

Evergreen Centre for Resource Excellence & Innovation — Training, Demonstration & Research Centre

The Centre was developed in 2009 as a collaborative effort between industry and government as a location to showcase innovative resource solutions and inspire others to implement those or develop new innovative resources technologies and best practices (e.g., **innovative pipeline strategies**, innovative water crossings).

The **purpose** of this centre is to:

- Provide a focal point to inspire and work together (Industry, Government and Community) to **develop innovative resources solutions** (i.e., technologies and best practices) for solving perceived or real environmental issues in an economically sustainable manner by providing a location for **developing, testing, researching, and showcasing best practices**.
- Enhance **communication** and **collaboration** between industry, the public, and the Government of Alberta (GOA).
- Provide an **education** and **training facility** for environmental best management practices.
- **Identify & recognize** formal and informal stewards of the environment as leaders and providing them a platform to share their best practices which will inspire others and contribute to positive perceptions about Alberta's reputation.

Where is the Centre located?

The Centre's location is on a 14 acre plot located (within the boreal forest) in the west end of Evergreen Park, Grande Prairie. The park is overseen by the Grande Prairie Regional Agricultural & Exhibition Society, a not-for-profit organization founded in 1910. Evergreen Park, located just 3 km south of Grande Prairie, encompasses more than 600 acres of crown and developed land. Evergreen Park is the largest full featured exhibition facility north of Edmonton. Large scale special events are hosted there year-round, with over 450 000 visitors annually. The Centre is ten minutes south east of the Grande Prairie Airport.

Major Accomplishments

Evergreen Centre for Resource Excellence & Innovation was founded in 2009 because of a shared vision towards excellence between Government of Alberta, Industry and Community partners. The major benefit of the initiative is the building of relationships that lead to a commitment to develop innovative resource solutions to meet economic, environmental, and social outcomes. The Centre has created opportunities for our area's businesses, which has contributed to sustaining our communities (e.g., Risley Equipment's new technology used in Devon Canada's Jackfish II Interconnecting Pipeline Project in the Oil Sands region).

The Centre added two major demonstration areas in the spring of 2010, one being an area demonstrating an innovative road solution in a wetland environment and an area

demonstrating three different applications and rates of coarse woody debris (mulch, chunk-wood and trees).

The winter of 2011 was significant for the wetland area of the Centre as it was host to a successful winter tree planting (Black Spruce seedlings) research project involving the Government of Alberta, Grande Prairie Regional College and the Oil Sands Leadership Initiative (OSLI- Conoco Phillips Canada, Nexen, Statoil, Suncor Energy, Total).

These groups and organizations have voluntarily contributed to the Centre in the following ways:

- **Evergreen Park** has donated the use of their land for research, testing, and demonstration of innovative technologies and best management practices. The Centre also has access to the TEC Centre to hold conferences, workshops, and training. The Centre increases the capacity of Evergreen Park to support and promote environmental stewardship.
- **Local Oil & Gas Industry & Forestry** staff played a leadership role in planning and developing the Centre.
- **Partners in Resource Excellence (Alberta Environment and Water & ASRD) and local industry partners** are founding members of the Centre and use it to host conservation and reclamation training and to demonstrate best management practices to stakeholders.
- **The Centre for Research & Innovation** in collaboration with local inventors showcases their products at the Centre (e.g., Risley Equipment's mulching equipment, rhino Core Bridge and Innovative Pipelining Strategies).
- **F.P. Innovations** has installed and demonstrated the use of geo-grid reinforced soils bottomless culvert system.
- **Paradox Access Solutions** has committed to installing and demonstrating low impact roads for muskegs in the Oil Sands region at the Centre.
- **Triple G Construction, Kerik Brothers, and Risley Equipment** have generously donated equipment and used innovative equipment at the Centre to pilot land reclamation and conservation (e.g., horizontal grinding, chunk wood roads, and mulching for drivable wood fiber roads).
- **Derek Traylor Public School and the Junior Forest Rangers** are inspired to take positive action on the environment and potentially pursue employment in environmental fields through environmental activities hosted at the Centre.
- **Formal Research conducted by the Grande Prairie Regional College** studying the effectiveness of the winter planting of Black Spruce trees in a wetland environment has resulted in a viable reclamation technique for use in the Oil Sands region of Alberta.
- **Minimal Impact** has installed a pipeline using trenchless drilling technology and installed 4 - 1.2x1.8 culverts (with plexiglass) demonstrating the minimal impact of pipeline construction in a forest landscape.
- **Alternative Energy** is communicated and demonstrated through a Solar/Wind Energy Cabin situated at the Centre

Possible Future Activities (order of priority):

- **Canada's National Pipeline Research and Education Centre. Building Social License by educating the workforce and global community through research and developing the most innovative pipeline construction tools, technology and best practices.**
- **Expanded research and development opportunities** for the oil and gas industry, which would showcase best management practices, reclamation practices and alternative energy initiatives.
- First Nations knowledge transfer/Aboriginal Seed Collection Initiative
- Partnership with the University of Alberta to look at the possibility of developing new and innovative ways to re-establish rare and endangered plant species.
- Alternative Energy (Biomass Energy/ Biochar)
- Enhance communities and industries' knowledge and understanding of environmental best management practices through live demonstration events.
- Raise awareness regarding recreational impacts on the landscape.
- Initiate interpretive hikes, and provide a host location for provincial and national stewardship events, interactive displays, and a wetland's interpretive site.

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From Top left to Bottom Right: Sign for Evergreen Centre for Resource Excellence, list of stakeholders, aerial view of Evergreen Centre, site construction group, Site Centre, Innovative Pipelining Strategies (IPS) demonstration site, IPS Training Group, geo-grid reinforced bottomless culvert, wetland road demonstration site, rhino core bridge, mulching equipment, ASRD Reclamation 200 training tour, innovative mats, Lyle's wetland sign, stakeholder group shot and sign.