

AVED Summer Communications Opportunities

Mid June

- **Modernized StudentAid BC website tools launched**
Possible news release reiterating benefits.

June 17

- **Opening of Hydrogen Fuel Cells 2013 Conference in Vancouver**
Potential BC Innovation Council (BCIC) and BC Acceleration Network / Clean Tech Accelerator partnership announcement. BCIC News Release. Invitation previously extended.

Week of June 21 (TBC)

- **Aboriginal Service Plan funding announcement**
11 institutions sharing approx \$4.4M to deliver programs benefitting First Nations communities.
June 21 date coincides with National Aboriginal Day. News release issued by ministry, in conjunction with Aboriginal Relations ministry. Timing flexible.

ADVICE TO MINISTER

CONFIDENTIAL ISSUES NOTE Advanced Education Date: June 3, 2013	Capilano University Proposed Program Cuts
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ADVICE AND RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:

- B.C. post-secondary institutions regularly undertake strategic planning processes to ensure they are effectively meeting the needs of their students and their local community.
- Capilano University has the authority to make decisions regarding programming, staffing and administration, but it also needs to consult with its academic community.
- I understand the university is now re-examining its options before it makes any final decisions to cut or suspend any programs currently being offered.
- Staff from my Ministry continue to have an ongoing dialogue with Capilano University staff regarding the university's financial pressures and financial sustainability.
- I expect Capilano University to make responsible budget decisions while ensuring a continued high standard of education for students.

BACKGROUND REGARDING THE ISSUE:

- In April 2013, media reported that Capilano University would be cutting its studio art and textile arts programs as part of the university's plan to address its budget deficit.
- The plan was widely criticized by staff and students who expressed public concern at the perceived lack of consultation from the administration on the proposed cuts.
- As of May 17, 2013, media are reporting that the university has put a short-term stay on the proposal while it looks at alternative plans. That decision was welcomed by staff and students.
- As a result of the publicity generated by the proposed program cuts, media has made a number of broad enquiries about the university's funding.
- At a May 14, 2013 meeting, the university's board agreed to postpone any discussion on the fiscal sustainability plan and proposed budget until its next meeting on June 11, 2013. The Senate Budget Advisory Committee has until June 4 to present a balanced budget to the Senate. The Senate will then send a budget to the June 11 University's Board meeting.

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