

In Front of What's Ahead

REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY

September 2022 to August 2023





In October 2021, RRC Polytech launched its five-year strategic plan, *In Front of What's Ahead*, with commitments to transforming our learning model to meet emerging needs, enacting Truth and Reconciliation and pursuing equity, diversity and inclusion in everything we do, and deepening our partnerships to maximize prosperity across industry and community.

Since then, College staff, faculty and leaders have evolved the way they work to ensure these commitments are top of mind and being lived every day.

To better understand how well we are doing in implementing the Strategic Plan, RRC Polytech has begun measuring a select number of key performance indicator (KPI) metrics.

The Strategic Plan remains dedicated to strengthening Manitoba's economic, social, environmental and cultural prosperity – through program creation that supports our partners and the communities we serve, through making progress on the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's Calls to Action, through employee development and engagement, and through expanding partnerships to drive strategic growth.

In this report to the community, RRC Polytech is proud to share stories that demonstrate some of the ways the College is building towards the ambitious outcomes of the Strategic Plan, as well as a current snapshot of the newly measured KPIs.

We are proud of what we've achieved together in the last two years and look forward to continuing our growth – for the remainder of this Strategic Plan and beyond.



Message from the President and CEO



When we launched *In Front of What's Ahead*, RRC Polytech's five-year Strategic Plan, in 2021, it was the beginning of a bold new era for the College. We collectively took a conscious approach to find how the Plan's values and commitments fit into our daily work, and how we can use the Plan to align our efforts towards common goals.

What I've personally seen over the past two years is an overwhelming effort from dedicated individuals to put their strengths together and find new ways to support students and grow Manitoba's industries. We created this plan amid a global pandemic that had already disrupted the way we work and think, and it was a ripe opportunity to do things differently. Today, I am proud to see how many staff and faculty at RRC Polytech live out the commitments of this plan in everything they do.

The Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) outlined in this report are a new tool that we can use to focus our efforts even more, and create clear goals for the institution. The KPIs are a true marker of where we are as an institution, which will help us determine what is possible as we continue to move through this strategic plan and beyond. This keeps us accountable to the communities we serve and helps shape the direction and priorities we need to take as Manitoba's polytechnic.

Measuring data in this way has clear benefits. I know each staff member has anecdotes and stories about the events, projects and other efforts that have been made towards the commitments of the Strategic Plan – this can now be backed up through the numbers we are measuring. It is the stories and the numbers together that paint a complete picture of our success, as well as opportunities for the future.

Thank you to our staff, board, partners and stakeholders who have helped us reach this point. I look forward to sharing more with you as we develop and work towards our new goals.

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "FM".

Fred Meier
PRESIDENT AND CEO
Red River College Polytechnic



Message from the Chair, Board of Governors



The information presented in this report represents why I am proud to be a champion for *In Front of What's Ahead*, RRC Polytech's Strategic Plan. For our partners and stakeholders, including staff and students, there is incredible value in reviewing the successes and opportunities that have arisen over the last two years.

While RRC Polytech has had a strong reputation in Manitoba for more than 85 years, reporting on the key metrics of our strategic plan demonstrates transparency and accountability. It shows students and prospective learners that we are dedicated to their academic success and training, it shows donors and industry partners that we are fuelling change, it shows our partners in government that we are remaining accountable to our mandates, and it shows staff and faculty that they are making a difference in the province.

It is also a great value for the Board of Governors. While we usually participate in the College's major events and receive regular updates from the President and leadership team, having concrete data and stories shared helps better illustrate the daily work and commitment being made by RRC Polytech's talented staff and faculty.

I'm impressed and excited about the progress we've been able to make together in such a short time and look forward to continuing the work to put Manitoba in front of what's ahead.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Loren Cisyk". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Loren Cisyk
CHAIR, BOARD OF GOVERNORS
Red River College Polytechnic

Message from the Knowledge Keepers Council

Since forming the Knowledge Keepers Council in January 2022, we've convened regularly with members of the RRC Polytech community to discuss, develop and provide insight on a wide range of projects and proposals to help support the College's efforts towards addressing the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's 94 Calls to Action and advancing Indigenous education in Manitoba.

Our Council is made up of Elders, Knowledge Keepers and Grandmothers from diverse backgrounds. Our cultural and historical knowledge and lived experiences inform the insights and guidance we have shared with the College community over the past year and a half. We want to celebrate the work that has been done, while also recognizing that there is still much more to do on this educational institution's journey towards Truth and Reconciliation. Our call to the community is to continue to work towards this commitment and to dedicate themselves to learning and unlearning.

