY LTD.

Double Platinum Sponsor



Raffle Sponsor



Freight Sponsor



Gold Sponsors



THANK YOU 2015 PRESIDENT'S BALL SPONSORS

Silver Sponsors: Alliance Pipeline, CIBC, Encana, MNP, Pepsi Co., Sean Sargent Toyota & Ken Sargent GMC Buick Ltd., Service Plus Inns & Suites/Great Northern Casino, TD Insurance Meloche Monnex, Thomson Group, Weyerhaeuser Canada

Bronze Sponsors: Alexander Security Inc (ASI), ATB Financial, KMSC Law, Nor-Lan Chrysler Jeep

DANCING THE NIGHT AWAY

Vancouver-based band Groove and Tonic had guests out of their seats for the whole evening.

PIANIST GABRIELLE KEMP-WEEBER

Guests were treated to the music of pianist Gabrielle Kemp-Weeber, a student at Charles Spencer High School.



WORKING WITH OUR COMMUNITY

Incredible support
to help our
students succeed



GPRC Alumni/Foundation Chair, Allan Kuechle along with Past Chair Erin Lynch present Kristen George, SAGPRC Vice-President External and Students' Association representative on the GPRC Alumni/Foundation board and Don Gnatiuk, GPRC President & CEO with a cheque for \$2,072,904.00. Of this amount \$950,000 was raised through community contributions in 2014/15 and a \$1.12-million grant from the Government of Alberta's Access to the Future Fund.



Grande Prairie Chinese Association President Laurie Lin and member George Ding present Joanne Ballance, Director of Development and Carmen Haakstad, GPRC Vice-President External Relations with a \$1,000 cheque to support GPRC student financial aid.



Kathy Dion and Kevin Chrenek of Chrenek Dion & Associates RBC Dominion Securities present a \$2,500 cheque to Carmen Haakstad, GPRC Vice President External Relations for its annual Business Student Scholarship.



Lori Pollock of CNRL presents Carmen Haakstad, GPRC Vice President External Relations with a \$1,500 cheque for annual student awards in welding, engineering and power engineering.



Donna Coulter from the Grande Prairie Lions Club presents Joanne Ballance, GPRC Director of Development, with a \$1,500 cheque for three annual student bursaries.



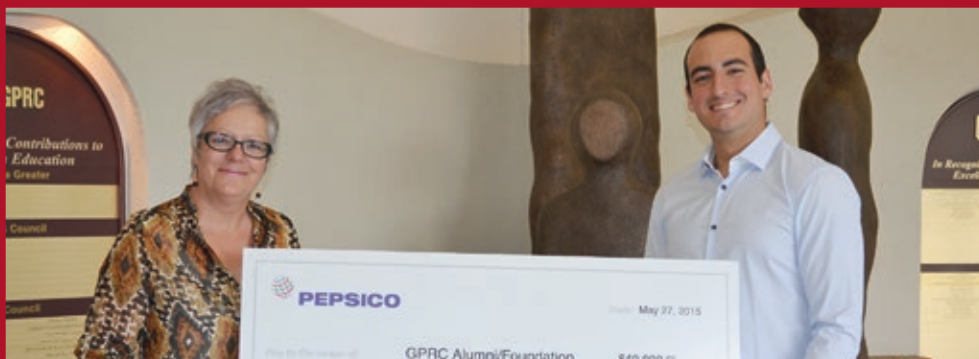
Joanne Ballance, GPRC Director of Development and Ashley Walker, GPRC Aboriginal Liaison Coordinator accepts a \$30,000 cheque from Leigha Parsons and Tyson Pylypiw of Encana. The funds will support the Circle of Aboriginal Students' aboriginal student celebrations and cultural teachings.



