



## **NEWS RELEASE – Investing in the Future of Lamont County**

**April 22, 2025 – LAMONT, AB:** Students should be exposed to Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) programming early in life. This is why Lamont County Council has approved a \$50,000 grant to Andrew Rural Academy.

“Lamont County is a strong supporter of education opportunities in our region and Alberta’s Industrial Heartland (AIHA)’s Designated Industrial Zone (DIZ),” states Lamont County Reeve, David Diduck. “Programming that provides opportunities to learn skills related to trades, industry, innovation, and for future trending areas such as hydrogen, carbon capture and oil and gas production, is vital to our future. It has a direct impact on industry growth.”

Specific skills and learning position youth for the future. The STEM skillset is in high demand and targeted programs help create opportunities. This foundation is vital to the region and its impact on economic development.

Recently, Andrew Rural Academy received its Charter School designation from Alberta Education and is planning to commence programming in the next school year (fall 2025). This is one vital solution that helps develop strongly skilled students that meet post-secondary institutional requirements in various fields of study.

“We are at an important stage of development and planning for significant future investment,” said Diduck. “Exposing rural students to industry and agriculture programming helps better prepare them for the skills and trades necessary within Lamont County.”

All School Divisions including the Andrew Rural Academy provide significant learning options for students within Lamont County. This supports the 2030 Strategic Plan and a focus of attracting industrial opportunities across the region. Lamont County has room to grow and is #ReadyforYou!

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