Collectively, we provide the RRC Polytech community with opportunities to participate in Truth and Reconciliation in a way that was not previously practiced by the College. We encourage staff and faculty to ask questions, further refine approaches to working with Indigenous topics – particularly topics that concern trauma or Canada's true history – and creatively and intentionally incorporate Indigenous perspectives and ways of being into many of the College's functions.

One example is the collaboration on the design of the College's Inclusive Pride flag – an evolution of the Progress Pride flag that includes representation for all 2SLGBTQIA+ community members, as well as specific Indigenous elements.

In 2023, RRC Polytech raised the flags of Treaty One, the Red River Métis, and the new Inclusive Pride Flag as permanent installations at the Notre Dame Campus, along with the federal and provincial flags.

We are also pleased to have recently welcomed Koonshi Ivy Chaske, who will bring teachings, perspectives and guidance from the Dakota Nations. This addition creates more representation and inclusion for the learners and staff we support.

Additionally, the Knowledge Keepers Council would like to acknowledge that prior to its formation, many other Elders, Knowledge Keepers, Grandmothers and community members had contributed to RRC Polytech's current place in Truth and Reconciliation and the direction it will take as it responds to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's 94 Calls to Action – and that many more will, as the Council grows in participation and scope.

Chii miigwech.

Elder Paul Guimond, Okonace
Knowledge Keeper Richard Curé,
Mashkode Bizhiki

Elder Allen Sutherland,
Waabishki Mazinazoot Mishtaatom

Kookum Barbara Bruce

Elder Albert McLeod, Mashkode Giizhig

Elder Martha Peet

Grandmother Janice Millar

Koonshi Ivy Chaske

Commitment 1:

Transform our learning model to meet emerging needs

RRC Polytech is committed to helping all Manitobans access their education and training needs. Over the last two years, the College has adjusted existing programs and learning models and created new programs and micro-credential courses to meet the training needs of learners in the rapidly shifting and evolving world of today and beyond.

The College has met with Indigenous communities and regional communities to grow existing relationships, forge new partnerships and determine the best ways to turn existing barriers into opportunities for education.

Student success requires more than just access. It also requires mentorship, and wrap-around supports and services that are unique to each student.



STUDENT SUCCESS

Graduation Rate



Percentage of students who complete a prescribed program of study in the designated timeframe:

72%

The Graduation Rate is based on 2x (200%) the earliest graduation point based on full-time study for a program, and on when students enter a program of study for which there is an expectation of graduating with a credential within the time limitations as set out by Policy A20.

Graduate Employment Rate



Percentage of students who find employment in their field of study within six to 18 months, post-graduation:

88%

This figure represents those students who go on to work in the field for which they trained at RRC Polytech, sometimes referred to as the Graduate Training-Related Employment Rate.

RRC POLYTECH'S LOCAL PROGRAM DELIVERY DEMOLISHES BARRIERS TO LEARNING

Hollow Water First Nation became the latest community to benefit from RRC Polytech's commitment to delivering new programs in the communities where students live and work. This spring, a group of 12 students in the community embarked on their learning journey as the inaugural cohort of the College's new Educational Assistant certificate program.

"The biggest thing I like about the program is that it's home, it's right in the community," says student Chloe Seymour. Like many of her classmates, she dreams of becoming a teacher in Hollow Water and views the program as a crucial stepping-stone to achieving her goal.

Local program delivery reflects RRC Polytech's dedication to addressing community needs across the province, and to bridging the educational divide between Indigenous and non-Indigenous students. Many students lack opportunities for education outside their home community or face barriers to transportation. Studying close to home allows them to care for children or attend to other family responsibilities. Smaller class sizes mean they are more engaged in learning and interaction with classmates and instructors.

RRC Polytech has already delivered programs in Fisher River Cree Nation, Peguis, Sagkeeng and Brokenhead First Nations. The College's strong relationship with these communities and the overwhelming success of these programs led RRC Polytech to deliver the new Educational Assistant program in Hollow Water. The College will offer more localized programs there this fall – shortly before the first cohort graduates.

CENTRE FOR NEWCOMER INTEGRATION FLOURISHES THANKS TO BMO SUPPORT

A \$300,000 donation from BMO Financial Group is giving a big boost to newcomer success in Manitoba. BMO's generous funding enables RRC Polytech's Centre for Newcomer Integration (CNI) to enhance engagement with stakeholders, expand partnerships, and tailor support services to meet student needs.

