



## ANNUAL REGIONAL INNOVATION SPOTLIGHT EVENT

Celebration of Local Strength.  
Opportunity for Collaboration.

### Grande Prairie

Wednesday, February 19, 2025  
Philip J. Currie Dinosaur Museum



# ASTECH AWARDS

# 2025 ATTENDEE CHECKLIST

# Welcome Message



Thank you for being an essential part of the ASTech Awards Regional Innovation Spotlight Grande Prairie! Whether you're an ASTech alumni, a valued community member, sponsor, or industry leader, your involvement celebrates Alberta's innovation excellence. Together, we're here to honor the remarkable achievements of researchers, tech entrepreneurs, industry leaders, and public champions who are advancing Alberta's innovation landscape.

"We would like to thank **Alberta Innovates** and the **GPRIN (Grande Prairie Regional Innovation Network)** who have been incredible partners in making this **1st ASTech Annual Regional Innovation Spotlight** event a reality. It is our collective honor to honour **Grande Prairie ASTech Award Winner Tracy Persson, CEO of My Breast Day**, by presenting her with her award in her home region. All of Alberta has been cheering Tracy on, a cancer survivor who as an entrepreneur is building solutions that help others in their journey."

Thank you also to **Dr Philip Currie**, past ASTech Award Winner - and world-renowned palaeontologist, and namesake of the **Dr. Philip Currie Dinosaur Museum** for being our keynote speaker. He and his wife and fellow scientist **Dr. Eva Koppelhus** were very generous to provide an easy "yes" when asked to come out in support of the Alberta science and technology community and the Grande Prairie region. Thank you also to the museum team, who were a dream to work with - and extremely supportive in providing their showcase facility, to showcase local innovators at our inaugural **ASTech Regional Innovation Spotlight Event**.

**On behalf of the ASTech Advisory Board and our team of staff, volunteers, partners, and sponsors - thank you all for believing that the collaboration of government, industry, academia, and entrepreneurs - is worth commemorating every year, for the last 36 years!**

Gail Powley  
Executive Director  
*ASTech Awards*

**Wednesday, February, 2025**

## **1st ASTech Awards Regional Innovation Spotlight in Grande Prairie**

### **5:00 PM DOORS OPEN**

- Networking, Conversation Tables, Banners and Tables (Local and Provincial Supports and Entrepreneurs)
- Dr. Phil Currie: Museum Tours, and Meet and Greet
- Dr. Emily L. Bamforth, Curator, Philip J. Currie Dinosaur Museum

### **6:15 PM WELCOME PROGRAM**

- **ASTech Awards/TechAB**, Welcome and Intro to the ASTech Spotlight
  - Peter Kinash, Founding Member ASTech Board
  - Gail Powley, President Technology Alberta; Executive Director ASTech
- **Reeve Marshall, County of Grande Prairie**, Welcome (Region and Museum) and Land Acknowledgement
- **Dr. Michael Mahon, CEO, Alberta Innovates**
- **Dr. Vanessa Sheane, President, Northwestern Polytechnic**
- **Dr. Craig Werner, Director, Partnerships and Engagement, ERA**

### **NETWORKING AND FOOD BREAK**

### **7:00PM KEYNOTE – DR.PHILIP CURRIE**

- Introduction – Dr. Michael Mahon, CEO, Alberta Innovates
- Keynote – Dr.Philip Currie, Dinosaur Expert, Past ASTech Award Winner and Community Builder

### **NETWORKING AND REFRESHMENT BREAK**

### **8:00 PM AWARD PRESENTATION – TRACY PERSSON**

- Gail Powley, Exec Director, ASTech Awards, Award Co-Presenter
- Matt Cornall, Jane Hunter-Uhryn, Barry Yaehne, GPRIN/Alberta Innovates Team, Award Co-Presenters: Introduction and Story
- Tracy Persson, My Breast Day, Award Winner

