



Meeting Note Advice to Minister

Date: February 2, 2021

Cliff #: 120831

Prepared for: Honourable Anne Kang

Date, Time of Meeting and Location: February 9, 2021 (12:45-1:15 p.m.)

Attendees: Tanysha Klassen, Chairperson, British Columbia Federation of Students (BCFS)
Michael Gault, Secretary-Treasurer, BCFS
Jenelle Davies, Organiser, BCFS
Sano, Executive Director, BCFS

Issue(s):

- A meeting with BCFS, as part of student lobby days, to discuss the following topics of interest:
 1. Student Financial Assistance
 2. Institutional Funding and Fees
 3. International Students

Background:

- BCFS is a provincial, student-led alliance of 15 student societies (see Attachment 1 for list).
- It undertakes research and lobbying activities in order to advocate on issues of importance to its member associations and post-secondary students in British Columbia.
- BCFS's website indicates the organization represent more than 170,000 students.

Discussion:

1. Student Financial Assistance

- BCFS raises concerns about increased youth unemployment due to measures taken to slow the spread of COVID-19 and student affordability issues exacerbated by the pandemic.
- In order to ensure students can begin or continue their studies, the BCFS recommends: *That the BC Access Grant provide \$100 million in financial aid annually in order to increase access to post-secondary education and skills training.*
- The BC Access Grant is a needs-based, up-front, non-repayable grant available to undergraduate students in eligible programs at public post-secondary institutions (PSIs).
- The Minister's mandate letter commits to: *Expand the B.C. Access Grant program by increasing eligibility to reduce barriers and make sure more people are able to access the skills they need for the jobs of the future.*
- Government will be reviewing options to address this commitment.

2. Institutional Funding and Fees

- BCFS feels PSIs are not adequately funded, leaving institutions to make up shortfalls through cost-recovery programming, international student tuition and ancillary fees. Also noted are concerns with the Tuition Limit Policy (TLP).
- BCFS makes recommendations to: review funding and increase annual funding by \$200 million; freeze tuition and plan a tuition reduction; and, strengthen the TLP.
- Government has maintained operating funding to all PSIs during this difficult year.
- The TLP puts a cap on annual tuition increases at 2% for domestic students. Institutions determine whether they will raise tuition by the full 2% or a lesser amount.
- The Minister's mandate letter commits to: *Strengthening the existing Tuition Fee Limit Policy* and conducting a *review of post-secondary education operating grants*.
- Ministry staff are laying the groundwork to begin these reviews.

3. International Students

- BCFS notes concerns that international students are unable to budget for their studies due to unpredictable increases in international tuition and feels that international students could be better supported by having a new international education strategy in place.
- BCFS recommends amending the TLP to regulate international student tuition and developing a new provincial International Education Strategy.
- International students are an important part of the BC post-secondary system and the contribution they make to our post-secondary institutions and communities is valued.
- The TLP limits domestic tuition increases, but does not regulate international student tuition.
- PSIs are encouraged to set tuition for international students at a level to reflect the full cost of education, so taxpayers do not subsidise international students' education.
- Government is working to take a more balanced approach on international education, by engaging with the sector, students and partners. This includes work on ways PSIs can be more transparent about the tuition costs international students can expect over their study periods.
- The Province is ensuring international students have access to key supports during this time, including Here2Talk, the mental health counselling and referral service for post-secondary students, and by making temporary changes to MSP policies for eligible international students.
- Many PSIs have provided student housing, financial and other assistance, including bursaries and emergency funding.

Suggested Response / Key Message:

- Staff are laying the groundwork on mandate letter commitments and considering issues affecting international students.
- Note appreciation to BCFS for their advocacy work and thoughtful input on these topics.

Attachment(s): Attachment 1: List of BCFS Members

Attachment 2: Biographies (Tanysha Klassen / Michael Gauld)

Attachment 3: BCFS Lobby Days Brief

Contact: Nicola Lemmer, ADM, Post-Secondary Policy and Programs, (778) 698-9768

Attachment 1 – List of BCFS Members

BCFS is a provincial alliance of the following 15 student societies:

- Camosun College Student Society
- Coast Mountain Students' Union
- College of New Caledonia's Students' Union
- Douglas Students' Union
- Emily Carr Students' Union
- Justice Institute Students' Union
- Northern British Columbia Graduate Student Society
- North Island Students' Union
- Okanagan College Students' Union
- Quest University Students' Association (private university)
- Selkirk College Students' Union
- Students' Union of UBC Okanagan
- Students' Union of Vancouver Community College
- Thompson Rivers University Students' Union
- Vancouver Island University Students' Union

Attachment 2 – Biographies

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Photos and biographies not available for:

- Jenelle Davies, Organiser
- C. Sano, Executive Director, BCFS

Attachment 3 – BCFS Lobby Days Brief

BC'S POST-SECONDARY SECTOR AS A KEY TO ECONOMIC RECOVERY

BRITISH COLUMBIA FEDERATION OF STUDENTS

BC is in the midst of an economic downturn resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. Entire sectors of the economy have shut down or minimized operations, and it will be some time before they are running at their pre-February 2020 capacity. In times like these, education is a crucial tool that governments have used to spur economic recovery by training or re-training those who lost their jobs and are seeking new employment. The post-COVID-19 economy may look very different, at least for a time, and it is imperative that British Columbians are equipped with the skills needed to fill labour market demands.

Post-secondary education is key to building a strong, sustainable, innovative economy that works for everyone, and to building a workforce that is resilient and mobile. By focusing Budget 2021 on affordable and accessible post-secondary education, the government can tackle poverty and inequality, contribute to good-paying jobs in all regions of the province, and ensure people from all backgrounds have the opportunity to fully participate in the workforce.

STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Due to the important measures taken by the government to slow the spread of COVID-19, BC's unemployment rate reached near-historic highs in summer 2020; youth unemployment is higher than the average, and reached nearly 30% in early summer. While unemployment rates have reduced over the past few months, the impact of physical distancing, closed borders, and other restrictions enacted to slow the spread of the virus will last for months to come. These measures continue to impact employment in key industries such as service and tourism where young people are disproportionately represented; the resulting unemployment and underemployment means many students and their families are unable to save for their post-secondary education.

This pandemic further exacerbates the existing affordability crisis that British Columbians are facing. The average student in British Columbia can no longer afford post-secondary education on their own, or even with support from their family. Annual tuition fees have risen over 200% in the last two decades and are now over \$5,000 per year. Loans are the primary source of financial assistance in BC, resulting in half of students graduating with student debt.

In a time of uncertain employment, increasing the funding available through the BC Access Grant will ensure more students can begin or continue their studies; it will also assist workers who were laid off to get the retraining they need to re-enter the workforce. The BC Access Grant doesn't only help to reduce student loan debt at the end of a person's academic journey; it actually opens the door to education that may have previously been closed. At this time when education is so integral to economic recovery, ensuring access for all British Columbians will help lift everyone up.

RECOMMENDATION

That the BC Access Grant provide \$100 million in financial aid annually in order to increase access to post-secondary education and skills training.

INSTITUTIONAL FUNDING AND FEES

A review of funding in BC tells a concerning story about the provincial government's commitment to strengthening universities and colleges.

Despite its stated goal of creating a world-class system of post-secondary education, past British Columbia governments have been remiss in their obligations to adequately fund post-secondary institutions, leaving them scrambling to make up for annual shortfalls with cost-recovery programming and ancillary fees. Between 2000 and 2016, the proportion of provincial funding decreased by 24% in BC; at the same time institutions looked to international tuition fee increases to fill the gaps in their budgets.

In recent years, the proportion of public funding to BC colleges and universities has dropped to 43.6% of total operating revenue—down from more than 80% in the 1980s and more than 90% in the 1970s. This constitutes a massive divestment in public education for the current generation of young people compared to the support provided to those who attended college and university in past decades.

