

## Fairchild media QA

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From: Fernandes, Jennifer GCPE:EX <Jennifer.Fernandes@gov.bc.ca>  
To: Snoddon, Michael AEST:EX <Michael.Snoddon@gov.bc.ca>, Hannah, Jeff AEST:EX <Jeff.Hannah@gov.bc.ca>, Marriott, Sarah GCPE:EX <Sarah.Marriott@gov.bc.ca>  
Sent: April 22, 2021 12:06:24 PM PDT  
Attachments: QA\_Fairchild Media\_April22\_12pm.docx

Hi,

Attached is the QA for the Fairchild interview tomorrow at 11:45 a.m.

Thanks,

Jennifer

## Questions & Answers

### Fairchild Media Interview

*Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Training*

April 23, 2021

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#### **Q1. How does the pandemic influence the B.C. Advanced Education and Skills Training?**

- Post-secondary institutions have worked hard to protect the safety of students, staff and faculty during the COVID-19 pandemic by quickly switching to mostly online course delivery and taking safety precautions such as physical distancing on-campus.
- As a result of this incredible pivot by staff, faculty and students, COVID-19 cases across B.C.'s post-secondary sector have been minimal.
- Since March 2020, government has invested \$9 million in emergency assistance funding through post-secondary institutions to help B.C. post-secondary students, including Indigenous students, with living expenses, food, travel, and portable computers as well as other expenses for students returning for the 2020-21 school year.
- This month we announced an additional \$4 million to boost existing student emergency assistance funding programs to support students who may be struggling financially due to impacts of COVID-19.
- We are working hard to make sure all students facing financial hardships can access assistance when they need it.
- The Ministry is also working with institutions and following the guidance of the provincial health officer and is in the process of updating the Go Forward Guidelines for how students, faculty and staff can safely return to class on-campus in September 2021.

#### **Q2. After a year's distance learning, the students have been influenced by several impacts, including reduced learning results and less social interactions. From your perspective, how could these issues have been addressed?**

- The health and safety of students during the pandemic is a top priority.
-

- We know that university and college students are at the stage of their lives where socializing is so important to their mental health and personal development and are looking forward to a return to campus this Fall.
- To support students we introduced Here2Talk, a free mental health app available 24/7 because it's important that students feel supported, no matter what their circumstances are. Here2Talk can provide confidential, immediate support or information or referrals to other services on-campus or in the community.
- Here2Talk is available to all students registered in a B.C. post-secondary – whether they are rural, urban, domestic, international, full-time or part-time students, in a public or private post-secondary institution, studying within Canada or abroad, taking face-to-face instruction or learning online.

**Q.3. Many working-age women in B.C. made up a majority the workforce in hard-hit sectors, like hospitality, retail and food. However, they are bearing the brunt of the job losses since the pandemic started. How does the B.C. government perceive this problem? And what kinds of re-employment training that B.C. government provide to unemployed women workers?**

- We know that unemployment numbers have affected women disproportionately
- Supporting women and under-represented workers, including Indigenous workers through the pandemic is a priority for government.
- To help people most impacted by COVID-19, government committed \$47.5 million in 2020/21 as a part of the StrongerBC – BC's Economic Recovery Plan to help people upskill or reskill and find their place in the post-COVID economy.
- These investments include short-term skills training for in-demand jobs, Indigenous community skills training and education, targeted training for health and human services jobs, and micro-credentials:
- And Budget 2021 will provide further funding of \$29.5 million to continue the work begun with the Economic Recovery Plan.

**Q.4 During the pandemic, some British Columbians went through the path of self-employment and starting their own small businesses. Does the B.C. government encourage this practice? And will the provincial government provide preferential policies and facilitation measures for those people?**

- Through StrongerBC, B.C.'s \$1.5 billion Economic Recovery Plan, government continues to provide supports for businesses affected by the COVID-19 pandemic so they can re-open, adapt and grow, for example:
- My colleague Minister Ravi Kahlon and the Ministry of Jobs, Economic Recovery and Innovation is working hard so affected businesses can access a \$345 million Small and Medium-sized Business Recovery Grant fund to help cover costs and find their way forward; including \$100 million for the tourism sector.

- On, April 13, the B.C. government also announced the Circuit Breaker Business Relief Grant that will invest \$52 million to support restaurants, bars, pubs, breweries, wineries, gyms and fitness centres affected by restrictions from the March 30, 2021, Provincial Health Officer Orders.
- Eligible businesses will receive between \$1,000 and \$10,000 in grant funding.