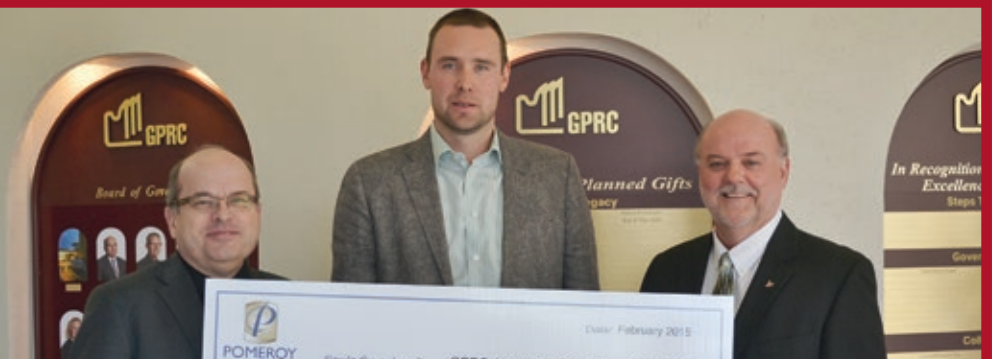
Joanne Ballance, Director of Development receives a cheque from Clyde Blackburn on behalf of ATCO Electric for its annual student bursaries and scholarship in support of Indigenous and engineering students.



Lance Leith of ATCO Gas presents Joanne Ballance GPRC Director of Development with their annual donation of \$1,500 in support of three bursaries for engineering students.



Joanne Ballance GPRC Director of Development, receives a \$40,000 cheque from PepsiCo Food Services Representative Erman Eray support of the GPRC Annual Fund.



GPRC President and CEO Don Gnatiuk and Athletics Director François Fournier receive a \$164,000 gift from Ryan Pomeroy, President of Pomeroy Lodging Inc. for various sponsorships including Athletics and the College Classic from 2015–2019.



Ken Truhn presents on behalf of Q99 radio a \$4,200 cheque to Carmen Haakstad, Vice-President External Relations to support Peace Country Idol event organized annually by second-year business students.



Joanne Ballance GPRC Director of Development and Heidi Arbeau-Wood of GPRC Development Officer receive a \$5,404 cheque from Martena Duda of Service Plus Inns and Suites to support of the GPRC Annual Fund.



Brent Lindsay, Market Centre Manager and Christine Trembicki, HR Business Partner from Viterra, present President and CEO Don Gnatiuk with an \$115,000 donation for GPRC student awards and financial aid.



Kevin Chrenek, Vice President and Portfolio Manager RBC Dominion Securities, Nathan Lazinchuk, GPRC Education Ambassador and Peer Counsellor, Susan Bangsrove, Vice-President Academics and Research, Pete Merlo, Chair, GPRC Board of Governors, Thomas Peterson, President Students' Association of GPRC, Jeff Boyd, Regional President RBC and Trent Waughtal Regional Vice-President RBC with the cheque totaling \$250,000 for the RBC Centre for Student Wellbeing.



Devon Wardley and Vince Vavrek of Fletcher Mudryk & Co. present Don Gnatiuk, GPRC President and CEO with a \$45,000 cheque for their three-year title sponsorship of the GPRC College Classic Golf Tournament.




Ryan Blais, with the Community Foundation of Northwestern Alberta and founder of the Come Fly With Me Foundation presents Heidi Arbeau-Wood, GPRC External Relations with a \$1,500 grant to expand the GPRC Athletics Summer Camps for Youth.



Meghan Nofall and Carmen Haakstad of GPRC Community Relations receive a \$33,963.38 cheque from Grande Prairie Live Theatre General Manager Wayne Ayling and Sandra Pippus, Grande Prairie Live Theatre 2014–15 Board Chair to support the Douglas J. Cardinal Performing Arts Centre Fund. The contribution is the result of the successful partnership between GPRC and Grande Prairie Live Theatre on the theatre production of Les Misérables.

THANK YOU

to all our donors! Your investments in GPRC are vital to the success of our students.



Sukhman Chahal, 18, is combining his love of chemistry and biology to achieve his dream of becoming a pharmacist and give back to the community.

**HE'S MAKING HIS DREAM
COME TRUE AT GPRC.**



50 YEARS
OF STUDENT SUCCESS

In 1966, 119 students enrolled for class when GPRC first opened its doors. It was the realization of a dream to have top-quality education close to home for local students. GPRC now serves 10,000 students annually.

This year we're celebrating all we've achieved in the past 50 years and looking forward to future generations of successful students.