International tuition fee revenues are now estimated to be 25% of BC universities' operational budgets. However this is a high risk for institutions because international fees are not guaranteed. As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, international student enrolment has declined at nearly every institution, in some cases drastically. Even with domestic enrolment remaining relatively stable, the decline of international students is causing institutions to suffer financially as a direct result of their over-reliance on these fees.

Tuition fees are not the only financial obstacle faced by students at post-secondary institutions. The Tuition Fee Limit Policy has not prevented institutions from implementing hundreds of dollars in new ancillary fees for costs previously included as part of students' tuition fees. Further, the Policy does not apply to new courses. Therefore, institutions commonly collapse programs, rename and slightly adjust the program, just to essentially restart the same program at a higher cost to students. It has become common practice for institutions to subvert the Tuition Fee Limit Policy, and measures must be taken to address these loopholes.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That a full review of funding in the advanced education and skills training sector be conducted to determine gaps in government funding, in particular for regional colleges and universities, including an infusion of \$200 million annually.

That the government freeze tuition fees and develop a plan to progressively reduce tuition fees at public institutions to lessen the financial burden on students and their families.

That the government strengthen the Tuition Fee Limit Policy to ensure that institutions are not increasing fees beyond the prescribed limits in the form of new ancillary fees and repackaged programs.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

In BC public post-secondary institutions, international student enrolment has nearly tripled in the last decade, from 22,000 in 2007 to 60,000, and now make up 13.7% of enrolment. The largest growth has been at colleges, where the international enrolment has more than tripled in the last decade (from 5,000 to 17,000, an increase of 240 percent). Currently, British Columbia hosts approximately one-quarter of all international students in the country.

One of the biggest financial challenges facing international students is the inability to properly budget for a 4-year degree. In any given year, fees may increase by as much as 20% and increases are based on whatever the institution deems is required to balance its budget. This is an unsustainable model that often results in students struggling to stay in BC to finish their studies.

The regulation of tuition and ancillary fees for international students would create fairness, consistency, and predictability to changes in international student fees, and would respect those who are travelling great distances and paying substantial fees to participate in our educational system. The provincial government and BC post-secondary sector rely on international education revenue to boost the economy and fill in gaps in institutions' budgets; it is clear that international students have a vast financial impact in BC, but without regulation this is a highly unstable situation which could collapse without warning.

BC's international education strategy concluded in 2016; it is imperative that a new strategy be developed immediately in consultation with students and key stakeholders in the sector. The new strategy should take into account the support that international students need, rather than just focusing on increasing enrolment. Research has shown that when institutions take action to embrace diversity and create socially supportive school contexts, the social inclusion and academic success of not just international students, but all students is improved. The benefits of this will be seen in the long term: international students who feel better integrated and a greater belonging in their community are much more likely to complete their studies, and are more likely to stay after graduation to become part of British Columbia's society and labour force. New supports for international students have the potential to expand BC's job market while still delivering a positive return on investment in a fair and ethical way. A new BC international education strategy needs to provide sufficient support for international students to assist in their cultural, social, and academic integration.

RECOMMENDATION

That the government amend the Tuition Fee Limit Policy to include regulation of fees for international students to create fairness, consistency, and predictability for international student tuition fees.

That the government develop a new BC international education strategy that will provide sufficient support for international students to assist in their cultural, social, and academic integration.



Information Note

Advice to Minister Anne Kang

Date: February 2, 2021

Cliff #: 120797

Issue: Early Childhood Educator Work-Integrated Learning Program Delivery

Background / Facts:

- In 2018, as part of BC's Childcare Plan to produce more qualified ECEs, AEST invested \$628K to fund six Early Childhood Educator (ECE) Work-Integrated Learning (WIL) pilots.
- The purpose of the ECE WIL pilot programs was to test an alternate pathway for current childcare workers to upgrade their ECE credentials while remaining employed. Pilots include a combination of prior learning assessment recognition, work-based field assessments and online ECE program delivery.
- The WIL pathway is distinct from the traditional pathway of someone often having to quit their job and become a full-time student to earn a credential.
- The pilots were reviewed and approved by the Ministry of Children and Family Development's ECE Registry.
- The pilots were launched in 2019 and 2020 at six public Post-Secondary institutions (PSIs) (see Attachment 1: ECE Map). To date, 69 students have participated in the 2019 pilots; 2020 participant information is still being finalized.
- As part of B.C.'s 2020/21 Economic Recovery initiative, six ECE programs received additional funding, two of which were ECE WIL pilots (run by Camosun College and Northern Lights College to serve up to 60 ECE FTEs). See Attachment 2: ECE WIL Economic Recovery Programs.
- The ECE WIL program delivery preceded and is distinct from AEST's current Budget 2021 Submission on WIL, which is focused on the expansion of co-ops, internships, and placements for current post-secondary students.

Analysis:

- Interim reporting has been received from the PSIs that delivered pilots during 2019:
 - Of the 69 students who participated, 44 students have completed and are eligible for ECE Certification, either basic Early Childhood Educator, Infant Toddler, or Special Needs Educator.
 - 25 students are in progress; the timeline for completion is dependent on practicum delays due to COVID-19.
- Final reporting and evaluations from the six pilots are due in summer 2021.
- ECE WIL program delivery during COVID-19 has posed some challenges including more complex and costly practicum coordination, faculty recruitment and compensation, and longer timelines for students to achieve credentials.
- Early indications are ECE WIL is well received by students and offers an attractive pathway to achieve credentials while maintaining employment.

Conclusion / Next Steps:

- AEST will reconvene the ECE WIL Pilot Evaluation Advisory Committee to disseminate final reporting results, identify best practices, and consider opportunities to increase access to ECE WIL programs.

Attachment(s): *Attachment 1: ECE Map*
Attachment 2: ECE WIL Economic Recovery Programs

Contact: *Shannon Baskerville, DM, 250-356-5173*
Nicola Lemmer, ADM, Post-Secondary Policy and Programs, 250-952-0697