The partnership between RRC Polytech and BMO allows both organizations to enhance their commitment to economic growth and inclusivity by empowering newcomers to build a promising future in the province.

Formerly known as the Language Training Centre, the newly renamed CNI offers language and communication training, employment preparation, events, counseling and other supports to more than 2,500 students annually, helping them integrate more quickly into Manitoba's economy. The Centre is located at Manitou a bi Bii daziigae.

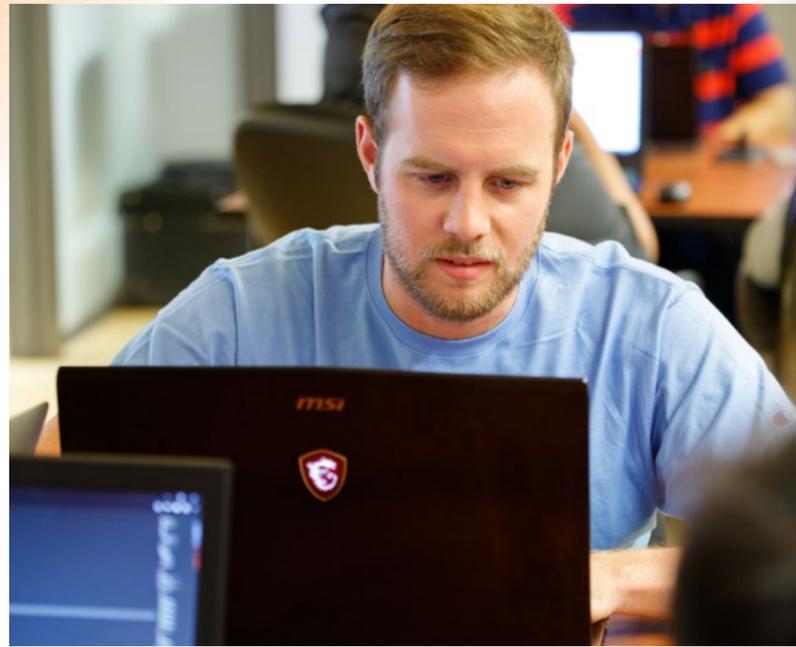
Student Valeriia Bielous says, "I'm a newcomer from Ukraine, and I can say, for myself and other newcomers who attended these courses, how important it is to have a comfortable, supportive place to learn like the new Centre."



MICRO-CREDENTIALS AT RRC POLYTECH

Micro-credentials allow students to learn a specific skill or set of skills in order to remain competitive in the labour market. RRC Polytech's Corporate Solutions team works with businesses across the province to create industry-specific and community-specific micro-credentials to complement the College's existing suite. Some notable micro-credentials that have recently launched include:

- **Siemens Level 1 Mechatronics Certification Program (four micro-credentials) offered through the Price Institute of Advanced Manufacturing and Mechatronics** – Emphasis is placed on efficiently operating complex mechatronic systems, troubleshooting and foreseeing problems.
- **Indigenous and Canadian Government Relations** – This course focuses on Section 35 of the Constitution Act and the Duty to Consult. Using an Indigenous lens, students will learn about the relevant laws, principles, policies and obligations to work towards reconciliation, such as the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's (TRC) Calls to Action.
- **Electric Vehicle Communication and Computer Systems** – This course provides technicians with an advanced skill level diagnosing vehicle networking and computer systems related to hybrid and electric vehicles.
- **Shelter Support Worker** – The tuition-free, online Shelter Support Worker micro-credential program is an excellent opportunity for potential shelter workers to connect with local shelters. Completion of the full courses and work placement may lead to permanent employment at a shelter. The program is a partnership between RRC Polytech and the Manitoba Association of Women's Shelters, with funding provided by the Province of Manitoba.



MEETING MANITOBA'S TRAINING NEEDS

Customized Offerings



Count of customized offerings delivered through Corporate Solutions, Academic Schools, Technology Access Centres and Regional Centres paid for by a third party such as an employer, plus micro-credentials:

65

New And Renewed Academic Programs



Count of new and renewed academic programs. This includes all credit programs that have gone through approval or program renewal during the report period:

8

EMPOWERING INDIGENOUS STUDENTS THROUGH MENTORSHIP

RRC Polytech has launched a new Indigenous-led mentorship program that will provide more Indigenous students with access to life-changing education and training while strengthening ties with Indigenous communities. And it's all thanks to a \$500,000 investment from Canada Life.

