

Education Performance Measures; A Northern Comparison

Prepared for the
Northern Labour Market Information Clearinghouse

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Northern Labour Market Information Clearinghouse

Educational Performance Measures

The Alberta Advanced Education and Career Development (AECD) Annual Report, 1995/96 contains a number of performance measures designed to show the ministry's progress toward its goals of increased accessibility, responsiveness, affordability and accountability. For many of these measures, the ministry's report compares Alberta figures to national ones. Alberta generally fares well in these comparisons. The present report seeks to examine how the people and educational institutions of northern Alberta match up against the province as a whole.

For this report we have chosen to focus on those measures reflecting accessibility and responsiveness. The final selection of measures to compare in this report was based largely on availability of northern data. Some comparisons were impossible because data was not available on a sub-provincial level and in others, regional data was based on population samples that made survey results virtually meaningless.

Where northern information was available, the definition of "northern" Alberta varied with the source and type of information. The northern institutions include the Clearinghouse partners and AVC - Lac La Biche. Universities are not included in most figures as they are very different institutions from the northern colleges and Athabasca University, while a northern institution, does not have a clearly identified northern geographical base that it serves. In terms of populations, the north refers to either; the NADC region plus the area (in terms of Census Divisions) served by Lakeland College in Alberta, or Economic regions 870 and 880, depending on the data available (see Appendix 1).

The data in this report comes from AECD's Annual Report, 1995/96 and from Statistics Canada.

Accessibility

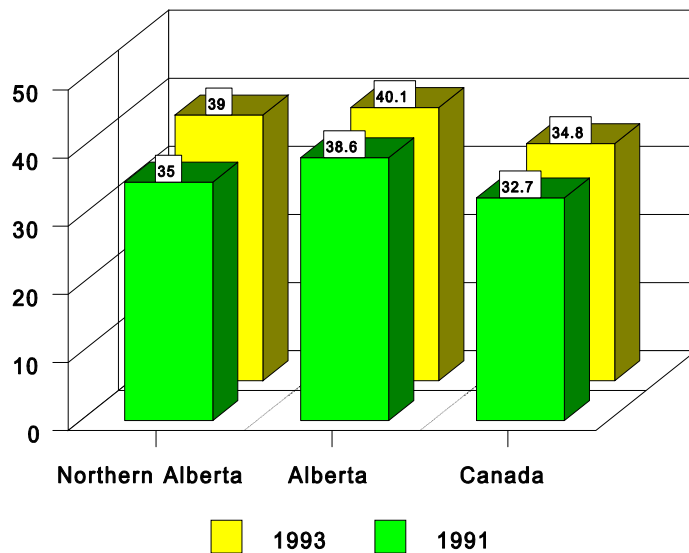
The system will increase access for motivated Albertans to a diverse range of quality learning opportunities. (AECD Annual Report 1995/96)

The key performance measure for accessibility in the Annual Report is the Adult Participation Indicator. Supplemental indicators include learner support (family incomes of students with loans) and the number of applications to post-secondary institutions, neither of which were available for comparison, and Credit Enrolment, which we were able to compare as total enrolment.

Adult Participation in Education and Training

The following two charts indicate the percentage of adults age 17 or older in northern Alberta; in Alberta as a whole, and in Canada, enrolled in any sort of education or training program, part-time or full-time, credit or non-credit. The first chart shows the percentage of adults in courses in northern Alberta, all of Alberta and across Canada. The second shows total enrolment in northern and provincial colleges and AVCs in over three years (1995-96 figures are estimates).

Percent of Adults in Educational and Training Programs



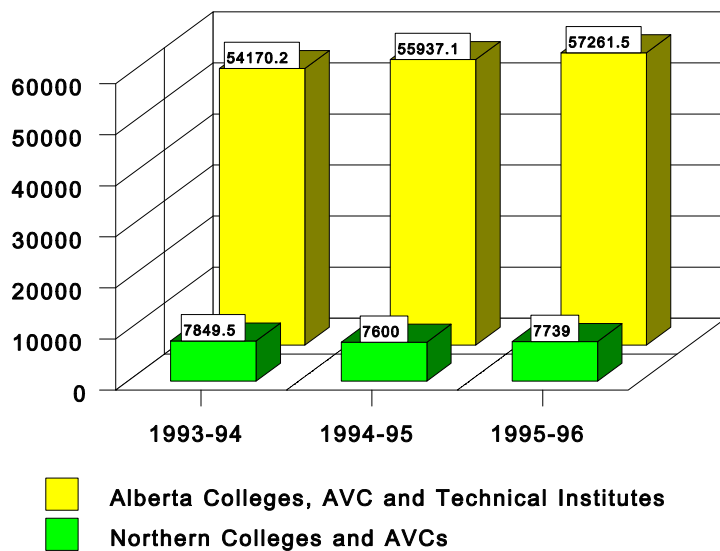
The percentage of northern Albertans enrolled in some form of education or training is lower than that for the province as a whole but still higher than the national average. This percentage increased from 1991 to 1993 in all three jurisdictions.