ECE Seat Expansion 2018 - 2021

DRAFT

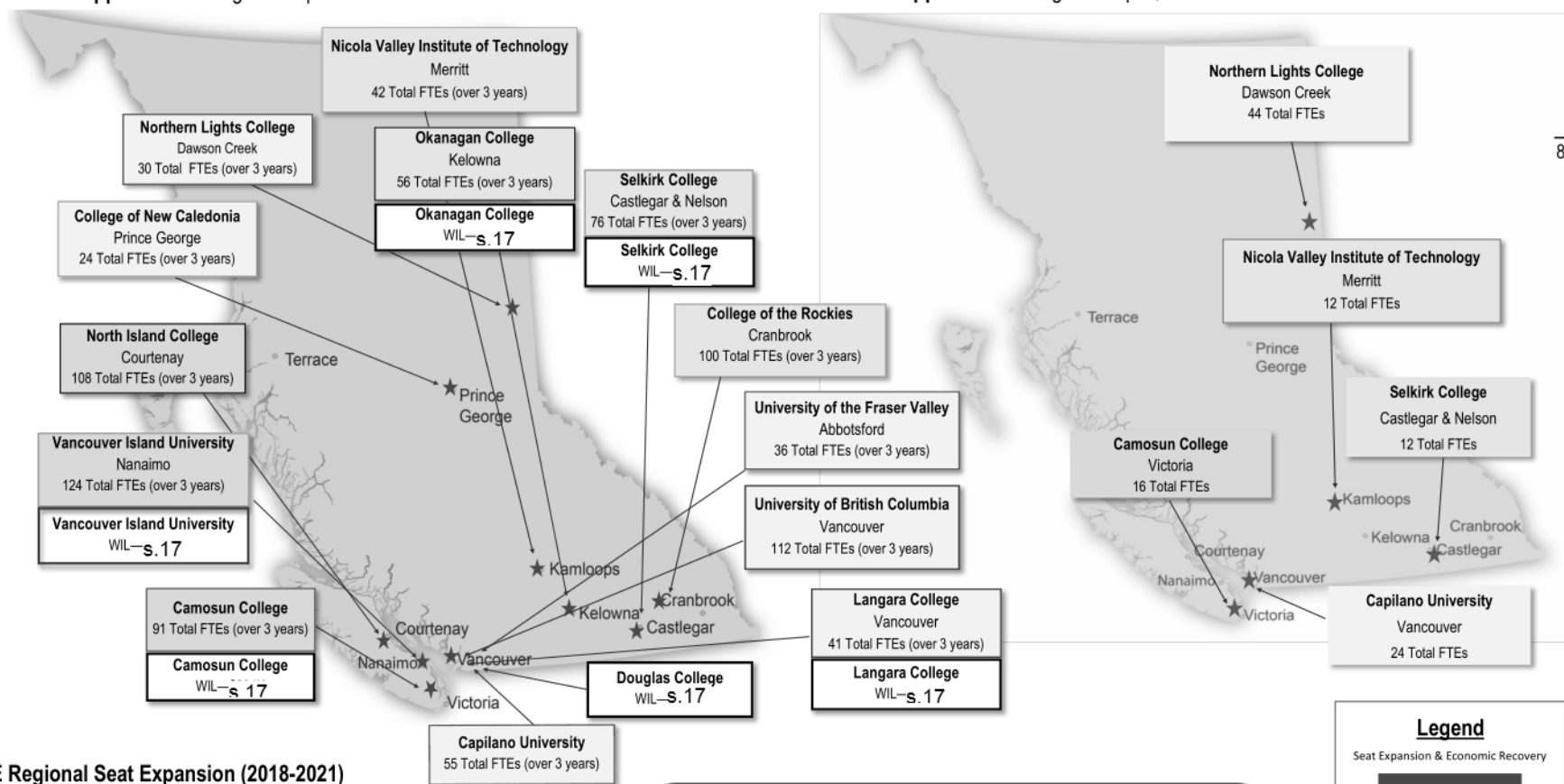
Updated January 27, 2021

ECE Seat Expansion & WIL pilots (Dec 2018 - Mar 2021)

Approved Funding Envelope- \$17 —895 FTEs—WIL Pilots \$17

ECE Economic Recovery Funding (Oct 2020 - Mar 2021)

Approved Funding Envelope \$17 —108 FTEs



Total ECE Regional Seat Expansion (2018-2021)

UBC: \$17 / 112 FTEs	COTR: \$17 / 100 FTEs
LANG: \$17 / 41 FTEs	CNCs: \$17 / 24 FTEs
CAPU: \$17 / 79 FTEs	NLC: \$17 / 74 FTEs
UFV: \$17 / 36 FTEs	CAM: \$17 / 107 FTEs
SELK: \$17 / 88 FTEs	NIC: \$17 / 108 FTEs
OKAN: \$17 / 56 FTEs	VIU: \$17 / 124 FTEs
NVIT: \$17 / 54 FTEs	

Funded WIL Pilots to Date	CAM: \$17	
	DOUG:	
	LANG:	
	OKAN:	
	SELK:	
	VIU:	
		Total: \$628K

Work Integrated Learning (WIL) is a model of experiential education that integrates a student's academic studies within a workplace or practice setting. This allows a student to **earn while they learn** and provides a seamless transition from training to jobs.

Six pilots funded in 2018 are successfully underway.

- 69 students participating
- 44 students completed and eligible for ECE certification- Basic, Infant Toddler and Special Needs
- 25 students in progress

ECE Seat Expansion - 895 FTEs Funded (incl. 4 WIL FTEs)

ECE Economic Recovery Funding
60 Work Integrated Learning FTEs
48 Traditional

108

48

Attachment 2 – ECE WIL Economy Recovery Programs

PSI	Service Delivery Area	Funding	FTEs	Description
Camosun College	Southern Vancouver Island	s.17	16	Early Learning and Care Diploma program, delivered in the community at the Victoria Native Friendship Centre, in partnership with Aboriginal Head Start on Reserve program at the First Nations Health Authority.
Northern Lights College	Online- Province-wide		44	Province-wide online WIL pathway for ECE Basic Certification, enables students to complete the Basic Certification without leaving the childcare centre where they are currently employed.
Totals			60	



Meeting Note Advice to Minister

Date: February 3, 2021

Cliff #: 120277

Prepared for: Honourable Anne Kang

Date, Time of Meeting and Location:

- February 9, 2021 (10:00 – 10:30 am)

Attendees: Kalith Nanayakkara, Vice-President External Affairs, Alma Mater Society
Saad Shoaib, Associate Vice-President External Affairs, Alma Mater Society
Alireza Kamyabi, Vice-President External Affairs, Graduate Student Society
Natalie Cappe, Policy Researcher, Graduate Student Society

Issue(s):

- A meeting with the University of British Columbia's (UBC) Alma Mater Society (AMS).

Background:

- Student societies in British Columbia are governed by elected student representatives and operate independently from post-secondary institutions as non-profits under the *Societies Act*.
- UBC's AMS represents all undergraduate and graduate students at UBC's Vancouver campus.
- It partners with UBC's Graduate Student Society (GSS) on the interests of graduate students.
- The AMS has provided an advocacy document providing recommendations on the following topics:
 1. Housing Affordability and the COVID-19 Pandemic
 2. Supporting the Post-Secondary Sector
 3. Improving Transit for British Columbians
 4. Graduate Student Financial Aid

Discussion:

1. Housing Affordability and the COVID-19 Pandemic

- AMS recommends the inclusion of students in rental support programs during the COVID-19 pandemic and completion of the leading practices in student housing work.
- The Ministry of Municipal Affairs has responsibility for rental support programs.
- The BC Temporary Rental Supplement Program (April - August 31, 2020) assisted low- and moderate-income renters, that lost income, with a subsidy payable to the landlords of eligible households.
- The Residential Tenancy Act does not apply to student housing offered by PSIs and provided to students.
- Government is investing \$450 million in new student housing. Approximately 5,500 student housing beds have been initiated, including 2,625 new beds at UBC's Vancouver and Okanagan campuses.

- Each project features housing options that are at or below local market rental rates, and generally include additional amenities (such as internet access, utilities) that are generally not included in off-campus rental rates.
- In 2018, AEST partnered with representatives from student societies, First Nations, and PSIs to develop leading practices in student housing agreements.
- A Working Group of student and PSI representatives was formed to draft recommendations that address the interests and responsibilities of both students and PSIs. AMS is a member of this working group.
- Work was paused due to the pandemic. The working group reconvened on January 27, 2021.

2. Supporting the Post-Secondary Sector

- The AMS recommends increasing PSI operating grants, undertaking a review of operating funding and regulating international student tuition through the Tuition Limit Policy (TLP).
- Government has maintained operating funding to all institutions during this difficult year.
- The Minister's mandate letter commits to conducting a review of post-secondary education operating grants. Ministry staff are laying the groundwork to begin this review.
- TLP does not regulate international student tuition, which covers the full cost of education. Most B.C. taxpayers are not of the view that they should be subsidizing the tuition for international students.
- Government is aware of concerns about unpredictable increases in international tuition and is looking at how PSIs can be more transparent about the tuition costs international students can expect over their study period.

3. Improving Transit for British Columbians

- AMS seeks government support of the Broadway extension project to terminus at UBC, by funding the project and ensuring the federal government recognizes the benefits of the project to British Columbians.
- The current project extends Sky Train along the Broadway corridor terminating at Arbutus.
- UBC, the City of Vancouver and the local First Nations (Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh) have partnered to provide a financial contribution for the project being extended.
- AEST does not have responsibility for regional transit, nor does it provide funding to PSIs for transportation-related projects.
- The benefits of this project are noted, however the decisions on where the Sky Train terminates is not within the responsibility AEST.