As Brian Bowman, Vice-President of Sustainability and Social Impact at Canada Life, says, "Education opens doors, but the end-to-end student journey isn't always easy, and this new program will help Indigenous learners achieve their goals."

Indigenous culture will be central to how RRC Polytech builds the program. The initiative spans all College programs and campuses and has three aims: to instill confidence in students, foster connections on campus, and promote reciprocal learning between students and employers. Indigenous learners who participate in the program will connect with seasoned industry professionals to expand their networks and build relationships. These connections will give students the tools they need to have an impact in their communities and beyond. At the same time, mentors stand to gain from the fresh insights of emerging professionals. After graduation, mentees can become mentors, continuing the cycle of support. RRC Polytech is preparing to launch the program for as many students as possible next year.



RRC POLYTECH PIONEERS CUTTING-EDGE HEALTH-CARE LEARNING WITH NEW SIMULATION CENTRE

RRC Polytech broke ground earlier this year on a state-of-the-art Interdisciplinary Health Sciences and Community Services Simulation Centre. Backed by a \$12.53-million investment from the Province of Manitoba, the Centre will blend theoretical learning with hands-on training for the College's Health Sciences and Community Services students.

Construction on the new centre has already begun at the College's Notre Dame Campus and will conclude in two years. Spanning 16,630 square feet, the facility will simulate real-life health and community scenarios for hands-on training. Over 1,000 students from 15 diverse programs – ranging from Nursing to Early Childhood Education – will use the Centre annually. The facility will offer an array of immersive, practical settings for students to train in, including a triage station, hospital ward and simulated apartment. The diversity of simulated environments will promote interdisciplinary learning and collaboration.

RRC Polytech and the Province of Manitoba are committed to nurturing a robust health-care system. Creating more opportunities for simulation-based learning – an approach championed by accrediting bodies in the health-care professions – will enrich students with in-depth theoretical knowledge and practical experience, setting them up for success in a professional field hungry to expand and innovate.



Commitment 2:

Commit to Truth and Reconciliation. Pursue equity, diversity and inclusion in everything we do.

The RRC Polytech community continues to take meaningful and intentional steps towards its collective commitment towards Truth and Reconciliation. The community looks at the work done over the last two years as just the beginning. This is a lifelong path all must continue to walk as they learn and unlearn the harms of the past, while committing to move forward in a way that helps the entire community move forward in a more understanding and equitable way.

RRC Polytech cares deeply about the people within its community, and is committed to promoting equity and diversity, while fostering a culture of inclusion where all students and employees feel valued, respected and included.

To advance the strategic commitment of pursuing equity, diversity and inclusion in everything it does, the College delivers an Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Program that EDI action planning at corporate and departmental levels, and a network of EDI employee working groups.



EMPLOYEE TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

As an academic organization, RRC Polytech must build on its strengths by developing and providing a variety of learning opportunities for students and staff.

To ensure each individual employee understands their role in RRC Polytech's commitment to Truth and Reconciliation and equity, diversity and inclusion – as well as creating a safe environment to work and learn – all staff must complete the following mandatory trainings*:

Respectful College: RRC Polytech's policies have been updated to reflect its unwavering commitment to a Respectful Workplace and Learning Environment for all employees and students. This course for all leaders and staff orients participants to the new policy, as well as an exploration of what harassment and discrimination look (and doesn't look) like, the process and obligation to disclose incidents of sexual violence, and how they can, in practical terms, do their part to ensure that everyone at RRC Polytech experiences respect.

4 Seasons of Reconciliation: Developed by the First Nations University of Canada, this beautifully designed course provides transformative learning about Truth and Reconciliation and anti-racism education that promotes a renewed relationship between Indigenous Peoples and Canadians. Enriched with powerful stories of Indigenous experiences and history – as well as videos by Elders and other experts, stunning multi-media, and customized RRC Polytech content – this is a primer on reconciliation that all Canadians need.

Anti-Racism: A Journey to Allyship: This new course tackles urgently needed and under-acknowledged issues of racism in Canada, with a particular – but not exclusive – focus on anti-Black racism. Opening with a stunning short documentary from Canadian journalist Desmond Cole, this course cracks open concepts of privilege, unconscious bias and decision-making, the difference between anti-racism and systemic racism, why microaggressions are called “death by a thousand cuts,” and why silence makes things worse. Participants will leave with concrete actions they can take towards racial equity and tackling discrimination that make a difference.