### **NETWORKING BREAK**

### **8:40 PM DINOSAUR TALK**

- Dr. Emily L. Bamforth, Curator, Philip J. Currie Dinosaur Museum

### **8:45 PM: FINAL PHOTO & DRAW**

### **9:30 PM EVENT ENDS**

# Presenter Details



**Dr. Philip J Currie**  
ASTech Awards Winner,  
World-renowned Palaeontologist



**Tracy Persson**  
Grande Prairie Entrepreneur, My Breast Day  
ASTech Award Winner



**Dr. Mike Mahon**  
CEO, Alberta Innovates



**Dr. Vanessa Sheane**  
President and CEO  
Northwestern Polytechnic



**Peter Kinash**  
Founding Member  
ASTech Awards



**Craig Werner**  
Director, Partnerships and  
Engagement  
Emissions Reduction Alberta

# Location



PHILIP J. CURRIE  
DINOSAUR MUSEUM

Celebrating 10 years of discovery

**Philip J. Currie Dinosaur Museum**  
**9301 112 Avenue**  
**Wembley, Alberta, Canada T0H 3S0**

## MUSEUM DIRECTIONS HEADING WEST

GRANDE PRAIRIE (21MIN)

EDMONTON (5HR):

- For further information, please follow this [link](#).



# Conversation Tables

Table	Hosts	Position	Topic
1	Dr. Terry Kowalchuk	Vice President Academic and Provost	Agriculture and Technology
2	Dr. Jodi Peebles	Dean of Business	Innovation and Industry
3	Megan Stone	Dean of Health	Health
4	Bobbi Craig-Sparkes	Dean of Skilled Trades Grande Prairie	Energy
	Charles Sanderson	Chair of Construction Trades	Energy
5	Tony Shmyruk	Dean of Skilled Trades Fairview	Innovation in Trades
6	Dr. Julia Dutove	Dean of Applied Science and Technology	Social Innovation
	Dr. Connie Korpan	Research Lead for the Centre for Community Enhancement & Social Innovation	Social Innovation
7	Tanya Oliver	Director of Side Family Centre for Entrepreneurial Excellence	Entrepreneurship
8	Dr. Kouadio Bedie	Research Lead at Agriculture & Biosciences Applied Research Centre (ABARC)	Applied Agricultural Research
9	Debra Greig, B.Sc, MBA, Technology Alberta	Principal, Programs	Talent, Entrepreneurship

Thank you to the Northwestern Polytechnic executive, academic, and student teams for their support



# Frequently Asked Questions

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## **1) What should I expect at the Regional Event?**

The evening will include the formal local presentation to the 2024 ASTech Award for Regional Innovation - Grande Prairie winner, networking opportunities, and a celebration with Alberta's top innovators, supporters, and community champions.

## **2) How do I confirm my attendance?**

If you have any issues, please contact us at [astechawards@technologyalberta.ca](mailto:astechawards@technologyalberta.ca)

**3) Photos: Photos will be taken at the events.** You can also take your own photos

**4) Dress Code:** Business Casual

## **5) Will food be provided at the event?**

Yes! Enjoy a selection of food and refreshments at this cocktail-style networking event.

## **6) Tickets: Can I buy more tickets?**

Yes - please go through website at <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/astech-regional-spotlight-grande-prairie-tickets-1100202508319>

# Social Media Engagement

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We encourage you to continue liking and sharing posts from the [ASTech Awards on LinkedIn](#) and [Instagram](#) to showcase your support, participation, and connect with other innovation community member. Make sure to follow us to stay up-to-date with announcements and event highlights.



**@astechawards**



**ASTech Awards**



# Local Sponsors and Partners

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Prairies Economic  
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Thank you to our Sponsors,  
Partners, and Champions

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**ASTech**  
Awards  
Inspiring Innovation



**35**  
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Calgary | Edmonton | Regional  
**3 EVENTS**