4. Graduate Student Financial Aid

- AMS advocates for expansion of the BC Access Grant to include graduate students, ongoing funding for the BC Graduate Scholarship and the inclusion of non-STEM disciplines in the scholarships.
- Almost 4,000 BC graduate students accessed \$45 million in combined federal and provincial student financial assistance in 2019/20, including over \$1 million in non-repayable grants and \$14 million in interest-free student loan funding.
- The BC Access Grant is available to undergraduate students in eligible programs at public PSIs.
- The Minister's mandate letter commits to expanding the BC Access Grant program by increasing eligibility to reduce barriers. Government will be reviewing options to address this commitment.
- The 2017 mandate letter committed to introducing a new graduate student scholarship fund.
- In May 2018, \$12 million was announced to support 800 awards through March 31, 2021.

- As outlined in the program guidelines, eligible degree programs include both research-intensive and professional graduate programs, with an emphasis, but not exclusive focus, on STEM-related disciplines.
- Scholarships have been awarded in a range of disciplines and are not limited to STEM disciplines.
- The scholarships have been well-received by graduate students, given the previous lack of scholarship programs in B.C.
- It would be helpful to hear AMS's thoughts on the priority of a merit-based scholarship program for a limited number of students, relative to addressing unmet financial need and other affordability issues of students more generally.

Suggested Response / Key Message:

- Note appreciation to AMS for their advocacy work and thoughtful input on these topics.

Attachment(s): *Attachment 1 – Biographies*

Attachment 2 – AMS Advocacy Brief Package 2021

Contact: *Nicola Lemmer, ADM (778) 698-9768*

Attachment 1 – Biographies

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No Photos or Biographies available for:

- Saad Shoaib, Associate Vice-President External Affairs, Alma Mater Society
- Natalie Cappe, Policy Researcher, Graduate Student Society

Advocacy Brief Package 2021

Contents:

Housing Affordability and the COVID-19 Pandemic

Supporting the Post-Secondary Sector

Improving Transit for British Columbians

Graduate Student Financial Aid



Kalith Nanayakkara – VP External Affairs (AMS)

Alireza Kamyabi – VP External Affairs (GSS)

Saad Shoaib – Associate VP External Affairs (AMS)

Natalie Cappe – Policy Assistant (GSS)

Erin Co – Campaigns and Community Engagement Commissioner (AMS)

Maia Wallace – Political Research and Student Support Commissioner (AMS)



**GRADUATE
STUDENT SOCIETY**
UBC VANCOUVER

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Meeting Note Advice to Minister

Date: February 8, 2021

Cliff #: 120402

Prepared for: Honourable Anne Kang, Minister of Advanced Education and Skills Training

Date, Time of Meeting and Location:

- February 16, 2021 (10:00 – 10:30 a.m.)

Attendees: Samad Raza, Vice President External Relations, Simon Fraser Student Society
Honourable Katrina Chen, MLA (Burnaby-Lougheed)

Issue(s):

- A meeting with the Simon Fraser Student Society (SFSS).

Background:

- Student societies in British Columbia are governed by elected student representatives and operate independently from post-secondary institutions as non-profits under the *Societies Act*.
- SFSS represents undergraduate students at Simon Fraser University, and has interest in:
 1. Tuition Increases
 2. International Student Supports
 3. Post-Secondary Operating Grants

Discussion:

1. Tuition Increases

- SFSS is concerned with Simon Fraser University's decision to increase tuition by 2% for domestic students and 4% for international students for the 2021/22 academic year.
- They also feel that international student tuition should be regulated under the Tuition Limit Policy (TLP) and that online learning is of lower quality and does not warrant a tuition increase.
- TLP puts a cap on annual tuition increases at 2% for domestic students.
- It is up to individual PSIs to determine whether they will raise their tuition the full 2% or a lesser amount, and the Ministry is not involved in these decisions.
- The Minister's mandate letter commits to strengthening the existing Tuition Fee Limit Policy. Ministry staff are laying the groundwork to begin these reviews.
- Tuition for International students is not included in TLP, as there would be a reluctance for B.C. taxpayers to subsidize education costs for international students.
- Guidelines encourage PSIs to set international tuition at a level that covers direct costs.

- Our government is working to take a more balanced approach to international education by engaging with the sector, students, and other partners. This includes working on ways that institutions can be more transparent about the tuition costs international students can expect over their study period.
- While online learning may not be the preferred learning option for many students, the quality of online programs is still high. In many cases, the cost of delivering online education can be more costly than for in-person classes due to extra technology and staffing requirements.
- While enrolment may have decreased slightly due to COVID-19, the costs of maintaining post-secondary access to students has increased during the pandemic.
- The public post-secondary sector is forecasting an operating deficit in the range of \$180 million this fiscal year.
- PSIs are covering their deficits from their own financial resources.
- We expect that as more people are vaccinated over the coming months, we will see much more post-secondary education being provided on-campus again.

2. International Student Supports

- Domestic and international students are affected by the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- International students are an important part of the B.C. post-secondary education ecosystem and the contribution they make to our PSIs and communities is valued.
- Many public institutions have responded by providing student housing, financial and other assistance, including bursaries and emergency funding.
- The Province is ensuring international students have access to key supports during this time including Here2Talk, the Province's mental health counselling and referral service for post-secondary students, and by making temporary changes to MSP coverage policies for eligible international students.
- The federal government has also implemented temporary changes to work permits for international students, providing more flexibility during this challenging time.

3. Post-Secondary Operating Grants

- SFSS would like to see increased operating grant funding to PSIs.
- Government has maintained operating funding to all PSIs during this difficult year.
- The Minister's mandate letter commits to conducting a *review of post-secondary education operating grants*. Ministry staff are laying the groundwork to begin this review.

Suggested Response / Key Message:

- Note appreciation to SFSS for their advocacy work and thoughtful input on these topics.

Attachment(s): *Attachment 1 – Biography*

Attachment 2 – SFSS Letter to BC - Issue Regarding Tuition Fees Increase

Contact: *Nicola Lemmer, ADM, Post-Secondary Policy and Programs, (778) 698-9768*

Attachment 1 – Biography

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Dear Honourable Melanie Mark and Premier John Horgan,

My name is Samad Raza and I am the Vice President External Relations at Simon Fraser Student Society (SFSS). Today, I am writing to you with the hope of bringing an important student issue to your attention: post-secondary tuition fee increases amidst the COVID-19 pandemic.

Countless lives have been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, including those of students. Many students have lost their jobs and are facing a high level of academic, mental, and financial pressure. In a time when students need as much support as possible, Simon Fraser University (SFU) has proposed to increase tuition fees by 2% for domestic students and 4% for international students for the 2021/2022 year. However, there has been little decrease in full-time equivalent (FTE) student enrollment from Fall 2019 to Fall 2020 that would impact their revenues. For students, particularly the 28.4% of SFU undergraduates that identify as food insecure and the 32% of Canadian youth that have been unemployed¹ during the pandemic, a 2% increase in tuition is significant. Many students are relying on student loans or their own savings and this fee increase will put greater financial pressure on students that are already at the brink. Recently, members of the SFSS voted overwhelmingly in favour² of condemning SFU for their decision to increase tuition fees amidst the pandemic. In a May 2020 SFSS survey, students reported that they felt online learning was of lower quality than in-person learning, and would not warrant an increase in tuition.

