

Home | Innovation Projects | Project

Free education for an inclusive economy

Partners

University of Alberta

Participants People from rural, remote, and northern communities; People without post-secondary education

Locations

<u>Alberta</u>

Additional Partners

Town of Drayton Valley

Topics

Inclusive Economy Pathways to Jobs Skills Training

Related Tags

future skills, rural, Rural remote and northern communities, shock-proofing This radical research project will examine the impact of free education in Drayton Valley, Alberta a town grappling with unemployment and recession. То build an economy less susceptible to threats and shocks, a zerofee education initiative is

being

studied

_

a

daring

approach

to

economic

transition

and

the

only

one

of

its

kind

in

Canada.

The town

of

Drayton

Valley

has

long

been

susceptible

to

the

boom-

and-

bust

cycles

of

oil

and

gas. Since

2014,

it

has

experienced

significant

recession,

with

а

nearly 80%

increase

in

unemployment.

The

pandemic

has

added

further

pressure,

compromising

the

remaining

sectors

that

sustained

the

community.

This

research

by the

University

of

Alberta,

in

partnership

with

the

town,

will

examine

the

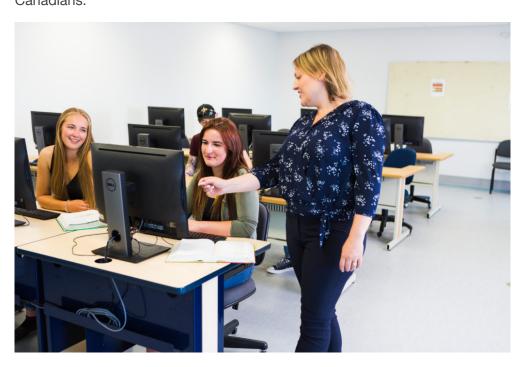
implementation

and

outcomes

of

free education. This strategy aims to stimulate the economy and provide hope by enabling residents to pursue education without leaving the community, while also offering free education to other Canadians.



Future

Skills

Centre

investing \$659,174

in

this 2-

year

project.

By researching

both

the

implementation

and

outcomes

of

the

zero-

fee

education

initiative,

this

research

can

provide

an

innovative

model

for

other

towns and

regions

seeking

to

become

more

resilient

in

the

face of

dwindling industries

and

other

shocks

to

their

economies.

Free education will enable community members to upskill or reskill for employment, while promoting economic development. Zerofee education has the potential reinvigorate the region by removing financial barriers and creating locally tailored educational opportunities.

Evaluation Strategy

This project is evaluated using tools and approaches aligned with its goals, context, and stage of development. The evaluation focuses on generating the right evidence at the right moment to move the intervention forward. Read more about our evaluation strategy.



The Future Skills Centre acknowledges that the Anishinaabe, Mississaugas and Haudenosaunee share a special relationship to the 'Dish With One Spoon Territory,' where our office is located, bound to share and protect the land. As a pan-Canadian initiative, FSC operates on the traditional territory of many Indigenous nations across Turtle Island, the name given to the North American continent by some Indigenous peoples. We are grateful for the opportunity to work in this territory and commit ourselves to learning about our shared history and doing our part towards reconciliation.

© Copyright 2024 – Future Skills Centre / Centre des Competences futures