Open Education Alberta Annual Report, 2024-2025

October 2024 - December 2025

About Us

Open Education Alberta (OEA) is a grassroots initiative, formally launched in March 2020 to provide OER publishing infrastructure in Alberta. The service uses a vendor-hosted Pressbooks digital publishing platform which is supported through a cost-sharing model by partner post-secondary institutions in the province of Alberta. Partner institutions provide local support to their faculty, staff, and students in the use of this platform for the publishing of openly licensed and adaptable content.

Our Values

Openness
Open publishing values are the key focus of this initiative. This program reflects this value through supporting the creation and sharing of OER, and generally empowering members of our institutions to engage with open educational practices.

Collaboration
Partner institutions and their content creators will seek opportunities for inter-institutional collaboration for the creation of open content in order to build stronger relationships and communication among Alberta post-secondary institutions and reduce duplication of effort.

Sustainability
As an open publishing service, all partner institutions and their content creators will seek to model the best practices outlined by the open education community while considering the long term viability of our program.

Accessibility
Partner institutions and their affiliated content creators will strive to create accessible and inclusive materials that respect the diverse needs of users.

Program Partners

Pressbooks Program Members

- ★ Bow Valley College
- ★ Burman University
- ★ Keyano College
- ★ The King's University
- ★ Medicine Hat College
- ★ Mount Royal University
- ★ Northern Alberta Institute of Technology
- ★ NorQuest College
- ★ Red Deer Polytechnic
- ★ Southern Alberta Institute of Technology
- ★ University of Alberta
- ★ University of Calgary
- ★ University of Lethbridge

General Members

- ★ Athabasca University
- ★ MacEwan University

Looking Back

Summary of the Year

This year marked significant progress for Open Education Alberta (OEA), with notable advancements in outreach, website and resource development, and our first contract renewal for the shared Pressbooks Program.

- ★ **New General Membership:** This year saw the beginnings of a new membership structure to provide opportunities for non-Pressbooks Program members to engage in OER publishing activities and topics through a General membership option.
- ★ **Newsletter Outreach:** Organized by the Outreach Project Group, OEA introduced its first newsletter in June 2025. To strengthen our General member partnerships, newsletters will include titles from other post-secondary OER publishing programs in Alberta, including Athabasca University and MacEwan University.
- ★ **Website Development:** With the evolution of Open Education Alberta, the website was updated to reflect these changes in membership, governance, history, and to introduce a new space to share OEA's newsletters.
- ★ **Resource Development:** An internal Institutional Representative Toolkit was developed from existing resources and expanded into a more fulsome resource to better support institutional representatives and their local institutional OER publishing programs.
- ★ **Partnership Building:** Coordinated first Pressbooks Program contract renewal with The Alberta Library (TAL) and started to explore future possibilities.

These initiatives reflect our commitment to growing and sustaining a collaborative and well-supported open education community across Alberta.

Current State

Governance

OEA is supported by a leading Steering Committee, Network Manager Support Team for the Pressbooks Program, and project groups to oversee distinct areas of the grassroots initiative.

Steering Committee Members

- ★ Michelle Brailey (University of Alberta)
- ★ Sarah Adams (University of Calgary)
- ★ Robert Lawson (NorQuest College)
- ★ Sona Macnaughton (Red Deer Polytechnic)

Network Managers

- ★ Sarah Adams (University of Calgary)
- ★ Michelle Brailey (University of Alberta)
- ★ Erik Christiansen (Mount Royal University)
- ★ Jessica Norman (Southern Alberta

- ★ Melanie Forrest (Keyano College)
- ★ Michele Pagliuso (NorQuest College)

Outreach Project Group

- ★ Sarah Adams (University of Calgary)
- ★ Michelle Brailey (University of Alberta)
- ★ Dan Cockcroft (Athabasca University)
- ★ Danielle Deschamps (MacEwan University)

Institute of Technology)
- ★ Jocelyn Badley (The Alberta Library)

By-Laws & Administration Project Group

- ★ Sarah Adams (University of Calgary)
- ★ Michelle Brailey (University of Alberta)
- ★ Erik Christiansen (Mount Royal University)
- ★ Jessica Norman (Southern Alberta Institute of Technology)

Our Impact

Statistics for the period of October 1, 2024 to December 31, 2025

About Our Catalogue

- ★ 13 institutions
- ★ 122 titles publicly available
- ★ 140 titles in progress or private
- ★ 25 new titles created

Impact of Our OER Publications

Total Book Views

- ★ 790,349

Total Book Downloads

- ★ 148,020

Our 10 Most Viewed Titles

- ★ **117,221**: The Language of Medical Terminology
- ★ **86,138**: A Laboratory Guide to Clinical Hematology
- ★ **80,027**: Willkommen: Deutsch für alle
- ★ **33,980**: Introduction to Communications
- ★ **33,934**: A Practical Guide to Introductory Geology

Our 10 Most Downloaded Titles

- ★ **10,151**: A Laboratory Guide to Clinical Hematology
- ★ **5,427**: Introduction to Communications
- ★ **4,980**: Business Communication for Success
- ★ **4,936**: Introduction to Academic Writing
- ★ **4,209**: Willkommen: Deutsch für alle

- ★ **27,501**: Insights into Communication Studies: Understanding Foundational Theories for Media Literacy
- ★ **25,280**: Planet Earth
- ★ **23,385**: Business Communication for Success
- ★ **22,013**: Introduction to Psychology
- ★ **20,592**: Geological Structures: a Practical Introduction
- ★ **4,163**: The Language of Medical Terminology
- ★ **3,785**: Contemporary Issues in Collection Management
- ★ **3,389**: Open Textbook of Exercise Physiology
- ★ **3,279**: Foundations of Open Educational Resources
- ★ **3,255**: APA Style Citation Tutorial

Spotlight on Members: NorQuest College

At NorQuest College, with 12 OER publications and 4 more in progress, their local service with Open Education Alberta supports the institution's Zero Textbook Cost (ZTC) mandate to reach 80% of courses by 2030. Already reaching 52% of credit courses, NorQuest learners have saved well over $2.5 million due to ZTC since 2023.

**cost savings calculated based on $86.30 per-student-per-course, the average textbook cost at The Core bookstore in Winter 2023.*

Our Pressbooks Users

- ★ **568 Total Users**
- ★ **+20% User Growth** (increase of 115 users)

Looking Forward

Our goals for the 2025-2026 academic year focus on continuing to build connections and supports for our partner institutions and TAL, expanding our outreach strategies, and demonstrating impact within our province.

- ★ **Collaboration:** Continue to evolve our partnership with The Alberta Library (TAL) in coordinating the Pressbooks Program administration and where TAL's activities and strategic plan align with the mission of OEA.
- ★ **Communications and Outreach:** The Outreach project group will continue to develop the OEA listserv, newsletters, and website. Communication strategies will be

strengthened through the coordination of a communication plan to improve engagement with current and prospective members.

- ★ **Showcasing Impact:** Work closely with institutional partners to explore ways OEA can measure and express impact at varying levels to support the initiative, institutional partners, and OER creators.
- ★ **Advocacy and Support:** Continue to advance resource and advocacy supports for institutions in response to changes in OER publishing, author needs, and needs of our members.

Open Education Alberta Steering Committee

Drafted by: Michelle Brailey and Sarah Adams, Co-Chairs

January 2026