

From: [Burns, Susan G AEST:EX](#)
To: [Gilmour, Shelley E AEST:EX](#)
Subject: FW: Tech roll out
Date: Monday, November 20, 2017 10:48:39 AM

FYI

From: Wolsey, Ashley AEST:EX
Sent: Monday, November 20, 2017 10:41 AM
To: Porter, Rodney GCPE:EX; Lemmer, Nicola I AEST:EX; Burns, Susan G AEST:EX; Vasey, Jeff AEST:EX
Cc: Fernandes, Jennifer GCPE:EX
Subject: RE: Tech roll out
Hi – writing on behalf of Jeff.

Overall he is fine with the approach. Continue to check in with us as we refine details. Eg. TRU's programming is still not confirmed.

1. Will the discussions have concluded by January? That's the plan
2. Are the additional tech-seats seats only for domestic students? (Asking specifically because of the grad spaces at SFU?) Nicola can you confirm? Or Susan?
3. When we know the breakdown of the niche programming? Ideally, by mid-December but we will keep you posted.

Thanks

From: Porter, Rodney GCPE:EX
Sent: Thursday, November 16, 2017 5:16 PM
To: Lemmer, Nicola I AEST:EX; Burns, Susan G AEST:EX; Vasey, Jeff AEST:EX
Cc: Fernandes, Jennifer GCPE:EX; Wolsey, Ashley AEST:EX
Subject: Tech roll out
Please feel free to weigh in on the current thinking from MO for tech-seat announcement:

Event in late January (Jan. 22 / 23?)

Event in Lower Mainland – SFU perhaps – at 10am with Premier and Minister Mark in the morning to announce LM seats for SFU, UBC, BCIT, KPU... Include the total number but not the full regional breakdown.

On the same day, an event in Kamloops with Minister Mark at around 230pm to announce engineering program for TRU. Same time we put out regional news releases in Victoria, Kelowna, PG etc. Backgrounder would include regional breakdown.

Questions:

1. Will the discussions have concluded by January?
2. Are the additional tech-seats seats only for domestic students? (Asking specifically because of the grad spaces at SFU?)
3. When we know the breakdown of the niche programming?

Rodney Porter | Communications Director
Government Communications & Public Engagement
B.C. Ministry of Advanced Education, Skills and Training

Mobile: 250.889.7494 | email: rodney.porter@gov.bc.ca

From: [Burns, Susan G AEST:EX](#)
To: [Gilmour, Shelley E AEST:EX](#)
Subject: FW: Approval: Speaking Notes - tech seats - TRU and SFU | Due Jan.9
Date: Tuesday, January 9, 2018 2:15:29 PM
Attachments: [SN AEST TRU Tech Seats Jan8 230pm.docx](#)
[SN AEST SFU Surrey Tech Seats Jan8 238pm.docx](#)

More FYI

From: Lemmer, Nicola I AEST:EX
Sent: Monday, January 8, 2018 8:05 PM
To: Thorkelson, Meaghan GCPE:EX
Cc: Fernandes, Jennifer GCPE:EX; Burns, Susan G AEST:EX
Subject: FW: Approval: Speaking Notes - tech seats - TRU and SFU | Due Jan.9
Importance: High

A couple of minor edits. Thanks.

From: Thorkelson, Meaghan GCPE:EX
Sent: Monday, January 8, 2018 3:04 PM
To: Lemmer, Nicola I AEST:EX
Cc: Fernandes, Jennifer GCPE:EX; Burns, Susan G AEST:EX
Subject: Approval: Speaking Notes - tech seats - TRU and SFU | Due Jan.9
Importance: High

Hi Nicola,

Please see attached the speaking notes (SN) for the tech expansion announcement on Jan.16th. She has one set of SN for SFU (morning) and one set for the afternoon (TRU). I'm asking for your approval on both please. Susan Burns has approved these and once we receive your approval, they will be going to Jeff and the DMO.

I am hoping to get these to the Minister by Thursday, so if you could please review and send these back to me by tomorrow that would be great. Sorry for the time crunch.

