



University of Alberta planning program donation will help meet Alberta's needs

The U of A's planning school gets some big bucks.

By: [Alex Boyd](#) Metro Published on Thu Jul 28 2016

The University of Alberta's planning program got a major donation from developer Brookfield Residential, which the school says will help meet the need for future planners in the province.

Some of the \$250,000 donation, spread over the next five years, will go to pay for scholarships for both undergrads and grad students, according to Sandeep Agrawal, professor and director of the urban and regional planning program.

The rest will fund distinguished visitors who will provide lectures on planning and sometimes participate in courses.

Agrawal said Brookfield and the City of Edmonton helped start the planning program in 2012. At the time, there was no such schooling available in Alberta.

"There was a period of about six or seven years where there was no planning program across the province, and meanwhile the province was growing every which way," he said.

"Both the public and private sector agencies would bring planners in from all over the country, and even beyond."

He said that as cities like Edmonton continue to grow, having well trained planners familiar with the local landscape will only become more important, which this donation helps with.

"The way I see it is for a long time there was no third voice about planning in the province," Agrawal said, meaning in addition to public and private planners. He adds that academic research can provide an unbiased opinion on development.

The planning program's first graduating class, in 2015, was only a handful of students. This year it was 15, and Agrawal said it should be about 15 to 20 from here on out.

Source: Metro News

URL: <http://www.metronews.ca/news/edmonton/2016/07/28/u-of-a-planning-school-gets-major-donation-from-brookfield.html>