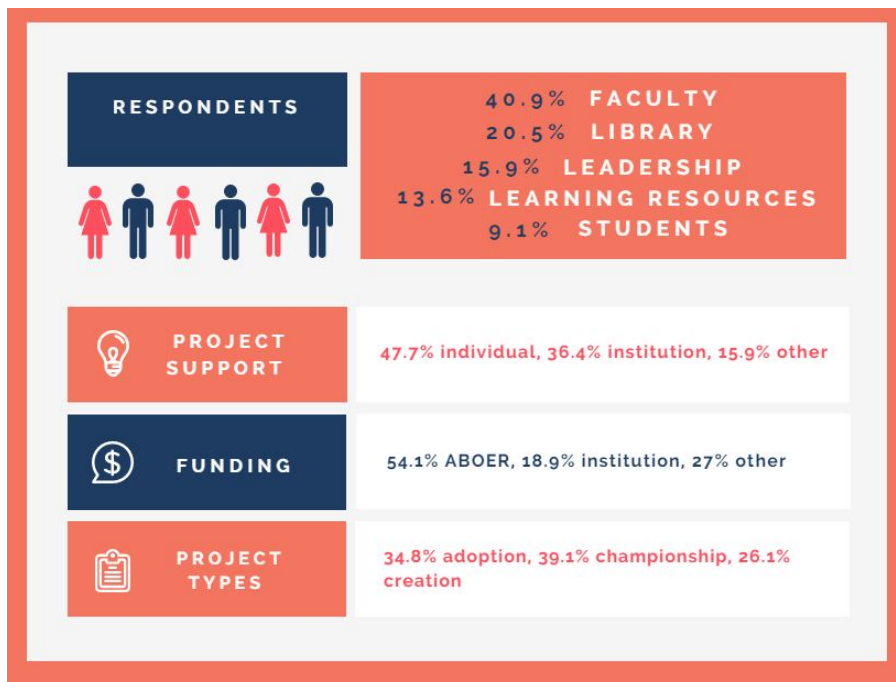# ALBERTA LANDSCAPE

In March 2017, a provincial survey was distributed to Campus Alberta institutions and Alberta First Nations Colleges to collect input on institution-funded OER activity. Responses have been summarized below:

"What drives you or your faculty to adopt OER?" When asked about the objectives of OER initiatives on their campus and what drives faculty to adopt OER, more than half of the responses were student focused. The majority of these student centered responses reflected the desire to provide affordable options for students. Improving students' education, student engagement, and improving distance learning were also mentioned. 11% of respondents indicated pressure from authorities in their institutions as a driving factor in adoption of OER. Other respondents discussed raising awareness for OER or the advantage of OER for creating flexibility with course materials.

"What's next for your institution?" Respondents indicated that they will continue to raise awareness and create OER as they are able to. Many expressed that they are waiting to hear about more government funding, support, or to receive guidance on a clear coordinated approach to OER development. Several mentioned that they hoped to develop or find a group of people with the same vision to work with on OER awareness and development.

"What incentives do you believe would further the OER movement in Alberta?" The majority of responses centered around government involvement and providing faculty and institutions financial incentive. Faculty express that incentives could include funded time and recognition for OER projects. Many people responding to this question stated that there was still the need to develop awareness around OER and that support from the province or a central authority on OER is needed.

RESPONDENTS
40.9% FACULTY
20.5% LIBRARY
15.9% LEADERSHIP
13.6% LEARNING RESOURCES
9.1% STUDENTS

PROJECT SUPPORT
47.7% individual, 36.4% institution, 15.9% other

FUNDING
54.1% ABOER, 18.9% institution, 27% other

PROJECT TYPES
34.8% adoption, 39.1% championship, 26.1% creation

"Those who use OERs do it because they care about their students and want to make sure their learning experience is the best is can be. That includes saving them money and increasing accessibility"

OPPORTUNITIES

Engage students in OER initiatives

Engage administration to promote OER and integrate OER into tenure and evaluation

Engage faculty to contribute to OER and to peer review OER

LIMITATIONS / BARRIERS

Institutional support to adopt or create OER is variable

Provincial centralized authority is temporary (Alberta OER concludes July 2017)

Inconsistency across institutions on faculty recognition for creating/ adopting OER

NATIONAL LANDSCAPE

A review of open education initiatives across Canada was conducted with active participants of the Canada OER network including Saskatchewan, British Columbia, Manitoba, and Ontario. Activity and operating models are outlined below.