Thank you,

Meaghan

Meaghan Thorkelson

Public Affairs Officer | Government Communications and Public Engagement
Ministry of Advanced Education, Skills and Training
Government of British Columbia
P: 250 356-2277

SPEAKING NOTES FOR
MINISTER MELANIE MARK
MINISTRY OF ADVANCED EDUCATION, SKILLS AND
TRAINING

Simon Fraser University, Surrey Campus

250-13450 102 Ave, Surrey

January 16, 2018

9am

Speaking Time: 3 minutes

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Contact at the event:

GCPE-HQ: Elena Banfield 604-842-0984 Elena.Banfield@gov.bc.ca

GCPE-AEST: Meaghan Thorkelson 250-356-2277; 250-882-3811
meaghan.thorkelson@gov.bc.ca

SFU: Marianne Meadahl 778-782-9017; 604-209-5770 Marianne_Meadahl@sfu.ca

Getting there and parking:**Audience:**

- Post-secondary institutions
- Tech sector / employers
- Students / parents

Notable attendees:

- Minister Melanie Mark
- SFU president Andrew Petter
- BC Tech Association president Jill Tipping
- Student TBC

Event description:

Government is rolling out an expansion of new and expanded tech-related programming in public post-secondary institutions throughout British Columbia to support increased demand for talent in the growing tech sector.

Event in the morning to announce hundreds of new seats in sustainable energy engineering at the sustainable energy engineering building at SFU Surrey and tech-related programming throughout the Lower Mainland – UBC, KPU, BCIT.

Background:

- Announce a total of 2,900 additional tech-related spaces at public post-secondary institutions throughout British Columbia that will produce a steady stream of 1,000 additional grads a year by 2022-23.

- B.C. currently under-produces engineering and computer science degrees in comparison to other provinces in Canada despite a growing tech sector. The last significant investment in technology programming at public post-secondary institutions was more than 10 years ago.
- A new sustainable energy engineering building is under construction at SFU Surrey. However, while capital funding was announced in 2016, there was never any announcement around the operating funding to support student spaces.
- The plan is a mixture of expanded and new seats in tech-related programs. The credentials range from graduate and undergraduate degrees through to diplomas and certificates. Over 83,400 tech-related job openings are expected by 2027.
- The Ministry of Advanced Education, Skills and Training will fund \$4.4 million in 2017-18. This is expected to ramp up to \$42 million a year.

Itinerary/agenda:

Key issues

- 2,900 additional tech related spaces at public post-secondary institutions throughout B.C.
- A new sustainable energy engineering building is under construction at SFU – Surrey.
- Over 83,400 tech-related job openings are expected by 2027.

Acknowledgements:

- Thank you,. TBC
- I'd like to acknowledge that we're on the territory of the Coast Salish people.
- People in attendance:
 - Other MLAs
 - FN elder (TBC)
 - Mayor or other notable people (TBC)
- I would also like to thank the students and faculty that took the time to share their projects with me. You inspire me - keep up the great work!
-

Intro

- It's great to be here at SFU's Surrey campus.
- It's also great to see this new building under construction.
- The Sustainable Energy Engineering Building is a symbol of what's to come here in B.C.
- This structure is a \$126 million collaborative effort between the Province, SFU, the Government of Canada and private donors.
- When the building is finished, it's going to be five stories high and packed with 15,000 square meters of excited students finding their futures in tech.

Details

- For the students and researchers in the Sustainable Energy Engineering Building, tech means researching energy and hydrogen and electricity,
 - but the tech sector as a whole is huge and one of the fastest growing sectors of B.C.'s economy.
- We're going to need thousands of programmers, software developers, and engineers, as more than 80,000 tech related openings come available in the next decade.
- That's why, today, I'm announcing the addition of 2,900 technology spaces at institutions throughout B.C.
- Right here at SFU Surrey we will be adding 320 undergraduate and 120 graduate-level spaces by 2022-23.
- Premier John Horgan and our government is investing \$4.4 million in 2017-18
 - and we plan is to increase this to \$42 million as programs ramp up over the next several years.
- When the Premier appointed me as Minister of Advanced Education, Skills and Training, he mandated that we expand technology related post-secondary education programs.
- There's still work to do but with this announcement we are taking a big step towards making education more accessible for people throughout B.C.