International students are particularly hard-hit by the tuition increase. International undergraduate tuition in B.C. rose by an average of 34% from 2014/2015 to 2018/2019³. Comparatively, domestic undergraduate tuition rose 11% in that same period. Despite depictions in the media of international students coming from wealth, 47% of international students do not have strong financial standing⁴. Nevertheless, they benefit domestic institutions and students in many ways. At SFU, international students make up just 20% of the undergraduate student population, yet they contribute to nearly 50% of the total tuition fee revenue⁵. At North Island College on Vancouver Island, revenue from international students allowed them to enroll an additional 688 domestic students in 2017⁶. Furthermore, it is not just post-secondary institutions and domestic students that benefit from international students' contributions – in 2017,

¹ Statistics Canada, "COVID-19 and the Labour Market in April 2020," <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/11-627-m/11-627-m2020034-eng.htm>, May 8, 2020.

² Osob Mohamend, "SFSS AGM: Tuition Condemnation", Simon Fraser Student Society, 2020, <https://sfss.ca/sfss-agm-results/>

³ Statistics Canada, "Canadian and International Tuition Fees by Level of Study," 2019, <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/t1/tbl1/en/tv.action?pid=3710004501>

⁴ Choudaha, R., & Schulmann, P., "Student Segmentation for an Effective International Enrollment Strategy", World Education Services", 2014, wenr.wes.org/2013/09/student-segmentation-for-an-effective-international-enrollment-strategy

⁵ Simon Fraser University, "Budget and Financial Plan 2019-20", Burnaby, B.C.: Simon Fraser University, 2019.

⁶ Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services, "Report on the Budget 2019 consultation", Victoria, B.C.: The Legislative Assembly of British Columbia, 2019.

international students contributed \$2.37 billion to the BC GDP and also helped create 31,400 jobs in the province⁷. However, these students are not eligible for government pandemic financial support, including the \$3.5 million provincial funding for post-secondary students during the pandemic. International students are not covered by the provincial Tuition Limit Policy, capping annual tuition increases to 2% per year. We ask the BC government to regulate international tuition fees by including international students in the Tuition Limit Policy so they can continue their studies in Canada.

In 1979, nearly 90% of operating revenue for B.C. post-secondary institutions came from federal or provincial sources⁸, compared to just 47.4% from both levels of government in 2018⁹. In 2015, tuition revenue surpassed provincial funding as the main source of operating revenue for SFU, with 36% of operating revenue coming from tuition, and 31% from the Province in 2019¹⁰. This change has put a large financial burden on students, with average student debts doubling from 2006 to 2016¹¹. Increasing student debts are one of many factors that can affect students' education and quality of life, and more importantly, act as a barrier for them to continue their studies and ultimately obtain jobs. We ask the BC government to increase operating grants to safeguard students from financial burden.

Youth, particularly post-secondary students, have been disproportionately affected by the COVID-19 pandemic in many ways, including financially. Rising tuition fees only add to that burden. On behalf of the Simon Fraser Student Society and my fellow students, I urge the BC government to take notice of this issue and act.

Thank you,

Samad Raza

Vice President External Relations

vpexternal@sfss.ca

Simon Fraser Student Society

⁷ Roslyn Kunin & Associates Inc., "An Assessment of the Economic Impact of International Education in British Columbia: An Update in 2017: Final report", presented to: British Columbia Council for International Education, 2019, bccie.bc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/Kunin-report-2019.pdf

⁸ Iglia Ivanova, "Paid in Full Update: Who Pays for University Education in BC?", Vancouver, B.C.: Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives, 2012.

⁹ Canadian Association of University Business Officers, "Financial Information for Universities and Colleges: 2017/2018", Ottawa, ON: CAUBO, 2019.

¹⁰ Simon Fraser University, "Budget and Financial Plan 2020/21", Burnaby, B.C.: Simon Fraser University, 2020.

¹¹ Statistics Canada, Tuition and accommodation costs (2006/2007) to (2016/2017), Ottawa, ON: Statistics Canada, 2018.

Meeting Note

Advice to the Honourable Anne Kang, Minister of Advanced Education and Skills Training

Date: February 10, 2021

Cliff #: 120847

Prepared for: Honourable Anne Kang, Minister of Advanced Education and Skills Training

Date, Time of Meeting and Location:

- February 18, 2021, 10:30 am – 11:00 am PST (Teams Meeting)

Attendees:

- Honourable Anne Kang, Minister of Advanced Education and Skills Training
- Andrew Mercier, Parliamentary Secretary for Skills Training
- Elaine Allan, Executive Director, Skills Canada BC (SCBC)
- Dennis Innes, President, Skills Canada (SC)

Issues:

- SCBC and SC have requested this meeting to introduce their organizations to Minister Kang and Parliamentary Secretary Mercier, and to discuss their funding support requirements for regional, provincial, and national youth skills competitions.

Background:

Skills Canada (National Organization)

- Skills Canada (SC) is a Canadian non-profit organization dedicated to supporting a coordinated pan-Canadian approach to promoting skilled careers in trades and technologies to youth and their communities by engaging youth in interactive experiences that positively profile skilled trades and technology careers.
- One of SC's major initiatives is the annual Skills Canada National Competition, which takes place in a different Canadian city each year. This is an Olympic-style event in which competitors from across the country take part in various skilled trades and technology contests. British Columbia has hosted this event in 2013, 2002 and 1998.
- Skills Canada is funded by the Government of Canada, through public and private partnerships, and through industry sponsorship of skills competitions.

Skills Canada BC (Provincial Organization)

- Skills Canada BC (SCBC) is a provincial member organization of Skills Canada and has operated as a provincial not-for-profit organization since 1994, focussing on promoting in-demand trade and technology careers for B.C.'s youth.
- Each year, SCBC exposes 35,000 youth to careers in the skilled trades and technology sectors by hosting regional and provincial-level Olympic-style competitions and online challenges with youth around the province. These competitions are hosted in communities across B.C.
- Skills Canada BC's 2020 Regional Competitions were its most successful in its 27 year-long history as almost 5,000 student competitors participated in its province-wide competitions which took place . just prior to the start of COVID-19.

- Skills Canada BC is partially funded by the Government of Canada and industry sponsorship of skills competitions. It also seeks funding each year from the Government of British Columbia and the Industry Training Authority.

Discussion:

Skills Canada (National Organization)

- Due to COVID-19, the 2020 Skills Canada National Competition scheduled to be held in May at the Vancouver Convention Centre was cancelled. The 2021 National Competition scheduled for June 2021 in Quebec City has also been cancelled.
- AEST originally committed \$250,000 to SC to support the 2020 Skills Canada National Competition at the Vancouver Convention Centre, but this support was withheld after the event was cancelled due to the health crisis.
- SC has announced Vancouver will host the 2022 National Competition, May 25 – 28, 2022, at the Vancouver Convention Centre.
- The top medalists of the National Competition secure placement on Team Canada to compete at the international “WorldSkills” Competition. The next WorldSkills Competition is scheduled for Shanghai in October and November 2022.
- It is anticipated that SC will be seeking a re-commitment from AEST for \$250,000 to support the 2022 Skills Canada National Competition in British Columbia.

Skills Canada BC (Provincial Organization)

- SCBC began hosting online challenges at the beginning of the pandemic in April 2020. Since then, SCBC’s online challenges have become very popular with secondary and post-secondary students and teachers across the province. These online challenges incorporate sections of competition scope documents to help students prepare for future SCBC Regional and Provincial competitions.
- In 2021 Skills Canada BC will be hosting Regional Competitions in February and March and its Provincial competitions in May 2021.
- Skills Canada BC’s continued reliance on funding from the Ministry and ITA is a longstanding issue given that this type of on-going organizational funding isn’t the core business of the Ministry or the ITA. Neither the Ministry nor the Crown corporation have allocated budgets to support Skills Canada BC.
- Historically provincial funding to support SCBC’s regional and provincial competitions has been provided on an ad hoc basis through budget savings in operations or other program areas (see Appendix A). The ad hoc funding was provided contingent on Skills Canada BC becoming self-sustaining, which has not happened.
- It is anticipated that SCBC will be seeking \$250,000 in operational funding from the Ministry. AEST provided SCBC \$250,000 in operational funding in March 2020.