Accessible Customer Service: RRC Polytech employees are obligated to provide accessible customer service to everyone in the workplace, including students, fellow employees and members of the public. This course includes an introduction on barriers to accessibility, how to remove them, and a review of several case studies. The course includes three short quizzes, and is mandatory within 14 days of being hired at RRC Polytech.

All instructors are required to complete the **Teaching for Learning** certificate program. This program has EDI embedded throughout the program's curriculum.

(*Note: The requirement for all employees to complete these mandatory EDI trainings was implemented prior to the KPI annual reporting period, but remains a mandatory requirement within the reporting period. The Respectful College and 4 Seasons of Reconciliation training completion rates are reported KPIs.)

ADVANCING TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION

4 Seasons of Reconciliation Staff Training Completed

Percentage of employees who have completed the 4 Seasons of Reconciliation course:



As of September 2023, 63% of staff have completed this training. As staff are hired throughout the year this number may fluctuate between terms.

ADVANCING EQUITY, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

Respectful College Staff Training Completed

Percentage of employees who have completed the Respectful College course:



As of September 2023, 70% of staff have completed this training. As staff are hired throughout the year this number may fluctuate between terms.

FLAG RAISING CELEBRATES UNITY, PRIDE AND INCLUSIVITY

In June 2023, RRC Polytech marked National Indigenous History and Pride Months by permanently raising flags of Treaty One Nation and the Red River Métis, as well as the College unique Inclusive Pride flag, at the Notre Dame Campus. The three flags wave as a testament to the history of the land, respect for the treaties made on the land, and representation of the people who live here.

Each flag tells a story. The Treaty One flag represents the Anishinaabe and Nehiyaw's rich history. The Red River Métis flag celebrates the Métis' central role in Manitoba's history. The Inclusive Pride flag incorporates distinctive Indigenous symbols that emphasize a bond with Indigenous traditions and teachings.

Attending the flag-raising ceremony were representatives from the Manitoba Métis Federation (MMF), Peguis First Nation, Sandy Bay Ojibway First Nation and RRC Polytech's Knowledge Keepers Council, along with Elders and Knowledge Keepers from Treaty One Territory.



RECONCILING A BROKEN TRUST

RRC Polytech opened Truth and Reconciliation Week in 2022 by signing the Indigenous Education Protocol. A national initiative of Colleges and Institutes Canada (CICan), the protocol highlights ways to address Indigenous peoples' learning needs and support Indigenous communities' self-determination and socio-economic development.

The specific commitments outlined in the document include prioritizing Indigenous education, respecting Indigenous governance structures, fostering holistic learning environments for students, and increasing Indigenous representation in faculty and administration.

These actions are imperative for post-secondary institutions like RRC Polytech, which play a significant role for First Nations, Inuit and Métis learners. RRC Polytech collaborates with its Indigenous councils and leaders, and offers culturally rich spaces, staff training and multiple Indigenous-focused events.

Signing the protocol strengthened the institution's dedication to mending trust in the education sector, increasing opportunities for collaboration, integrating Indigenous knowledge, and promoting Truth and Reconciliation.



TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION MILESTONES

Other highlights from 2022/2023 include:

- Learning about Indigenous research methodologies that encompass Indigenous engagement using Ownership, Control, Access, and Possession (OCAP) principles. To facilitate this knowledge, Dr. Lorena Fontaine and Dr. Shaun Wilson held a session for staff and external partners to gain knowledge on these concepts. As RRC Polytech continues to foster strong research alliances, these OCAP principles will be integrated into all future research projects.
- Developing a Sustainable and Socially Responsible Procurement Program which will help guide RRC Polytech in transforming our procurement activities and supplier engagement to act as critical enablers in achieving our mission of elevating people, industry and community in Manitoba.
- Creating Truth and Reconciliation 360° Video Immersive Room Experience in consultation with Emerging Media and Production and the Knowledge Keepers Council. This resource provides opportunity to immerse in an introductory story of Truth and Reconciliation, from the relationship with "Earth Mother" to the experience of residential schools.

Students by Equity-Deserving Groups

Percentage of total enrolled students in equity deserving-groups, as identified in the Employment Equity Act of Canada against provincial Statistics Canada demographics, specifically women, Indigenous Peoples, persons with disabilities and racialized persons.