It's about people

- It's easy to get caught up in the numbers, though,
 - thousands of students, tens of thousands of jobs, millions of dollars.
- But what does this opportunity really mean to British Columbians.
- I believe education has the power to transform lives.
- It means a chance for a bright future.
- It is the opportunity to reach one's full potential at home, in the community and in the workplace.
- Together we are going to build a strong, sustainable and innovative community that works for everyone.
- We are going to tackle poverty and inequality and make sure that British Columbians in every corner of the province have the opportunity to strive and to succeed.
- So keep building, creating, smashing, moulding and keep feeding your passion.
- You are the innovators whose dedication and hard work will lead to 21st century solutions that shape, improve and transform our future.
- Thanks very much.

SPEAKING NOTES FOR
MINISTER MELANIE MARK
MINISTRY OF ADVANCED EDUCATION, SKILLS AND
TRAINING

Thompson Rivers University
805 TRU Way, Kamloops, BC

January 16, 2018

2:30pm

Speaking Time: 3 minutes

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Contact at the event:

GCPE-HQ: Elena Banfield 604-842-0984 elena.banfield@gov.bc.ca

GCPE-AEST: Meaghan Thorkelson 250-356-2277; 250-882-3811
meaghan.thorkelson@gov.bc.ca

TRU: Kelly de Chantal 250-852-7271; ^{s.22}

kdechantal@tru.ca

Getting there and parking:**Audience:**

- Post-secondary institutions
- Tech sector / employers
- Students / parents

Notable attendees:

- Minister Melanie Mark
- Tom Dickinson, Dean of Science TRU (EMCEE) TBC
- TRU president Alan Shaver
- Engineering business representative TBC
- Software engineering student

Event description:

Government is rolling out an expansion of new and expanded tech-related programming in public post-secondary institutions throughout British Columbia to support increased demand for talent in the growing tech sector.

Afternoon event at Thompson Rivers University in Kamloops to announce tech-related seats at TRU supported by regional news releases for Kamloops, Kelowna, Victoria, and Prince George..

This event is to follow a morning event at SFU Surrey campus to announce tech-related seats in the Lower Mainland, including programming at SFU, UBC, Kwantlen and BCIT.

Background:

- Announce a total of 2,900 additional tech-related spaces at public post-secondary institutions throughout British Columbia that will produce a steady stream of 1,000 additional grads a year by 2022-23.

- B.C. currently under-produces engineering and computer science degrees in comparison to other provinces in Canada despite a growing tech sector. The last significant investment in technology programming at public post-secondary institutions was more than 10 years ago.
- The plan is a mixture of expanded and new seats in tech-related programs. The credentials range from graduate and undergraduate degrees through to diplomas and certificates. Over 83,400 tech-related job openings are expected by 2027
- The Ministry of Advanced Education, Skills and Training will fund \$4.4 million in 2017-18. This is expected to ramp up to \$42 million a year.

Itinerary/agenda:

Key issues

- TRU will receive \$400,000 in start-up funding from the B.C. Government in 2017/18.
- TRU will increase the number of student spaces and offer a full engineering degree program.
- More than 83,400 tech-related job openings in B.C. are expected by 2027. Of those, 5,100 will occur in the Thompson-Okanagan region.

Acknowledgements:

- Thank you, [insert emcee].
- I would first like to acknowledge that we are on the territory of the Secwepemc peoples [She-whep-m], specifically the Tk'emlups Indian Band [Tay-come-loops] and thank Elder Dr. Margaret Vickers Hyslop of the...[TBC] People in attendance: (TBC)
- Acknowledge those in attendance:
 - Other MLAs
 - Mayor or other notable people (TBC)

Intro

- It's so good to be back here at Thompson Rivers University.
- As many of you know, I was here this summer as part of a three week tour of all 25 B.C. public post-secondary institutions.
- That was a whirlwind trip – 25 schools in just 21 days.
- It was a great start to my journey as Minister of Advanced Education, Skills and Training,
 - but it was just the beginning.
- [subject to Minsiter's planned trip to Kamloops proceeding on Jan. 9] I also had the opportunity to visit Kamloops just last week – when I spoke with some of the local tech companies and heard about the exciting work they are doing.
- I'm here today to announce an investment that shows that our government is continuing to improve student access to post-secondary education.

