

## The CREATE-REDEVELOP program: Supporting relationships with Indigenous communities within an interdisciplinary training environment

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### Summary

The REDEVELOP (Responsible Development of Low Permeability Resources) initiative was established at the University of Calgary in 2017, with funding from NSERC's CREATE (Collaborative Research and Training Environment) program. REDEVELOP provides interdisciplinary, team-oriented training for graduate students in engineering, geoscience, policy and business at five Canadian universities (Alberta, Western, Waterloo, Toronto and Calgary), as well as mentorship and training for Indigenous interns. The overall objective of REDEVELOP is to train future leaders in government, industry and academia by emphasizing problem-oriented, holistic perspectives on the ongoing energy transformation, highlighting interconnections that cross-cut all of these disciplines as well synergies between Indigenous ways of knowing and western scientific methods. Each year, student teams tackle a project that focuses on a specific energy challenge, such as carbon capture, utilization, and storage (CCUS), geothermal energy, methane emissions and grid-scale energy storage. Each REDEVELOP student team partners with an Indigenous community or business when working on their team energy projects. This approach has helped to build close working relationships with partners, such as the Indian Resource Council, which has provided critical guidance to foster understanding of the variability of Indigenous cultures in western and northern Canada. Since its inception, more than 100 REDEVELOP grad students and undergrad interns have participated in the program, including a 4-day Indigenous relations workshop provided by the Writing Symbols Lodge at the University of Calgary; this is a compulsory component of their training and for most, it is their first introduction to Indigenous history in Canada. Some trainees also complete the *Four Seasons of Reconciliation* short course delivered online by First Nations University. This paper and presentation will provide an update about how this national initiative has developed and flourished, illustrated by key success stories.

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