

## Green Certificate Program

The Green Certificate Program has been a leader in agricultural training and education since 1975. This apprentice-style agriculture training is available to both adult trainees and high school students (at least grade 10 and at least 15 years of age). Approximately a thousand trainees a year are registered in one of nine specialties: beekeeping, equine, cow/calf, feedlot, field crop, irrigated crop, sheep, swine, and dairy.

Green Certificate utilizes those in the industry as trainers and testers. The idea of trainees learning agriculture tasks by actively doing them is central to the Green Certificate program. Being encouraged to go into the barns, corrals, and fields to learn alongside their trainers, the learning experience is customizable for trainees; especially those who prefer hands-on learning to classroom time. The trainer and/or trainee must have an appropriate farming operation on which to train.

Green Certificate can be accessed directly through a trainee’s school or employer. The Green Certificate Program is accredited by Alberta Basic Education, so an added benefit to Alberta High School students is the ability to earn up to 16 diploma credits for successful completion of their program.

For more information about the Green Certificate Program or the Green Certificate Employment Directory, visit the program’s website at [www.agric.gov.ab.ca/greencertificate](http://www.agric.gov.ab.ca/greencertificate). ♦



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## New life skills programs support First Nations students

New programs that teach positive lifestyle choices and build resistance to high-risk behaviours are being delivered to children and youth at Alexis Nakota Sioux Nation and Maskwacis Cree Communities. The programs are supported by grant funding from the Alberta government over three years.

The Alexis Nakota Sioux Nation and Maskwacis Cree Communities invited the University of Alberta to partner with them to identify an effective program for substance abuse and violence prevention that could be delivered to children and youth in the community. The program is an

internationally-developed, evidence-based program chosen by the University based on its effectiveness with school-aged children.

With support from the Addiction and Mental Health Division of Alberta Health Services, these groups are working together to incorporate the language, visual images and cultural beliefs of each community

The program, piloted in the fall of 2006 with elementary students at the Alexis Nakota Sioux Nation School, will continue delivery of the program and pilot implementation with Maskwacis Cree Communities. ♦