Equity Deserving Groups

	WOMEN	INDIGENOUS PEOPLES
Fall Term	44%	9%
Winter Term	50%	9%
Spring Term and Intersession	53%	3%
Labour Market Percentage	48%	13%

Percentages are based on total student population. Population fluctuates from term to term, which affects the total number of declarations. Subsequent reports will include data for students with disabilities and racialized persons.

Employees by Equity-Deserving Groups

Percentage of total active employees* in equity-deserving groups as identified in the Employment Equity Act of Canada against provincial Statistics Canada demographics, specifically women, Indigenous Peoples, persons with disabilities and racialized persons. All data is based on self-declaration:

Equity Deserving Groups

	WOMEN	INDIGENOUS PEOPLES	RACIALIZED PERSONS	PERSONS WITH A DISABILITY
Total Employee Population*	47%	7%	13%	6%
Labour Market** Percentage	48%	13%	25%	19%

The above chart is an average based on employee declarations made between September 2022 and August 2023. Staff numbers fluctuate from term to term, which affects the total number of declarations.

*Percentage based on total employee population (n=2,200).

**Labour Market Data on women, Indigenous Peoples and racialized persons was sourced from the 2021 Census. Labour Market Data on persons with disabilities was sourced from the 2017 Disability Survey.

NEW CAMPUS WALKWAYS HONOUR 2SLGBTQIA+ INCLUSION

RRC Polytech celebrated diversity and inclusion by unveiling an inclusive Rainbow Walkway at its Notre Dame Campus entrance in September 2022. The 14m x 7m walkway is a representation of the 2SLGBTQIA+ (Two-Spirit, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer/Questioning, Intersex and Asexual) community, laden with historical and cultural significance. Similar artwork was also installed at the College's Exchange District and Portage Campuses.

The symbolism of the walkway's Pride design holds deep meaning. The triangle symbolizes the mark worn by LGBT prisoners in Nazi concentration

campus. Its position at the bottom of the design creates a tepee that reflects First Nations heritage. The Medicine Wheel signifies traditional Indigenous wisdom. The surrounding circles stand for intersex individuals.

The walkway is a collaboration of various groups, including the Knowledge Keepers Council and Rainbow Resource Centre. The unveiling of the walkway coincided with RRC Polytech's decision to forefront "2S" in the 2SLGBTQIA+ acronym, paying homage to Two Spirit Peoples' significance in Indigenous traditions. The walkway is reinforced for everyday use and serves as an invitation for everyone to walk with pride.



Commitment 3:

Deepen partnerships to maximize prosperity across industry and community

RRC Polytech has built a strong reputation across Manitoba, and continues to build new partnerships with industry and community every day, while ensuring financial sustainability.

The College is dedicated to advancing research in Manitoba, bolstering partnerships for mutual success, and creating a strong network within our community.



RRC POLYTECH'S COMPREHENSIVE CAMPAIGN: IN FRONT OF WHAT'S AHEAD

Comprehensive Campaign Progress



Total funds raised from all sources towards overall *In Front of What's Ahead* comprehensive campaign goal:

98%

This figure is reported as a percentage of progress towards the Comprehensive Campaign target of \$60M.

Thank you to our generous donors for helping RRC Polytech raise \$58,718,427 as of August 2023. Your gifts are making a direct impact for today's learners and will allow the College to create more supports and programs to help future students achieve success.



\$10M-INVESTMENT FROM THE PRICE FAMILY FOUNDATION TO BUILD A NEW ERA FOR MANITOBA MANUFACTURING

A transformative investment by industry leader Dr. Gerry Price, his wife Barb Price, and the Price Family Foundation, augmented by support from federal and provincial governments, has established the Price Institute of Advanced Manufacturing and Mechatronics at RRC Polytech.

This incredible investment results from a two-year dialogue between RRC Polytech and Dr. Price concerning the fragile state of Manitoba's manufacturing sector. Following robust discussions with industry stakeholders, the Price family committed to a pivotal \$10-million donation – the largest in RRC Polytech's history. The Province of Manitoba and the Government of Canada enhanced this investment with \$4.96 million and \$3 million in funding, respectively.

The Price family's gift will help RRC Polytech build a competitive, highly skilled workforce for Manitoba's manufacturing sector, stimulate research and innovation in small and medium manufacturing enterprises, and cultivate collaborations between industry and education aimed at transforming technological disruption into growth opportunities.

