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Canadian Distance Learning Development Centre—A Cooperative Venture

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In a statement released November 6, 1987, the Alberta Minister of Advanced Education, the Honourable David Russell, announced the establishment of the Canadian Distance Learning Development Centre (CDLDC). The CDLDC is a co-operative venture formed by six partners: Athabasca University, American Telephones and Telegraph (AT&T) Canada Ltd., Alberta Government Telephones (AGT), Alberta Educational Communications Corporation (ACCESS), and two provincial government departments—the Department of Advanced Education and the Department of Technology, Research and Telecommunications.

The CDLDC is governed by a management committee consisting of two representatives from each partner organization and is currently chaired by Athabasca University's Vice President, University Development, Mr. Allan Bleiken. The purpose of the CDLDC is to apply computer, telecommunications, broadcast, and other related technologies to create a more innovative and effective approach to distance education services. It is the goal of the CDLDC to become financially self-sufficient within five years. CDLDC will market distance education products and services locally, nationally, and internationally.

The principal educational goals of the CDLDC are:

- to design and implement distance learning systems that make effective use of technology
- to employ educational technologies in a cost effective manner
- to maximize the success of students engaging in distance learning activities while enhancing the quality of their learning.
- to use technology to develop systems of open learning in which students have better access to post secondary education in spite of barriers of distance and disadvantaged educational backgrounds.

Projects and activities supported by the CDLDC will begin in mid 1988. A 14 million dollar budget over a five year period will support a range of technological and educational activities which Athabasca University anticipates will provide considerable research and development information to the world-wide community of distance educators.

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