Suggested Response / Key Messages:

- I am very pleased to have this opportunity to meet each of you today and for the introduction to the work of Skills Canada and Skills Canada BC.
- I appreciate how SC and SCBC share this government’s commitment to skills training, apprenticeship, and promoting the trades as valued career options for youth. Engaging youth in interactive experiences that positively profile skilled trades and technology careers helps set the path for youth into skilled careers in trades.

- I believe very strongly in the importance of increasing the prestige of trades occupations so they are viewed as highly skilled, highly respected, good paying career choices on par with post-secondary degree careers.
- The Ministry looks forward to partnering with your organizations to ensure the 2022 National Competition scheduled for May 2022 in Vancouver is a success. I encourage you to follow-up with ADM Bindi Sawchuk.
- I understand that my predecessor, Minister Mark, has been supportive of SC and SCBC and that the Ministry has provided ad hoc funding through budget savings over the past years, either directly or through the ITA. Ministry staff will work with the ITA to find an appropriate approach to finding funding.

Attachments: *Appendix A – History of Provincial and ITA funding provided to SC and SCBC*

Contact: *Bindi Sawchuk, ADM, Workforce Innovation & Skills Training, Ministry of Advanced Education, Skills and Training (778) 698-8772*

Appendix A

History of Provincial and ITA funding provided to Skills Canada and Skills Canada BC

Fiscal Year	AEST/JTST (through ITA)	ITA	Total Amount Provided
2020/21	-	-	-
2019/20	\$250K*	\$250K	\$500K
2018/19	150K	150K	300K
2017/18	150K	150K	300K
2016/17	100K	150K	250K
2015/16	150K	150K	300K
2014/15	-	200K	200K
2013/14	-	50K	50K
2012/13	-	205K	205K
2011/12	-	-	-
2010/11	-	295K	295K
2009/10	-	310K	310K
2008/09	-	None	79.55K
2007/08	-	390K	390K
2006/07	-	110K	110K
2005/06	-	112K	111.5K
2004/05	-	55K	55K
Total Funding Provided	\$800K	\$2.482M	\$3.282M

**Funding provided through Direct Award with AEST*



Meeting Note

Advice to the Honourable Anne Kang Minister of Advanced Education and Skills Training

Date: February 9, 2021

Cliff #: 120834

Prepared for: Honourable Anne Kang, Minister of Advanced Education and Skills Training

Date, Time of Meeting and Location:

- Thursday February 18, 2021 10:00am-10:30am (Teams Meeting)

Attendees:

- Honourable Minister Kang, Minister of Advanced Education and Skills Training
- Shannon Baskerville, Deputy Minister Advanced Education and Skills Training
- Bindi Sawchuk, Assistant Deputy Minister, WIST, Advanced Education and Skills Training
- Suzanne Spence, Executive Director, GECS, Advanced Education and Skills Training
- Nina Hansen, Executive Director, BC Centre for Women in the Trades (BCCWITT)

Issue(s):

- Introductory meeting and discussion on advancing equity, diversity, and inclusion in the skilled trades.

Background:

- BCCWITT (<https://bccwitt.ca/>) was established in 2018 through AEST's Sector Labour Market Partnerships (SLMP) program.
- The SLMP program funds projects that support long-term, strategic and sustainable workforce solutions in an economic sector, economic development region, or a specific population (e.g. women working in construction trades). SLMP does not provide ongoing operational funding.
- AEST invested \$2.2M over three years (2018-2021) to support two projects aimed at removing barriers to women's participation in the construction trades: \$1.16M to the BC Construction Association for the delivery of the Construction Workforce Equity Project (CWEP); and \$1.03M to the BC Federation of Labour for the BCCWITT project (Program Overviews in Appendix B).
- BCCWITT's mandate is to increase the retention and advancement of women in the construction trades by implementing targeted supports to address the systemic challenges faced by women in the trades.
- BCCWITT is a partnership led by women from the trades with industry and labour representatives, and currently has a two-year \$2.4M contract with the Industry Training Authority (ITA) to provide employment services for women looking for apprenticeship training funding and employment/sponsorship in trades where women are under-represented.

- In April of 2020 BCCWITT requested ongoing operational funding from AEST. AEST could not support the request and suggested alternative funding sources, including Western Economic Diversification Canada, the Future Skills Centre, and to monitor BC Bid for opportunities with the Province.

Discussion:

- The construction trades will be critical to supporting workers, industry, and B.C.'s broader economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic by building infrastructure stimulus projects and the eventual recovery of residential construction.
- Increasing the number of women and other underrepresented groups in trades careers is crucial to addressing labour market shortages for the construction sector.
- Participation of women and Indigenous peoples entering apprenticeships is projected to increase 10 percent from 2018/19 to 2020/21 and supporting the creation of a diverse, equitable and inclusive construction trades industry will help retention of underrepresented groups in the sector.

Key Messages:

- We share your objectives of advancing equity, diversity, and inclusion in the construction trades, and AEST supports the ITA in its commitment to developing an inclusive trades training and apprenticeship system that reflects BC's diverse population.
- Our government is committed to delivering accessible and affordable trades training to ensure British Columbians get the education and training they need.
- I recognize and appreciate the valuable work that BCCWITT is doing to lead the shift in culture required to address systemic barriers for women and other underrepresented groups working in the construction trades.
- I would like to thank BCCWITT for your continued commitment to advancing equity, diversity, and inclusion in B.C.'s workforce.
- Thank you for meeting with me; I look forward to seeing BCCWITT's continued success in making BC's construction trades industry a safe and inclusive workplace that supports the success of women and underrepresented people in trades careers.

Attachment(s):

- **Appendix A** – Biography of Nina Hansen, ED, BC Centre for Women in the Trades
- **Appendix B** – Program Overviews

Contact: *Bindi Sawchuk, Assistant Deputy Minister, Workforce Innovation & Skills Training, Ministry of Advanced Education, Skills and Training (250-216-0346)*

Appendix A - Biography of Nina Hansen, ED, BC Centre for Women in the Trades (BCCWITT)

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Appendix B - Program Overviews

BC Federation of Labour's BCCWITT Project

- The Sector Labour Market Partnerships (SLMP) program helps sectors identify, understand, and address workforce development challenges.¹
- SLMP funds five different types of project activities: 1) Sector Engagement and Identifying Key Labour Market Issues, 2) Labour Market Information and Research, 3) Solution Development, 4) Pilot Projects, and 5) Evaluation.
- SLMP provided \$1.03M to the BC Federation of Labour as a pilot project from 2018-2020 to establish the BC Centre for Women in the Trades (BCCWITT) and \$1.2M to BCCA for the BC Construction Workforce Equity Project (CWEP).
- BCCWITT (<https://bccwitt.ca/>) was designed to increase the retention and advancement of women in the construction trades by implementing targeted supports within companies and through mentorship to address the existing systemic challenges women in the trades face.
- The BC Centre for Women in the Trades provided three core services:
 - 1. Outreach and Mentoring for Tradeswomen.**
 - BCCWITT developed a pan-provincial mentorship network, which supports women working in the trades navigate their career and workplace challenges.
 - 2. Shifting the Culture: Leadership Development and Training**
 - Building on the successful “Be More than a Bystander” campaign (<https://bccwitt.ca/whatwedo/bystander/>), BCCWITT delivers a train-the-trainer program specific to the construction sector to develop industry, union and workplace leadership with respect to gender-based violence, bullying and harassment.
 - 3. Building Workforce Diversity through Organizational Capacity**
 - BCCWITT provides support for employers to practice equitable recruitment, training and advancement practices and develop organizational policies and practices to address bullying and harassment.
- BCCA's CWEP project provided three core services:
 - 1. Virtual HR Team**
 - Provide access to HR consultants for assistance in developing customized policies and on-site mediation assistance managing an escalating situation in the crew.
 - 2. Culture Training Program**
 - Provide anti-gender bias, anti-bullying and harassment training to all levels of company employees to help improve workplace culture by helping company

¹ The program is funded through the Canada-BC Labour Market Development Agreement, a federal/provincial agreement administered by the Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction (SDPR). The Ministry of Advanced Education, Skills and Training (AEST) administers the SLMP program through an MOU with SDPR.

leaders understand their role in supporting a climate of respect and leading cultural change. Launch a 'BC Builders' Code (<https://www.builderscode.ca/>) to help shift the culture on worksites.