Details

- We know it's important that students in the Kamloops area have options right here at home to complete their education.
- That's why I'm thrilled to announce funding that will support more student spaces in engineering at TRU, including a new, full software engineering degree program.
- For the first time, students in the Kamloops area are going to be able study for some of the most in-demand engineering careers without having to leave their community.
- TRU attracts students from around B.C., Canada and the world, so it's important we invest in relevant and dynamic programs that will enrich both students and their communities.
- This is part of our government's addition of 2,900 technology spaces at institutions throughout the province.
- And B.C. needs these graduates.
- We're going to need thousands of engineers, programmers and software developers as more than 80,000 tech related openings come available in the next decade.
- That's why Premier John Horgan and our government is investing \$4.4 million in 2017-18,
 - and we plan to increase this to \$42 million as programs ramp up over the next several years.
- When the Premier appointed me as Minister of Advanced Education, Skills and Training, he mandated that we expand technology related post-secondary education programs.
- There's still work to do but with this announcement we are taking a big step towards making education more accessible for people throughout B.C.

It's about people

- It's easy to get caught up in the numbers, though,
 - thousands of students, tens of thousands of jobs, millions of dollars.
- But what does this opportunity really mean to British Columbians.
- It means a chance for a bright future.
- It is the opportunity to reach one's full potential at home, in the community and in the workplace.
- I have seen first-hand the transformative effect that education has on people's lives.
- Together we are going to build a strong, sustainable and innovative economy that works for everyone.
- We are going to tackle poverty and inequality and make sure that British Columbians in every corner of the province have the opportunity to strive and to succeed.
- So keep building, creating, trying, testing and keep feeding your passion.
- You are the innovators whose dedication and hard work will lead to 21st century solutions that shape, improve and transform our future.
- Thanks very much.

UPDATED: JAN. 11 AT 11AM

SPEAKING NOTES FOR
MINISTER MELANIE MARK
MINISTRY OF ADVANCED EDUCATION, SKILLS AND
TRAINING

Simon Fraser University, Surrey Campus

250-13450 102 Ave, Surrey

January 16, 2018

9am

Speaking Time: 3 minutes

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Contact at the event:

GCPE-HQ: Elena Banfield 604-842-0984 Elena.Banfield@gov.bc.ca

SFU: Marianne Meadahl 778-782-9017; 604-209-5770 Marianne_Meadahl@sfu.ca

Getting there and parking:

- Parking will be reserved in the main lot of the campus and marked with the Minister's name. The lot is behind the building, and the entrance to the building from there leads right into the Mezzanine area where the event will take place.
- Minister Mark will be met by Elena Banfield and SFU representatives at entrance to Mezzanine area off parking lot. Tour party proceeds to Environmental Engineering Building construction site.
- Tour party will be outfitted with hardhats and footwear upon arrival at site.

Audience:

- Post-secondary institutions
- Tech sector / employers
- Students / parents

Notable attendees:

- Minister Melanie Mark
- SFU president Andrew Petter
- BC Tech Association president Jill Tipping
- Elder Margaret George, SFU resident Elder
- XingLu Wang, second-year Mechatronic Systems Engineering student, graduate of Surrey's Fraser Heights Secondary and president of Team Phantom, a student team working to build an all-electric race car.

Event description:

Government is rolling out an expansion of new and expanded tech-related programming in public post-secondary institutions throughout British Columbia to support increased demand for talent in the growing tech sector.

Event in the morning to announce 440 new seats in sustainable energy engineering at the sustainable energy engineering building at SFU Surrey that is under construction in addition to tech-related programming throughout the Lower Mainland – UBC, KPU, BCIT. A total of 2,900 spaces that will produce 1,000 additional tech grads a year by 2023.

