

## Office of the Vice President, Academic

August 26, 2013

Dear students,

After months of planning, consultation and testing, I am very pleased to announce that Phase 1 of Athabasca University's conversion to eTexts is ready to implement. We will begin using eTexts for 16 of our undergraduate courses beginning with October start dates. A further 16 courses will begin using eTexts in November.

To find out if your course is affected by the conversion, please go to the eText [website \(http://etext.athabascau.ca\)](http://etext.athabascau.ca), where you will find complete directions on what you need to do and links to all the information you need about the project. We are committed to learning from the experience of our first eText adopters. If you have any comments, or suggestions for improvement, please get in touch using the "contact us" link on the eText site.

Our plan is to complete the conversion of 122 courses during the first phase of implementation, with all AU courses for which eTexts are appropriate and available being fully converted to eTexts by the end of year 3 of the project.

Adopting eTexts will assist Athabasca University in achieving a number of goals designed to offer our students the best online post-secondary education available anywhere. The conversion will:

- Enhance student engagement with learning content
- Offer a single access point for learning activities and resources
- Provide greater flexibility and portability for students
- Support and enhance accessibility for students with disabilities
- Reinforce AU's mission to become a world-class online university
- Reduce inflationary pressures on learning resources

We believe the eText Initiative is an important step forward for AU, and will provide you with the best learning materials available. We received valuable input through working closely with students as the project moved forward. Thank you for your help. Your continued feedback and contributions will help achieve impressive results.

Sincerely,



Alex Kondra, PhD  
Acting Vice President, Academic