

A St Paul Campus Story

Board of Governor's Day of Collaboration & Conversation

December 1, 2016



**PORTAGE
COLLEGE**

The Partners



ALBERTA ADVANCED EDUCATION

ALBERTA INFRASTRUCTURE

WESTERN ECONOMIC DIVERSIFICATION CANADA





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What Initiated The Project?

- ▶ Spring 2004 College received notice to vacate from the Provincial Building as of June 2006
- ▶ Commercial leasing for the college was the only option. No funding is available for the college when we lease
- ▶ Spring 2005 Alberta Government funded a new K-9 school (Glen Avon) for the St Paul Education Region Division #1 (SPERD) the plan included eventual demolition of existing facility
- ▶ August 18, 2005 the MLA connected the partners to present the idea of a facility transfer

Challenges and Solutions

Challenges:

- Timing & money
- Fire
- Drainage issues

Solutions:

- Dream big start small – many phases great persistence
- Government support - financial and nonfinancial
- Partner flexibility and full support and trust
- Town of St Paul to the rescue!



The Partnership Evolution

- ▶ The partners agreed that the idea was in the best interest of the parties and their community and were open to make it work
- ▶ Town of St Paul provided full support -land transfer, financial support, flexibility regarding the recreation centre if that was a deal breaker
- ▶ SPERD – would require a portion of the facility during transition, shared services, willingness to transfer the asset
- ▶ Structure of the partnership involved the College mostly working with the partners individually it was quite informal other than funding agreements we had little in writing as far agreements

Successes

Government

- ▶ Keeps a facility from demolition

Town of St Paul

- ▶ has an additional conference centre and gains a centre of excellence in Food Science

St Paul Education Regional Division 1

- ▶ did not have to initiate full shut down of the facility
- ▶ had cost sharing during the transition to the new facilities
- ▶ sustainable, local post secondary option including dual credit

Portage College

- ▶ Has a sustainable, visible campus
- ▶ Had time to develop power engineering capacity
- ▶ Added programs in 3 in Food Sciences, several University Studies courses and Practical Nursing to St Paul
- ▶ Has capacity for growth



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Key Learning Points

- ▶ Key individuals need to champion within their own organization
- ▶ Stability of players allowed for less formality and easier engagement
- ▶ Flexibility to evolve the vision to fit priority of funders
- ▶ Partnership development takes communication on many levels
- ▶ Maintaining a post-secondary institution in the community involved commitment from many organizations and levels of government

The Future

1. Finalize the Conference Centre and replace windows and exterior cladding

- ▶ Strategic Investment Fund ask of \$7.4million
- ▶ Not funded but watching for opportunities

2. Incubator Use

- ▶ resource to operate catering and store

3. Program expansion when resourcing allows

Thank you to our partners!