Itinerary:

Time	Event Itinerary
Event Summary:	Indoor podium event at SFU Surrey Campus. Preceding announcement, Minister Mark will tour the construction site of the Sustainable Engineering Building then proceed to the Mezzanine area of SFU Surrey Campus to view displays of student projects. Minister Mark will then deliver remarks from the podium flanked by other speakers and students, followed by a media Q&A. Podium art: "Better Access for Students"
Key contacts	Media relations: Shruti Joshi Photographer: Provided by SFU Event Coordinator: Elena Banfield
7:00 a.m.	Elena Banfield and FMAV on site for technical setup.
8:20 a.m.	Minister Mark arrives at SFU Surrey Campus, met by Elena Banfield and SFU representatives at entrance to Mezzanine area off parking lot. Tour party proceeds to Environmental Engineering Building construction site. Note: tour party will be outfitted with hardhats and footwear upon arrival at site.
8:35 a.m.	Tour of Environmental Engineering Building construction site.
8:50 a.m.	Tour party returns to SFU Surrey Mezzanine, proceeds to briefing room.
8:52 a.m.	Pre-brief with speakers, led by Elena Banfield Location: Meeting room 2746 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Melanie Mark, Minister of Advanced Education, Skills and Training • Andrew Petter, President, Simon Fraser University (EMCEE) • Elder Margaret George, SFU resident Elder • Jill Tipping, President, BC Tech Association • XingLu Wang, Mechatronic Systems Engineering student
8:59 a.m.	Speakers escorted to podium area.
9:00 a.m.	Minister Mark interacts with students and faculty who will have projects on display around podium area.
9:09 a.m.	Minister Mark and speakers gather at podium area.
9:10 a.m.	Andrew Petter welcomes guests and invites Elder Margaret to the podium to offer opening blessing.
9:11 a.m.	Elder Margaret offers opening blessing and territorial acknowledgment.
9:14 a.m.	Andrew Petter returns to podium, thanks Elder Margaret, and delivers introductory remarks. Following remarks, he introduces Minister Mark .
9:16 a.m.	Minister Mark delivers remarks.

9:19 a.m.	Andrew Petter thanks Minister Mark, introduces Jill Tipping .
9:20 a.m.	Jill Tipping delivers remarks.
9:23 a.m.	Andrew Petter thanks Jill Tipping, introduces XingLu Wang .
9:24 a.m.	XingLu Wang delivers remarks.
9:27 a.m.	Andrew Petter thanks Student Validator , delivers closing remarks, and invites questions from media.
9:28 a.m.	Media availability - Moderated by Shruti Joshi.
9:38 a.m.	Event concludes. Minister Mark can return to project exhibits and engage with students.
10:00 a.m.	Minister Mark departs.

Background:

- Announce a total of 2,900 additional tech-related spaces at public post-secondary institutions throughout British Columbia that will produce a steady stream of 1,000 additional grads a year by 2022-23.
- B.C. currently under-produces engineering and computer science degrees in comparison to other provinces in Canada despite a growing tech sector. The last significant investment in technology programming at public post-secondary institutions was more than 10 years ago.
- A new sustainable energy engineering building is under construction at SFU Surrey. However, while capital funding was announced in 2016, there was never any announcement around the operating funding to support student spaces.
- The plan is a mixture of expanded and new seats in tech-related programs. The credentials range from graduate and undergraduate degrees through to diplomas and certificates. Over 83,400 tech-related job openings are expected by 2027.
- The Ministry of Advanced Education, Skills and Training will fund \$4.4 million in 2017-18. This is expected to ramp up to \$42 million a year.

Acknowledgements:

- Thank you President Petter for the introduction.
- I'd like to acknowledge that we're on the territory of the Coast Salish people.
- People in attendance:
 - Other MLAs (TBC).
 - Elder Margaret George.
 - Mayor or other notable people (TBC).
- I would also like to thank the students and faculty that took the time to share their projects with me.
- You inspire me - keep up the great work!

Introduction:

- It's great to be here at SFU's Surrey campus.
- It's also great to see the Sustainable Energy Engineering Building under construction.
- The Sustainable Energy Engineering Building is a symbol of what's to come South of the Fraser.
- This structure is a \$126 million collaborative effort between the Province, SFU, the Government of Canada and private donors.
- When the building is finished, it's going to be five stories high and packed with 15,000 square meters of excited students finding their futures in tech.