The new Institute will introduce two post-graduate diploma programs, an innovative project space, micro-credentialing options, and Manitoba's first Research Chair in Advanced Manufacturing. Based at RRC Polytech's Notre Dame Campus, the Institute will leverage the College's expansive resources, including over \$35 million in advanced equipment at the Technology Access Centre for Aerospace and Manufacturing.

The federal investment, administered by Prairies Economic Development Canada, will enhance learning spaces and curriculum development. The province's commitment will bolster technological advancement and targeted skills training.



RBC PARTNERSHIP CELEBRATES INDIGENOUS ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Indigenous food, fashion and music took centre stage at RRC Polytech's downtown campus last April, when students, staff and community members gathered for an immersive celebration highlighting the importance of entrepreneurship in Indigenous culture. *Indigenous Food, Fashion and Music: An RBC Reaction by Collision Community Event* filled Manitou a bi Bii daziigae with inspiring sights, sounds and smells, including a high-end fashion show, tantalizing dishes from local chefs, a marketplace of crafts from local artisans, and musical tunes from Juno nominees Indian City.

A collaboration with RBC Future Launch, the event underscored the significance of inclusion, representation and collaboration in fostering innovation and community growth.

"Inclusion is the cornerstone of innovation," says Herb ZoBell, Vice-President, Commercial Financial Services, Indigenous Markets at RBC. "When we create bridges between diverse voices to connect with one another, it provides an opportunity where potential may flourish and where we as a nation can rise to meet the challenges of tomorrow."

RBC Future Launch has donated \$1 million to diverse College initiatives since the beginning of this longstanding partnership, including \$450,000 to a previous event for the College's IT programs for Indigenous Manitobans.

Business And Organizations Supported Through Applied Research



Applied research projects with businesses and organizations supported by RRC Polytech April 2022-March 2023:

313

FEEDING OUR MOST VULNERABLE

Innovative thinking led a group of Culinary Research co-op students to produce over 500 kilograms of food for Main Street Project, a Winnipeg community organization serving marginalized communities. The food set a donation milestone for RRC Polytech's Prairie Research Kitchen (PRK), where students worked to repurpose ingredients from research trials that might otherwise have gone to waste.

Wastage continues to pose a global challenge across the food value chain. The PRK's research with food industry clients often involves several trials that result in edible leftovers. Repurposing these leftovers to help those in need allowed the students to practice food science using limited ingredients – in this case, pea fibre-based products – while exploring ways to reduce waste that can be replicated throughout the industry.

PRK pushed the donation past 500 kilograms by maximizing the use of pea fibre generated from a product integration project with Pulse Canada. PRK's most recent delivery to Main Street Project featured pea fibre bread and pea fibre chicken deli meat converted into tasty breakfast-themed items, including a sweet, French toast-style strata (a type of layered breakfast casserole), a savoury strata, and a chicken sausage. Best of all, the donated food is safe, healthy and delicious.



REINVENTING THE WHEEL

Deflated tires aren't just a nuisance for cyclists and drivers – they're also a problem for the agricultural irrigation systems that rely on them for movement and positioning. Thanks to ongoing support from the Technology Access Centre for Aerospace and Manufacturing (TACAM) at RRC Polytech, Matt Waldner of Cascade Manufacturing has developed a low-maintenance, all-steel bolted wheel that resists deflation, wear and cracking due to rubber degradation.

Cascade, a company located in MacGregor, Man., began designing the bolted wheel in 2018. When Waldner's initial prototype presented problems, TACAM researchers were able to pinpoint areas of high mechanical stress and potential failure points. The result? A more robust design – and a final product that Cascade is now marketing to customers worldwide. Waldner expects to make and sell 150 wheels in 2023.

The collaboration proved so successful that Cascade and TACAM have rolled on to another project – this time, a nozzle design for sprinkler irrigation systems.