3. Exemplary Employer Campaign

- Develop a public commitment campaign where aspiring exemplar employers will commit to cultural change and an increased representation of women in their workplaces. The program will include the development of an equity scorecard, baseline data, and public reporting on outcomes and exemplar employer awards and recognition.

Draft



Information Note Advice to Minister Anne Kang

Date: February 8, 2021

Cliff #: 120926

Issue: Requests for health education program funding through *Budget 2021*

Background and Analysis:

Health Care Assistant Partnership Pathway

- In September 2020, the Health Career Access Program (HCAP) was funded as part of the *StrongerBC* Economic Recovery Plan to create 3,000 new entry-level, non-direct patient care Health Care Support Worker (HCSW) roles in long-term care and assisted living.
- The HCAP pays HCSWs' salaries for up to 18 months while they pursue Health Care Assistant (HCA) training in a modular or part-time model, interspersed with work periods. A return-of-service agreement commits HCAP participants to 12 months work as an HCA following program completion.
- AEST was funded for 600 HCA seats in 2020/21 and developed the Health Care Assistant Partnership Pathway (HCA-PP) with public post-secondary and health sector partners as the training component of the HCAP.
- s.13
- HCA-PP seats will be required for the s.13 anticipated HCSWs.
- s.13
- As AEST has already been funded for 600 HCA-PP seats and can redeploy some traditional HCA seats, s.13
-

Health Education Program Expansion

- AEST works with MoH to calibrate post-secondary health program capacity with health sector human resource needs.
- Minister Dix's mandate letter of November 26, 2020 directs the Minister to: "Implement a comprehensive health care human resources strategy, expanding training in all fields of health care...".
- Guided by MoH's health human resource priorities, AEST has developed a proposed health education program expansion plan that would address training-related supply gaps for priority health professions.
- The proposed expansions build on growth in HCA, Nurse Practitioner, Diagnostic Sonography, Physiotherapy and Occupational Therapy education programs since 2017, as well as one-time increases in several other priority health programs.

s.12; s.14

Conclusion:

- AEST and MoH work collaboratively to address health human resource needs with a training component.
- Where additional post-secondary training capacity is required as part of a broader MoH initiative or plan, MoH has included the AEST funding requests in its budget submissions.

s.12; s.14

Attachments:

1. *Health Care Assistant Partnership Pathway component of Health Career Access Program Request*
2. *Health Education Expansion Overview*

Contact: Nicola Lemmer, ADM, (778) 698-9768

Summary of Health Care Assistant Partnership Pathway (HCA-PP) Funding Request*Table 1: HCA-PP component of Health Career Access Program for Budget 2021*

Fiscal Year	Funded 2020/21	s.16; s.17
HCAP Commitment	3000	
HCA-PP Seats¹		
New funding	700	
Redeployed base	-	
Total	700	

Table 2: HCA-PP Funding Request for Budget 2021

Fiscal Year	s.16; s.17
HCA-PP Seats	
Seat funding	
Staffing (2 FTEs)	
Total Request	

¹ HCA-PP seat numbers are slower to ramp up than HCAP hiring numbers, reflecting the program design of participants being hired and working for a period before beginning their HCA training.

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s.13

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s.13 ; s.17



Meeting Note Advice to Minister

Date: February 11, 2021

Cliff #: 120935

Prepared for: Honourable Anne Kang, Minister of Advanced Education and Skills Training

Date, Time of Meeting and Location:

- February 18, 2021, 11:30 am to 12:00 pm
- Meeting to be held over MS Teams.

Attendees:

- Ravi Parmar, Chair, Sooke School District 62 (SD62)
- Scott Stinson, Superintendent of Schools/CEO, SD62
- Nicola Lemmer, ADM, Post-Secondary Policy and Programs, Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Training (AEST)

s.13

Issues:

- In January 2021, the SD62 Chair wrote Minister Kang expressing an interest to meet to discuss educational issues, including the West Shore Post-Secondary Expansion (see Attachment 1).

Background:

- The West Shore (including Langford, Colwood, Metchosin, and the Highlands) is one of the fastest growing regions in Canada and demand for closer post-secondary access is projected to grow.
- Current direct transition rate of high school graduates to post-secondary institutions in SD62 is lower than the provincial average (59% vs. 69%, respectively).
- In March 2018, Royal Roads University (RRU) received \$250,000 to develop a report in collaboration with partners including First Nations, Camosun College (CAM), University of Victoria (UVic), and school districts.
 - The 200-page report, *Assessing Post-Secondary Needs in the West Shore: Responding to Growing Demand*, recommended development of a business plan to expand post-secondary options on the West Shore.
- In March 2019, RRU received government funding of \$1.5 million to develop a comprehensive business plan to be submitted to AEST.
- In December 2019, RRU, in partnership with CAM and UVic, submitted a business plan for a shared West Shore post-secondary campus that would provide a collaborative learning hub with a range of programs.

s.12; s.14

- The business plan also identified a request for additional operating funding.

Discussion:

- With the onset of COVID-19, RRU indicated that the West Shore post-secondary campus project was put on hold.
 - Since that time, RRU, CAM, UVic and other public post-secondary institutions have rapidly shifted delivery in education and training programs to remote and online methods.
 - Many institutions are anticipating that the demand for online courses will continue post-pandemic and are planning to increase regular online delivery options as part of recovery planning. Over the long-term, this new dynamic may affect attitudes regarding the need for physical campuses to deliver programming.
 - In December 2020, RRU submitted a draft revised concept for the West Shore expansion
- s.12; s.14

- Initial programming would focus on continuing and professional studies, including micro-credentials.
 - RRU indicated that they will be working with CAM and UVic to further develop this revised concept and would like to further discuss with AEST.
 - Ministry staff cannot confirm that RRU has discussed this revised concept with SD62.
- s.12; s.14

Suggested Response / Key Message:

- *Thank you for the opportunity to meet today to discuss educational needs in the West Shore.*
- *Given impacts of COVID-19, I understand that RRU will be working with partners on a revised concept plan for a West Shore campus at a more modest scale.*
- *My Ministry looks forward to reviewing this revised concept and working with RRU and educational partners in the West Shore to discuss next steps.*

s.13

Attachment: Attachment 1 – Letter from SD62 Chair to Minister Anne Kang
Contact: Nicola Lemmer, ADM, Post-Secondary Policy and Programs, (778) 698-9768



SOOKE 62
SCHOOLS
Shaping Tomorrow Today

SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 62 (SOOKE)
3143 JACKLIN ROAD,
VICTORIA, BRITISH COLUMBIA • V9B 5R1
TELEPHONE: 250-474-9800 FAX: 474-9825
WEBSITE: WWW.SD62.BC.CA

January 21, 2021

The Honourable Anne Kang
Minister of Advanced Education and Skills Training
PO Box 9045 Stn. Prov. Govt.
Victoria, BC. V8W 9E2

Dear Minister Kang,

On behalf of the Board of Education for the Sooke School District, I wanted to take this opportunity to warmly congratulate you on your appointment as Minister of Advanced Education and Skills Training for the Province of British Columbia.