Announcement:

- For the students and researchers in the Sustainable Energy Engineering Building, tech means researching energy and hydrogen and electricity.
- The tech sector in B.C. is one of the fast growing sectors of our economy.
- It generates \$29 billion in revenue, supports over 106,000 good-paying jobs and it is home to more than 10,200 businesses.
- Over 83,400 tech-related jobs openings are expected by 2027. Jobs like computer programmers, engineers, information system analysts and software designers.
- That's why, today, I'm announcing the addition of 2,900 technology spaces at institutions throughout B.C.
- This will produce an additional 1,000 tech graduates a year by 2023.
- At SFU Surrey, we will be adding 320 undergraduate and 120 graduate-level spaces by 2022-23.
- When the Premier appointed me as Minister of Advanced Education, Skills and Training, he mandated that we expand technology related post-secondary education programs.
- B.C. currently under-produces engineering and computer science degrees in comparison to other provinces in Canada despite a growing tech sector.

- The last significant investment in technology programming at public post-secondary institutions was more than 10 years ago.
- Premier John Horgan and our government will invest \$4.4 million throughout the province this year to start planning.
- As more seats come online, this is expected to increase to \$42 million.
- There's still work to do but with this announcement, we are taking a big step towards making education more accessible for people throughout B.C.

It's About People:

- Creating more home-grown tech talent is good news for businesses and employers. It helps them grow and succeed.
- For me, it's about people and giving them the opportunity to thrive.
- Education has the power to transform lives.
- It means a chance for a bright future.
- Together we are going to build a strong, sustainable and innovative community that works for everyone.
- We are going to tackle poverty and inequality and make sure that British Columbians in every corner of the province have the opportunity to succeed.
- So keep innovating, programming, engineering and building a better British Columbia for all of us.
- You are the innovators whose dedication and hard work will lead to 21st century solutions that shape, improve and transform our future.
- Keeping reaching for the stars and shining.

UPDATED: JANUARY 14 AT 730PM

SPEAKING NOTES FOR
MINISTER MELANIE MARK
MINISTRY OF ADVANCED EDUCATION, SKILLS AND
TRAINING

Thompson Rivers University
805 TRU Way, Kamloops, BC

Jan. 16, 2018

2:30pm

Speaking Time: 3 minutes

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Contact at the event:

GCPE-HQ: Elena Banfield 604-842-0984 elena.banfield@gov.bc.ca

TRU: Kelly de Chantal 250-852-7271; ^{s.22} kdechantal@tru.ca

Getting there and parking:

Minister Mark arrives at TRU, met by Alan Shaver. Minister Mark proceeds to Campus Activity Centre, Alpine Room.

Audience:

- Post-secondary institutions
- Tech sector / employers
- Students / parents

Notable attendees:

- Minister Melanie Mark
- Tom Dickinson, Dean of Science TRU (EMCEE) TBC
- TRU president Alan Shaver
- Dr. Margaret Vickers Hyslop, Tshimshian and Heiltsuk Elder
- Dan De Palma, Vice-President Sale and Marketing, Streamline Transportation Technologies
- TRU engineering student Lorelei Guidos

Event description:

Government is rolling out an expansion of new and expanded tech-related programming in public post-secondary institutions throughout British Columbia to support increased demand for talent in the growing tech sector.

Afternoon event at Thompson Rivers University in Kamloops to announce tech-related seats at TRU supported by regional news releases for Kamloops, Kelowna, Victoria, and Prince George..

This event is to follow a morning event at SFU Surrey campus to announce tech-related seats in the Lower Mainland, including programming at SFU, UBC, Kwantlen and BCIT.

Background:

- Announce a total of 2,900 additional tech-related spaces at public post-secondary institutions throughout British Columbia that will produce a steady stream of 1,000 additional grads a year by 2022-23.

- B.C. under-produces engineering and computer science degrees in comparison to other provinces in Canada despite a growing tech sector. The last significant investment in tech programs was more than 10 years ago.
- The plan is a mixture of expanded and new seats in tech-related programs. The credentials range from graduate and undergraduate degrees through to diplomas and certificates. Over 83,400 tech-related job openings are expected by 2027.
- TRU will receive \$400,000 in start-up funding from the B.C. Government in 2017-18, which will allow the institution to increase the number of student spaces and to offer a full software engineering degree program. The university is expected to ramp up to a total of 140 spaces in undergraduate software engineering by 2022-23, which will produce 35 additional graduates a year by 2023.