The Canada OER network holds monthly nationwide teleconferences with each province. Currently, Alberta's provincial efforts are represented by the Campus Alberta OER program manager. These calls have led to collaborations and mentorships across provinces. This network has expanded in the past year. In January 2016, representation included British Columbia, Manitoba, and Alberta. As of March 2017, representation includes British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario, Prince Edward Island, Creative Commons Canada, and SPARC (Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resources Coalition).

Alberta is currently viewed as a Canadian leader in open education, following British Columbia.
All provinces explored below lead OER initiatives funded with government funding.

BRITISH COLUMBIA

BCcampus via Simon Fraser Government Funding	Leading open education in Canada. BCcampus has 22 core operational staff including 3 staff dedicated to open education which is one of three service lines. The centralized efforts BC has modeled have been recognized across Canada for their ability to build institutional capacity, empower open education champions, and support skill development.	Projects include: - Institutional workshops on adoption (train the trainer) - Institutional incentive program including funding for release time for both OER development and minor open textbook adaptations - Fund reviews of open textbooks in BCcampus collection - 5th annual Open Textbook Summit May 24-25, 2017 - Three Communities of Practice related to open education - Faculty Fellows program

SASKATCHEWAN

Institutional-based University of Saskatchewan Government Funding *activity at Saskatchewan Polytechnic not reported	Saskatchewan's OER efforts are decentralized with funding distributed to University of Saskatchewan (UofS), University of Regina (UofR), and Saskatchewan Polytechnic. The opportunity of University of Saskatchewan to rely on the Teaching and Learning Centre has been beneficial to establish a peer engagement model and mature the scope to "open textbooks" to "open pedagogy". University of Regina Press hired one program manager working with UofR stakeholders.	- OER Fund: production, adaptation and/or use of OER - UofS reached 4,000 students over 3 years with steady growth UofS 2,700 students currently using open textbooks - UofR Press Open Textbook Publishing Program launched March 2016 to develop OER for 1st and 2nd year courses (5 in progress)

	MANITOBA	
Campus Manitoba via Brandon University Government Funding	Campus Manitoba has 8 staff and open education is one of its service lines. Two staff members are responsible for open education efforts; a project coordinator and an OER generalist. Campus Manitoba existing structure allowed them to facilitate faculty-based engagement across the province to conduct an "open education roadshow". Their promotion strategy has relied on peer review honorariums.	- Peer Reviews, $250 honorarium to review OER from repository - 'Report an Adoption' on openmb.ca (voluntary, no incentives) - OER roadshow, grassroots engagement with institutions - Renewal of MOU with BCcampus (June) - Next steps are: continue with Peer Reviews, continue guiding faculty on their adoption projects; OER creation/adaptation projects dependent on future funding

	ONTARIO	
eCampus Ontario Centralized, not-for-profit, Government Funding	eCampus Ontario has 11 core operational staff with open education as one of its service lines. Staff share the efforts dedicated to open education. Four faculty members will join the eCampus Ontario team in April as the front face of the open education initiative.	- Content development fund, 25 projects to date - Majority of funded projects include institutional partnerships - Provincial summit (March 2017) - Investing in provincial open publishing infrastructure and importing the BCcampus Open Textbook Library - Expecting further government support for open resource reviews, adoptions, adaptations and the creation of new materials

	ALBERTA	
Alberta OER Centralized via UAlberta Government Funding	Throughout the duration of the Campus Alberta OER Initiative, the staffing structure has included a dedicated part-time program manager, and as-needed support from librarians, instructional designers, educational developers, programmers, and media specialists.	- 17 OERs developed (textbooks, media, assessments) - 21 Adoption Pilot projects resulted in 41 OER course pilots - 6,000 students confirmed using open textbooks / open resources - Peer Review program open to any OER (18 of 27 awarded) - Community of Practice in development (April to July 2017) - Provincial Summit with satellite locations (May 11, 2017)

UBC tenure and promotion process now includes OER practices in the Educational Leadership stream of the tenure and promotion process.

"Contributions to the practice and theory of teaching and learning literature, including publications in peer-reviewed and professional journals, conference publications, book chapters, textbooks and open education repositories / resources."

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http://www.hr.ubc.ca/faculty-relations/tenure-promotion-reappointment-confirmation/tenure-promotion-reappointment-for-faculty-members/