

MINISTRY OF ADVANCED EDUCATION MEETING NOTE

PREPARED FOR: Honourable Amrik Virk, Minister of Advanced Education

DATE AND TIME OF MEETING: 2:00 pm, Saturday, October 26, 2013

ATTENDEES: MLA Jordan Sturdy, West Vancouver – Sea to Sky

ISSUE(S): Discussion of Skills Training Opportunities in the Squamish Area

BACKGROUND:

Capilano University Programs and Services

- Capilano University's Squamish campus serves the Howe Sound communities of Squamish, Whistler, Mount Currie and Pemberton. The single campus building, at 1150 Carson Place in Squamish, accommodates two mid-size classrooms, two computer labs, a video-conference room and associated office and support space.
- A limited number of courses and programs are delivered here, including: Academic Studies (some Arts and Science courses), Advanced Wilderness Leadership Certificate, Business Administration Certificate, Business in Tourism Certificate, and Preparatory Studies programs including coordination for regional literacy initiatives and the VISION: Cognitive Abilities Development program.
- Capilano University also delivers or coordinates the delivery of a number of Employment Skills Access Program initiatives, funded through the BC-Canada Labour Market Agreement. Capilano received a total of approximately \$2.5 million in program funding in 2012/13, and will receive approximately \$1.5 million in 2013/14 . See Attachment 1 for a summary of specific initiatives.

Other Skills Training Programs and Services

- Several employment skills training programs funded by the BC-Canada Labour Market Agreement are currently delivered in Squamish. See Attachment 2 for further details. They include:
 - Job Options BC (delivered by the local Young Mens' Christian Association);
 - Targeted Initiative for Older Worker program (delivered by Training Innovations Inc.);
 - Bladerunners Program (delivered by the First Nations Employment Society).
- The Ministry of Social Development provides funding through the BC-Canada Labour Market Development Agreement to WorkBC Employment Centres which provide skills training to EI eligible participants. The WorkBC Centre in Squamish is contracted to Training Innovations Inc. which provides front end services available to all unemployed Squamish citizens such as access to computers, labour market, career decision making and job search information. WorkBC sites can also offer employment counselling, job search support and other financial supports (i.e. Skills Development training supports) to people eligible for EI benefits.

DISCUSSION:

Squamish - Skills Training Facility

- During the most recent Union of British Columbia Municipalities convention, the Honourable Shirley Bond, Minister for Jobs, Tourism and Skills Training, met with a delegation from the District of Squamish on September 19, 2013 to discuss establishing a skills training facility in Squamish.
- Construction of such a facility would need to be supported and facilitated by a public post-secondary institution

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Capilano University - reductions in programs at the Squamish Campus

- Capilano University's budget for 2013/14 includes reductions in programs and services available at the Squamish Campus. Specifically, this includes cancellation of 12 sections of Adult Basic Education (ABE) and 10 section-equivalents in the Squamish Initiatives and Squamish Human Services programs, and reductions of 1.25 faculty and 1.0 staff Full-Time Equivalents.

SUGGESTED RESPONSES:

- *I appreciated hearing your ideas about skills training opportunities in Squamish. The Ministry is taking steps through the Skills and Training Plan to ensure that British Columbians throughout the province have access to the skills training they need to find meaningful and sustainable work in their communities.*
- *As for establishing a new skills training facility in Squamish, I note this was discussed with my colleague Minister Bond in September. Consideration of capital projects by government is subject to available funding and alignment with government priorities. Given current fiscal pressures as well as existing priorities, building a training facility in Squamish is not a priority at this time.*
- *Capilano University is working through a series of budget challenges this year and I have met with them to discuss the issue. They have had to make some hard decisions but I believe Capilano recognizes the continuing value of the programs and services it offers at the Squamish Campus.*

Attachments:

Attachment 1: Capilano University ESA funding summary, 2012/13 – 2013/14

Attachment 2: Text of 2013 UBCM Convention Meeting Note 1-31a

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Capilano University Employment Skills Access Programs 2012/13 and 2013/14