**Q.5. The pandemic has a great hit on the tourism and catering industries. This results in a relatively large number of unemployed people who previously worked in the two industries. If these industries are not able to recover in a short period of time to the previous state before the pandemic, will the provincial government provide training and consultation services to them in order to relocate them into another industry?**

- As mentioned, my ministry is working hard to help British Columbians upskill or retrain so they can find fully participate in B.C.'s economic recovery.
- Training opportunities included:
  - \$20M-investment to support short-term skills training for almost 2,500 unemployed or precariously employed British Columbians.
  - \$15M to support expansion of community-based skills training and education programs for approximately 1,700 Indigenous people whose employment has been impacted by COVID-19
  - \$8.4 million in 2020/21 and Budget 2021 commits an additional \$30M, so that more people can access training for 3,000 positions as health care assistants across the province.
  - \$9 million to support micro-credential programs for more than 9,500 British Columbians who want to reskill or upskill to take advantage of opportunities in high-demand sectors.
  - \$1.26 million for more training opportunities in 2020/21 to continue to provide training opportunities for people to build a good career in the high-demand field of early childhood education.

**Q.6. For those who are still enthusiastic to return to the industries that they have worked for before the pandemic, will the provincial government provide any vocational training service to them in order to help them find a new job in a short period of time? The training services may include preparing a better resume, as well as leveling up professional skills and interview skills.**

- WorkBC.ca is a comprehensive online hub that can help British Columbians to successfully navigate B.C.'s labour market.

- WorkBC helps people find jobs, explore career options and improve their career search skills with helpful seminars on job hunting, resume writing and interview skills as they navigate finding employment during COVID-19.
- In addition to practical information, WorkBC offers:
  - A Career Transition tool
  - Job Application tips
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  - A comprehensive database of B.C. job postings
  - A blog featuring trends, job-search tips, employment programs and more
  - An interactive map of WorkBC Employment Services Centres across the province, and;
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**Q.7. For those who target to take advanced courses back to school for future employment, will the provincial government work out any incentive policies to encourage them to do so?**

- Government has invested in a number of initiatives to help B.C. students succeed, including:
  - In 2020, we introduced the B.C. Access Grant, the first new provincial post-secondary student grant in 15 years to provide low- and middle-income students up to \$4,000 a year for full and part-time studies,
  - The new up-front, needs-based B.C. Access Grant has now supported 32,194 students with a total of \$30,724,636 in the first 8 months since its launch (as at March 31, 2021).
  - \$3.75 million to support scholarships for students in graduate degree programs at 10 public post-secondary institutions with 250 awards at a minimum of \$15,000 each over the next two years
  - We eliminated interest on student loans in 2019 and we continue to cap tuition at 2% annually.
  - And this month, government announced \$45 million as part of a StrongerBC Future Leaders program to assist 5,000 youth and young adults to access skills training and well-paid jobs.

## RE: Fairchild media QA

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**From:** Fernandes, Jennifer GCPE:EX <Jennifer.Fernandes@gov.bc.ca>  
**To:** Hannah, Jeff AEST:EX <Jeff.Hannah@gov.bc.ca>, Snoddon, Michael AEST:EX <Michael.Snoddon@gov.bc.ca>, Marriott, Sarah GCPE:EX <Sarah.Marriott@gov.bc.ca>  
**Sent:** April 22, 2021 3:01:14 PM PDT  
**Attachments:** QA\_Fairchild Media\_April22\_3pm.docx  
**Added:**

- Here2Talk has been used more than 10,300 times since the service was launched in April 2020:
  - The chat feature has proved most popular, with 75% of students using it compared with the call option, which has been used 25% of the time.
  - Students' satisfaction with the service is high, with 82% saying it provided them with the support and tools they needed, while 75% of students said they would refer their friend or classmate to Here2Talk.

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**From:** Hannah, Jeff AEST:EX <Jeff.Hannah@gov.bc.ca>

**Sent:** April 22, 2021 2:57 PM

**To:** Fernandes, Jennifer GCPE:EX <Jennifer.Fernandes@gov.bc.ca>; Snoddon, Michael AEST:EX <Michael.Snoddon@gov.bc.ca>; Marriott, Sarah GCPE:EX <Sarah.Marriott@gov.bc.ca>

**Subject:** RE: Fairchild media QA

Thanks that's the only change I have

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**From:** Fernandes, Jennifer GCPE:EX <Jennifer.Fernandes@gov.bc.ca>

**Sent:** April 22, 2021 2:53 PM

**To:** Hannah, Jeff AEST:EX <Jeff.Hannah@gov.bc.ca>; Snoddon, Michael AEST:EX <Michael.Snoddon@gov.bc.ca>; Marriott, Sarah GCPE:EX <Sarah.Marriott@gov.bc.ca>

**Subject:** RE: Fairchild media QA

Will add.

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**From:** Hannah, Jeff AEST:EX <Jeff.Hannah@gov.bc.ca>

**Sent:** April 22, 2021 2:52 PM

**To:** Fernandes, Jennifer GCPE:EX <Jennifer.Fernandes@gov.bc.ca>; Snoddon, Michael AEST:EX <Michael.Snoddon@gov.bc.ca>; Marriott, Sarah GCPE:EX <Sarah.Marriott@gov.bc.ca>

**Subject:** RE: Fairchild media QA

My only asked is for Q2 can we include some of the stats on here2talk, particularly about the percentage of people that would recommend the service. I think it would be good for people to listening to know that the service is effective.