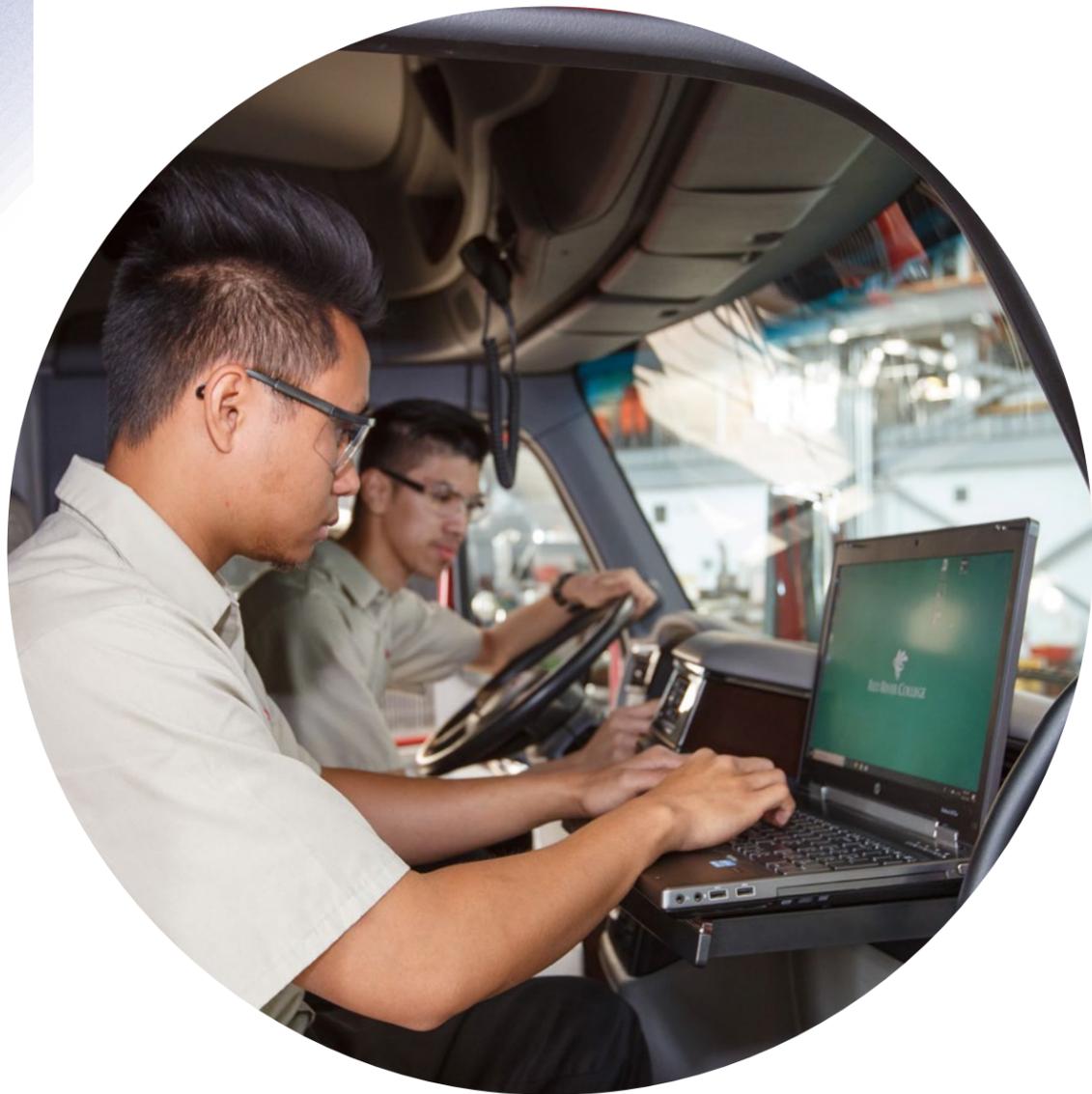


TRUCKING GETS AN ECO-BOOST

RRC Polytech's Vehicle Technology and Energy Centre (VTEC) is accelerating the efforts of Manitoba's transportation sector to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Thanks to generous new funding, VTEC's Efficient Trucking Program (ETP) has returned to provide rebates for truck drivers and transportation companies who install fuel-saving devices or technologies related to tire and rolling resistance, aerodynamic technology, and anti-idling technology on their heavy-duty vehicles or trailers.

The initiative was bolstered by a \$3.6-million commitment from the Canadian government, \$3.3 million from the Manitoba government, and \$6.6 million from the local trucking sector. The ETP aims to offset up to 50 per cent of fuel-saving technology costs. The project is expected to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by up to 120,000 tonnes by 2030 – roughly the equivalent of conserving 51 million litres of gasoline annually.

The program has already achieved impressive results, including 366 successful applications, 13,583 tons of emissions reduced, 5.3 million litres of fuel saved, and \$21.1 million in economic growth for Manitoba.






RRC
POLYTECH

FOR MORE INFORMATION rrc.ca