It is notable that the percentage of respondents on employer-sponsored training programs remained steady from 91 to 93 at 15%. The increase in student numbers came from those without employer support.

Source: Statistics Canada Adult Education and Training Survey, 1992 and 1994

Total Enrolment

Total Enrolment in Public Colleges, AVCs and Technical Institutes



This compares the total enrolment over three years in public colleges, AVCs, and technical institutes.

While enrolment throughout the province rose steadily over this period, northern enrolment dropped in 1994/95. Estimates for 1995/96 show a partial recovery in northern student numbers.

Source: AECD Annual Report 1995/96, Appendix 1-A

Responsiveness

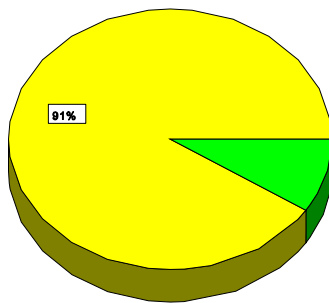
The system will increase its responsiveness to the needs of individual learners and to the social, economic, and cultural needs of the province. (AECD Annual Report, 1995/96)

The ministry used two key measures for responsiveness: Public and Learner Satisfaction Indicators, for which there is no regional data breakdown available; and Employability, for which some northern figures exist.

Employability Indicator

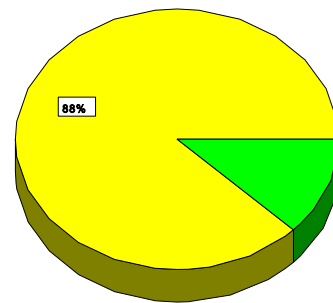
The charts below indicate the percentage of graduates of Alberta advanced education institutions who were employed two years after graduation. For comparison purposes, the institutions involved have been limited to colleges and AVCs. The AECD report also included the number of graduates employed in work related to their field of study; however, the sample size for northern institutions was too small to obtain accurate numbers for such a comparison.

All Alberta Colleges



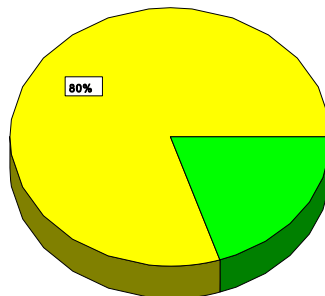
■ Graduates Employed Two Years Later
■ Graduates Unemployed Two Years Later

All Alberta AVCs



■ Graduates Employed Two Years Later
■ Graduates Unemployed Two Years Later

Northern Colleges and AVCs



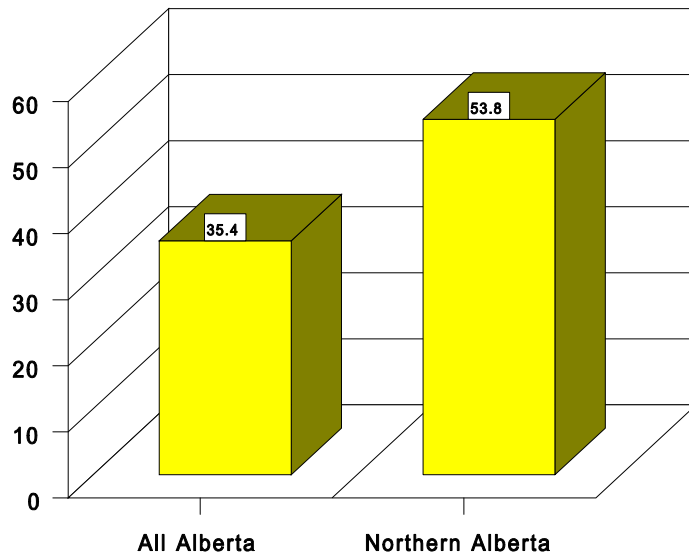
■ Graduates Employed Two Years Later
■ Graduates Unemployed Two Years Later

Source: Statistics Canada, Survey of 1990 Graduates in 1992

Enrollment in Adult Development Programs

The Annual Report also includes several supplementary measures of responsiveness. This indicator shows the percentage of students (counted as Full-Time Equivalents or FTEs) who are registered in Adult Development programs. The chart compares total northern percentages to all Alberta colleges and AVCs. The table following shows a breakdown of those in Adult development programs by the types of course.