Acknowledgements:

- Thank you for the introduction, Dr. Dickinson.
- I would first like to acknowledge that we are on the territory of the Secwepemc peoples [She-whep-m], specifically the Tk'emlups [Tay-come-loops] Indian Band.
- Thank Elder Dr. Margaret Vickers Hyslop of the Tismshian [sim-she-an] and Heiltsuk [helts-uk] Nations for the blessing.
- Acknowledge those in attendance:
 - Other MLAs (TBC).
 - Mayor or other notable people (TBC).
- I'd also like to give a big shout out to all of the students that are gathering with us this afternoon.

Introduction:

- It's always great to be able to visit Kamloops.
- Just last week, I was in Kamloops meeting with tech business leaders.
- As many of you know, I visited Thompson Rivers University in August as part of a three week tour of all 25 B.C. public post-secondary institutions.
- That was a whirlwind tour, visiting all 25 schools in just 21 days.
- It was a great start to kick off my job as Minister of Advanced Education, Skills and Training.
- Today, I'm here to announce an investment that shows that our government is continuing to improve student access to post-secondary education and training.
- We're continuing to break down barriers to education and training that can transform lives and let students reach their full potential.

Details

- It is important that students in Kamloops have options right here at home to complete their education.
- That's why I'm excited to announce funding that will support more student spaces in engineering at TRU, including funding for a new, full software engineering degree program.
- For the first time, students in the Kamloops area are going to be able to study for some of the most in-demand engineering careers without having to leave their community.
- TRU attracts students from B.C., Canada and around the world.
- It is critical we invest in relevant and dynamic programs that will enrich both students and their communities.
- This is part of our government's addition of 2,900 technology spaces at institutions throughout the province.
- Our province desperately needs these tech graduates.
- We're going to need thousands of engineers, programmers and software developers as more than 80,000 tech related openings come available in the next decade.
- When the Premier appointed me as Minister of Advanced Education, Skills and Training, he mandated that we expand technology related post-secondary education programs.

- B.C. currently under-produces engineering and computer science degrees in comparison to other provinces in Canada despite a growing tech sector.
- The last significant investment in technology programming at public post-secondary institutions was more than 10 years ago.
- Premier John Horgan and our government will invest \$4.4 million throughout the province this year to start planning.
- As more seats come online, this is expected to increase to \$42 million.
- There's still work to do but with this announcement, we are taking a big step towards making education more accessible for people throughout B.C.

Investing in Thompson Rivers University

- Our government was elected on three pillars: making life more affordable, delivering services people count on and building an economy that works for everyone.
- For years, students have been burdened with increasing costs and debt.
- At Thompson Rivers University we are opening doors that had previously been closed for thousands of students
- That's why we are funding a full software engineering program.
- Our immediate focus has been on reducing costs for students and addressing student debt:
- We cut the rate of interest on provincial loans by 2.5%. This benefited around 200,000 people as well as future borrowers.
- We eliminated tuition for Adult Basic Education and English Language Learning programs. Students and educators told us that unfair tuition fees blocked ordinary people from advancing their opportunities.
- September's budget update included \$18.5 million for tuition-free ABE and ELL. Thompson River's University will receive a portion of the funding based on student enrolment.
- We expanded tuition-waivers for former young people in care at all 25 public post-secondary institutions including Thompson Rivers University.

- And there's much more to come in the years ahead with completion grants and graduate scholarship fund.
- Thompson Rivers University is a respected and valued university that provides quality education for thousands of students.

It's About People:

- Creating more home-grown tech talent in Kamloops is good news for businesses and employers. It helps them grow and succeed.
- For me, it's about people and giving them the opportunity to thrive.
- Education has the power to transform lives.
- It means a chance for a bright future.
- Together we are going to build a strong, sustainable and innovative community that works for everyone.
- We are going to tackle poverty and inequality and make sure that British Columbians in every corner of the province including the Thompson region have the opportunity to succeed.
- So keep innovating, programming, engineering and building a better British Columbia for all of us.
- You are the innovators whose dedication and hard work will lead to 21st century solutions that shape, improve and transform our future.
- Keeping reaching for the stars and shining.