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**From:** Fernandes, Jennifer GCPE:EX <Jennifer.Fernandes@gov.bc.ca>

**Sent:** April 22, 2021 12:06 PM

**To:** Snoddon, Michael AEST:EX <Michael.Snoddon@gov.bc.ca>; Hannah, Jeff AEST:EX <Jeff.Hannah@gov.bc.ca>; Marriott, Sarah GCPE:EX <Sarah.Marriott@gov.bc.ca>

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**Q.6. For those who are still enthusiastic to return to the industries that they have worked for before the pandemic, will the provincial government provide any vocational training service to them in order to help them find a new job in a short**

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**period of time? The training services may include preparing a better resume, as well as leveling up professional skills and interview skills.**

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## FW: Fairchild interview outline attached

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From: Chu, Letitia AEST:EX <Letitia.Chu@gov.bc.ca>  
To: Hannah, Jeff AEST:EX <Jeff.Hannah@gov.bc.ca>  
Sent: April 22, 2021 5:00:49 PM PDT  
Attachments: Anne Kang访问提纲.doc

Hey Jeff – do we have any stats that can support #1 in the outline – specifically on the number of local and international students enrolled in BC, number of students who dropped out, etc.?

**Letitia Chu**

Executive Assistant

Ministry of Advanced Education & Skills Training

cell: s.17 | email: [Letitia.Chu@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Letitia.Chu@gov.bc.ca)

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**From:** Fernandes, Jennifer GCPE:EX <Jennifer.Fernandes@gov.bc.ca>

**Sent:** April 21, 2021 1:41 PM

**To:** Snoddon, Michael AEST:EX <Michael.Snoddon@gov.bc.ca>; Hannah, Jeff AEST:EX <Jeff.Hannah@gov.bc.ca>; Chu, Letitia AEST:EX <Letitia.Chu@gov.bc.ca>

**Subject:** Fairchild interview outline attached

Fairchild sent over the attached interview outline.

Eric, the reporter, will take this interview with Minister Kang.

His cell phone number: s.22 for Minister Kang to call into April 23 at 11:45 a.m.

Let us know if you need a QA prepared for the attached?

Thanks,

Jennifer

Anne Kang

1 请问疫情发展以来，对省内的专上教育事业和技能培训带来了哪些影响和变化？

How does the pandemic influence the B.C. Advanced Education and Skills Training?

2 长达一年多的在家网络教学，已经出现后遗症：学生的学习效果、彼此间的互动、社会交往和活动等大打折扣，您认为这种情况该如何解决？

After a year's distance learning, the students have been influenced by several impacts, including reduced learning results and less social interactions. From your perspective, how could these issues have been addressed?

3 新冠疫情导致许多本省女性失去工作，省府有哪些协助再就业的措施？

Many working-age women in B.C. made up a majority the workforce in hard-hit sectors, like hospitality, retail and food. However, they are bearing the brunt of the job losses since the pandemic started. How does the B.C. government perceive this problem? And what kinds of re-employment

training that B.C. government provide to unemployed women workers?

4 针对新创业、小型商业，省府都有哪些优惠政策，鼓励个人创业？

During the pandemic, some British Columbians went through the path of self-employment and starting their own small businesses. Does the B.C. government encourage this practice? And will the provincial government provide preferential policies and facilitation measures for those people?

5 疫情期间对餐馆和旅游行业带来了沉重的打击，如果这些行业不能短时间恢复到疫情之前的水平，面对庞大的相关行业的待业职员，是否考虑过对他们进行其他行业的技能培训或者是咨询, 为了转换到另一个行业提供帮助？

The pandemic has a great hit on the tourism and catering industries. This results in a relatively large number of unemployed people who previously worked in the two industries. If these industries are not able to recover in a short period of time to the previous state before the pandemic, will the provincial government provide training and consultation

services to them in order to relocate them into another industry?

6 在经济复苏的过程中，对于那些还要继续留在本行业工作的人，是否考虑过对他们进行职业技能提升的培训？例如如何写好简历，专业技能提升，面试技巧等等，使其快速的回归到本行业。

For those who are still enthusiastic to the industries that they have worked for before the pandemic, will the provincial government provide any vocational training service to them in order to help them find a new job in a short period of time? The training services may include preparing a better resume, as well as leveling up professional skills and interview skills.

7 对于疫情之后想回到学校进修的人，相比疫情之前省府是否可以提供鼓励性的政策？

For those who target to take advanced courses back to school for future employment, will the provincial government work out any incentive policies to encourage them to do so?