Description	Total funding	Total students
2012/13		
WorkStart Essentials <i>Description:</i> This 7 to 8 week program is designed to provide Participants with core workplace skills and certifications, as well as occupationally-specific skills training in one of three option streams: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Business and Computer Essentials - includes basic computer training, Introduction to Accounting, Quickbooks or Simply Accounting • Introduction to Trades, Aerial Lift Safety Awareness; Confined Space Awareness; Fall Protection; Forklift Operator; General Trades Occupation Skills; Lockout/Tagout (LOTO) Safety Awareness; Occupational First Aid Level 1; WHMIS • Retail & Hospitality Customer Service - Cashier training, Customer Sales & Service; FoodSafe; Occupational First Aid, Serving it Right; WorldHost <i>Area delivered:</i> Lower Mainland, North Vancouver to Howe Sound/ Sunshine Coast		352 students in 22 serials offered between October 2012 and July 2013
Business and Culture in Canada for Foreign-Trained Professionals <i>Description:</i> This 10 week program will assist unemployed foreign-trained professionals to assess and upgrade their essential skills and their technical and job specific skills while increasing their knowledge of the Canadian business marketplace. Prior education and experience will be enhanced through assessment of transferable skills developed overseas, targeted communication and skill development, and exposure to current BC business practices. <i>Area delivered:</i> North Vancouver	s.17	54 students in 3 serials offered between October 2012 and June 2013
Warehouse Supply Chain Careers Program <i>Description:</i> The purpose of this 6 week program is to prepare individuals for work in supply chain/ logistics/warehouse operations and provide safety certification in accordance with the Workers' Compensation Board of B.C. Upon completion of the program, candidates will be eligible for entry level employment or continuing studies in the supply chain sector. <i>Area delivered:</i> North Vancouver		30 students in 2 serials, offered between October 2012 and February 2013
2012/13 totals	\$2,485,454	436 students
2013/14		
Business and Culture in Canada for Foreign-Trained Professionals <i>Description:</i> see above <i>Area delivered:</i> North Vancouver		36 students in 2 serials, offered between July and December 2013
WorkStart Essentials (Retail and Hospitality Customer Service option only) <i>Description:</i> see description above <i>Area delivered:</i> Vancouver, North Vancouver, Sunshine Coast, Port Alberni, Campbell River, Salmon Arm, Revelstoke, Vernon, Nanaimo, Cowichan, Victoria	s.17	240 students in 15 serials offered between July 2013 and January 2014
2013/14 totals	\$1,495,970	276 students

MINISTRY OF JOBS, TOURISM AND SKILLS TRAINING AND RESPONSIBLE FOR LABOUR
2013 UBCM CONVENTION – MEETING NOTE

PREPARED FOR:

Minister Bond's meeting with the District of Squamish on September 19, 2013

ISSUE:

Establishing a skills training program in Squamish.

The Province has committed to ensuring British Columbians have access to the skills training they need to be first in line for current and future job opportunities. The BC Jobs Plan and the Skills and Training Plan are Government's key mechanisms to deliver on the skills training and advancement needed to enhance British Columbia's labour market and support a strong economy.

BACKGROUND / DISCUSSION:

In the community of Squamish, the Ministry currently delivers two employment skills training programs. The programs are as follows:

- **Job Options BC** – funded by the BC-Canada Labour Market Agreement (LMA), the program provides unemployed individuals with skills to find and sustain employment through providing employment assistance activities such as counselling, resume writing, job search skills, short-term certificate training and work experience. The Squamish program is delivered by the local YMCA and will deliver 3 training sessions for 33 participants by March 31, 2014. The funding allocation for 13/14 is \$180,000.
- **Targeted Initiative for Older Worker (TIOW) program** – is a Canada-BC cost-shared program that provides training and job support to unemployed older workers (55-65) in eligible communities affected by significant downsizing or industry closures. The Squamish program is delivered by *Training Innovations Inc* and will deliver 3 sessions for 33 participants by March 31, 2014. The funding allocation for 13/14 is \$368,263.
- In addition, the Bladerunners Program which provides training and support for at-risk youth to obtain and sustain full-time employment will run in Squamish this fall through the First Nations Employment Society. The Bladerunners program is also funded under the LMA Agreement.

All three programs offer participants employment skills upgrading and work experience opportunities in the local area and have been procured under a Request for Proposal (RFP) process.

To date, the total number of individuals that have participated in skills and training programs are as follows:

- Seventy three (73) LMA participants in a variety of LMA training programs have identified as being from the community of Squamish during the 2012/13 fiscal year.
- Eighty two (82) TIOW participants have been identified as being from the community of Squamish since August 2009.

Other labour market initiatives that currently support skills training for the citizens of Squamish are as follows:

Labour Market Development Agreement

Although not directly funding by the Ministry of Jobs, Tourism and Skills Training, the Ministry of Social Development provides funding through the Labour Market Development Agreement to **WorkBC Employment Centres** which provide skills training to EI eligible participants. The WorkBC Centre in Squamish is contracted to *TII Training Innovations Inc* who provides front end services available to all unemployed Squamish citizens such as access to computers, labour market, career decision making and job search information. WorkBC sites can also offer employment counselling, job search support and other financial supports (i.e. Skills Development training supports) to people eligible for EI benefits.

KEY MESSAGES:

- The Ministry is taking steps through the Skills and Training Plan to ensure that British Columbians throughout the province have access to the skills training they need to find meaningful and sustainable work in their communities.
- Government has committed to develop a comprehensive 10-year skills-training plan to ensure a seamless delivery of skills training from high school through to entry in the workforce and ensure skills match jobs.
- Currently, the community of Squamish is also served by Capilano University for post secondary programming as well as a variety of service providers delivering employment and skills training programs.
- The existing LMA and TIOW programs were established through a competitive procurement process. Future opportunities may be available through the renewal of the LMA Agreement in April 2014.

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Last revised: September 3, 2013