Percent of FTEs Enrolled in Adult Development Programs



Students in northern Alberta are more likely to be enrolled in Adult Development courses than are those throughout the province. Those in adult development are more likely to be in Academic Upgrading, Job Readiness Training, Adult Basic Education, and Pre-Employment Training than are those elsewhere

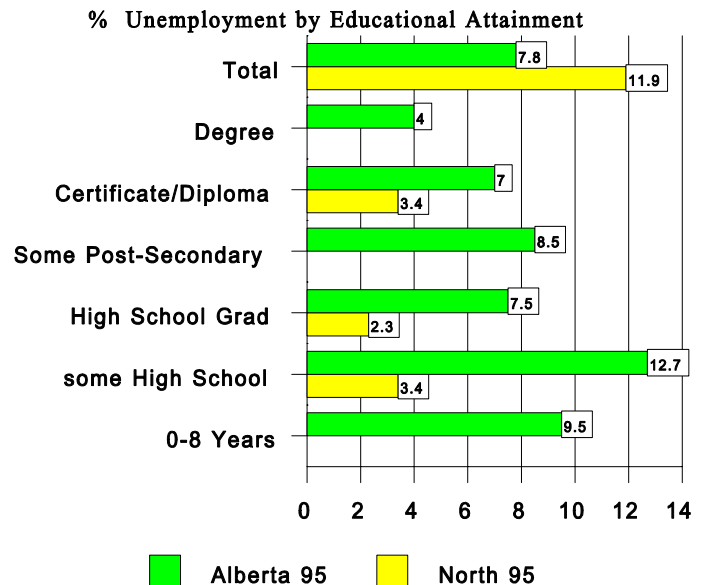
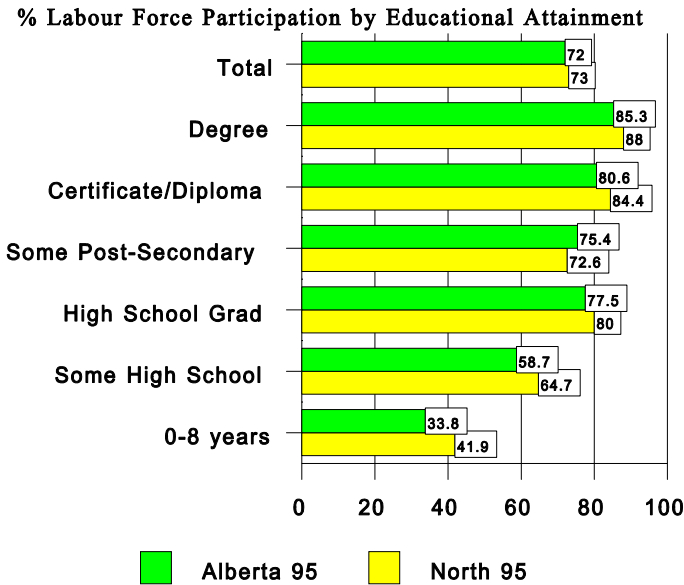
Table 1: Percentage Enrolment in Adult Development Programs by Type

Alberta	Program Type	Northern Institutions
48.9	Academic Upgrading	54.4
0.4	Career/Trades Orientation	0.7
4.8	Job Readiness Training	7.1
6.9	Adult Basic Education	11.5
1.6	Adult Literacy	1.3
11.7	English as a Second Language	1.3
7.1	Pre-Employment Training	10.8
18.7	Skills Upgrading	12.8

Source: AECD Annual Report, 1995/96, Appendix 1-B;

Labour Force Participation and Unemployment by Educational Attainment.

These indicators reflect the percentage of Albertans, age 15 years and older, who are active participants in the work force as well as the unemployment rate, based on the highest level of education achieved.



Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey, Annual Averages, 1995.

In several categories (Degree, some post-secondary, 0-8 years for unemployment) the northern sample was too small to obtain a reliable figure.

Table 2: Change in Labour Force Participation Rate By Educational Attainment, 1991 - 1995 (in thousands of people)

All Alberta	Education Level	Northern Alberta
-13	0 - 8 Years	-2.8
-16	Some High School	+0.7
-19	High School Graduate	-1.6
+10	Some Post-secondary	-9.8
+79	Certificate/Diploma	-2.4
+43	Degree	-3.3

Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey, Annual Averages, 1991, 1995.

While the province as a whole saw significant increases in the number of labour force participants with post-secondary education, the north saw declines in almost every category.

Sources

Alberta Advanced Education and Career Development Annual Report, 1995/96.

Statistics Canada, Profile of Census Divisions and Subdivisions, Alberta - Part A, Ottawa, 1992, 1991 Census of Canada.

Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey.

Statistics Canada, Survey of 1990 Graduates in 1992.

Statistics Canada, Adult Education and Training Survey, 1992 and 1994