

September 27, 2007

Glenbow Museum Reaching Students Beyond Our Walls

CALGARY – Fort Vermilion students are over one thousand kilometres from Glenbow Museum – but thanks to technology, three grade 6 classes are taking part in an engaging, interactive “virtual visit” via the Alberta SuperNet! On Thursday, September 27, Glenbow Museum, Axia NetMedia Corporation and Alberta’s Minister of Tourism, Parks, Recreation and Culture, Hector Goudreau, will be sharing art, artifacts and the stories of our past with these students in northern Alberta!

Come see for yourself how Glenbow, with the support of Alberta SuperNet operator Axia NetMedia, is using the SuperNet to expand and increase access to the museum. It gives children who may not otherwise have a chance to visit Glenbow in person, an opportunity to experience and interact with its rich collections! Teachers also benefit from this program – they now have a new and different way to expose students to the museum in a cost effective and efficient manner. Just think, if the SuperNet didn’t exist, it would take Fort Vermilion area students almost 14 hours to drive to Glenbow Museum. That’s a long way!

"Glenbow Museum's joint venture with Axia NetMedia Corporation has enabled the sharing of Alberta's history with three communities whose real connection with us is through the SuperNet," says Glenbow Museum president and chief executive officer Mike Robinson. "It has proven people no longer have to travel great distances to access Glenbow's rich collections, exhibitions and artifacts, but instead, can have an exciting Museum experience, while staying in their hometowns. The students of Rainbow Lake School, Rocky Lane School and Fort Vermilion School will collectively experience Blackfoot culture through their interaction with artifacts and superb Blackfoot programming provided by Sandra Crazybull and Kattina Michele."

Glenbow’s collection belongs to all Albertans and it is the museum’s responsibility to provide access to it. A distance learning program, like this one, ensures we are meeting those commitments not just for those who can travel here, but for those from far away. Glenbow hopes to use this innovative and exciting tool to build new audiences for our museum, ensuring all students in our province have equal opportunity to engage in our history and culture.

INTERVIEWS: Kirstin Evenden, Director, Knowledge Management
Glenbow Museum
Holly Schmidt, School Program Developer, Glenbow Museum
Geoff Thompson, President, Axia NetMedia
Hector Goudreau, Minister of Tourism, Parks, Recreation and Culture

This program was made possible by:



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Glenbow Museum is one of Canada's largest and most entrepreneurial museums generating nearly 70% of its revenue from fundraising, sponsorships and admissions. Thanks to the community's support, Glenbow is able to showcase a variety of dynamic exhibitions and programs and a broad collection of artifacts, art, and historical documents.

Axia provides Real Broadband™ IP Services and solutions through planning, designing and operating Open Access Next Generation Networks. As the designer and operator of the Alberta SuperNet, Axia operates this 13,000-kilometre, state-of-the-art IP Real Broadband™ network that connects 429 communities and provides direct connectivity to 4,200 government, learning, health, library and municipal locations. For more information, visit its website at www.axia.com.

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