Our Board is very supportive of the commitments Premier Horgan has outlined in your mandate letter. We look forward to working together in a collaborative manner to meet the educational needs of students in our district and across the province. As one of the fastest growing districts in BC with students underrepresented in post-secondary education, we look forward to continuing progress to establish an additional post-secondary campus in the West Shore area.

As you are no doubt aware, the work being done amongst the south Island post-secondary institutions and the school district to provide an enhanced post-secondary presence on the Westshore has been a positive move forward for the community. In addition to the exciting prospect of a campus to support our graduates in fulfilling their study and career aspirations, it has also strengthened the working relationship amongst our organizations. Government's commitment to the initial phases of this work has been received positively by our community. We are committed to assisting in any way we can to support this project moving forward. The visible presence of a viable post-secondary option in the community will increase the ability for students to seamlessly transition from our schools into higher learning opportunities.

We are excited to continue our work together and look forward to assisting in any way we can. Please don't hesitate to reach out at any time. We will be pleased to share with you any initiatives that we undertake that connect to your work provincially. Please consider an open invitation from the Board to discuss important educational issues that align with your Ministry.

Sincerely,

Ravi Parmar
Board Chair

Trustees: Bob Beckett, Wendy Hobbs, Bob Phillips, Dianna Seaton, Margot Swinburnson, Allison Watson

Copy:

John Horgan, MLA
Mitzi Dean, MLA
Jennifer Whiteside, Minister of Education
Phillip Steenkamp, President of Royal Roads University
Sheri Bell, President of Camosun College
Kevin Hall, President of the University of Victoria
Stewart Young, City of Langford



Information Note

Advice to Minister Murray Rankin

Date: February 16, 2021

Cliff #: 121046

Issue: Student Housing Exemption from the Residential Tenancy Act

Background / Facts:

- Periodically, student groups lobby government to make student housing exempt from the Residential Tenancy Act (the Act).
- Section 4 (b) of the Act exempts living accommodation owned or operated by an educational institution and provided by that institution to its students or employees, from the requirements of the Act.
- The exemption provides flexibility for post-secondary institutions (PSIs) to deliver housing that benefits students in a unique community-based living environment, which has different tenancy needs than the general public.
- The Act, and its regulations, are under the administration of the Residential Tenancy Branch (RTB) of the Ministry of Attorney General.

Analysis:

- Exclusion from the Act allows PSIs the flexibility to manage and maintain student housing under PSI-specific policies that balance student rights with institutional accountabilities. This includes:
 - relocating a student on short notice due to threats of sexual violence, disruption or harassment,
 - evicting a student who may seriously violate a PSI's student code of conduct,
 - requiring students to vacate the housing after the student has completed their academic program or term so that new incoming students can be accommodated each year.
- Many students residing in student housing are under the age of 19 and as such, the PSI has a responsibility to the families of these minor students to keep these children as safe and secure as possible.
- Exclusion from the Act confers other benefits to students by allowing PSIs to create unique environments to support student success, such as gender-specific floors and designated quiet times for studying in residences.
- If student housing was under the Act, PSIs would lose the above flexibility and would be limited to the provisions for ending a tenancy as set out in the Act (e.g. non-payment of rent, cause, and landlord's use of property).
- Furthermore, disputes in student housing would then be subject to the RTB's dispute resolution process, which can add significant time and administrative effort for students, PSIs and the RTB.

Conclusion / Next Steps:

- The Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Training (AEST) does not support student housing being included in the Act for the reasons outlined in this briefing note.
- AEST has partnered with representatives from student societies, First Nations partners, and PSIs to develop leading practices in student housing rental agreements.
- A small working group was formed to draft recommendations that address the interests and responsibilities of both students and PSIs in these agreements.
- The working group includes representatives from student associations (Alliance of BC Students, BC Federation of Students, UBC Alma Mater Society, and University of Victoria Students' Society), and PSIs (Selkirk College, Simon Fraser University, University of British Columbia, University of Victoria).
- Broader consultation is planned once a draft has been finalized.

Contact: *Kevin Brewster, ADM and EFO (250 952-7410)*

BRIEFING NOTE

Introductory Meeting with UVic President Kevin Hall



What:

Introductory meeting between Premier John Horgan and University of Victoria (UVic) President Kevin Hall.

Who:

Premier John Horgan
UVic President Kevin Hall

Executive Summary:

The focus of the meeting with Premier Horgan is for President Kevin Hall to introduce himself as BC's newest university president.

Some of President Hall's priorities for UVic identified in Attachment 2 include:

- Responding to COVID
- Truth and Reconciliation
- Diversity and Inclusion
- Pathway Programs
- Economic Recovery (Re-skilling/Upskilling)
- Innovation Hubs

Background:

West Shore Post-Secondary Access:

- In December 2019, Royal Roads University (RRU), in partnership with UVic and Camosun College, submitted a business plan for a shared West Shore post-secondary campus that would provide a collaborative learning hub with a range of programs (the business plan was developed with AEST funding).

s.12; s.14

- With the onset of COVID-19, RRU indicated that the West Shore post-secondary campus project was put on hold.
- In December 2020, RRU indicated they are developing a revised concept paper for the project s.13
s.13
- Proposed high-level goals of this joint RRU, UVic and Camosun initiative include:
 - Offering courses, programs, microcredentials to assist West Shore residents with upskilling and retooling.

1

BRIEFING NOTE

Introductory Meeting with UVic President Kevin Hall



- An innovation centre to assist employers and businesses respond and reposition themselves to contribute to post-pandemic economic recovery efforts.
- The building, programs and space would be an initiative of the three institutions (Royal Roads, Camosun and UVic), be collaborative and connected with the needs of the local community.
- The concept paper will be submitted to government by the end of February.

UVic Indigenous Law:

- UVic launched a new dual degree program in Canadian Common Law and Indigenous Legal Orders with the first intake in September 2018. Students graduate in four years with two professional degrees: A Juris Doctor and a Juris Indigenarum Doctor.
- The Ministry provided \$900,000 in 2019/20 and \$1.35M in 2020/21 to help establish the new Indigenous Law Program at UVic as a direct response to TRC Call to Action #50 related to Indigenous law institutes. Steady state funding of \$1.8 million per year will be provided starting in 2021/22.
- In September 2020, the Ministry announced a \$13-million investment by the Province to enable UVic to build the National Centre for Indigenous Laws, which will house the Indigenous Law Program.
 - The Province's contribution is part of an overall investment of \$27.1 million – the remaining amount being funded by the federal government (\$9.1 million) and the Law Foundation of BC (\$5 million).

Financial and Capital Update:

See Attachment 3.

Recommendations:

- Pleased to have the opportunity to meet and to learn about your priorities.
- We look forward to working with UVic on a number of key areas including West Shore, Indigenous Reconciliation, and Innovation in the Post-Secondary Sector to address Economic Recovery.

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Attachment 1: Kevin Hall Bio

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Attachment 2:
Additional Information Regarding President Hall's Engagement with Government and Key Priorities – Provided by the University of Victoria

Dr. Kevin Hall

- Kevin joined UVic in November, so he is now in month 4 and close to his first 100 days.
- As part of Kevin's onboarding, he is meeting with a wide range of key stakeholders, partners and members of the UVic community – including government at all levels.

Key Priorities:

Responding to COVID:

- UVic has made significant investments in supports to students and their campus community.
- A recent development is that UVic is in active negotiations with Island Health to host one of the mass vaccines sites.
- This is over and above the testing site at UVic that has been operating since last fall.

Truth and Reconciliation:

- Recently announced hiring a new Associate Vice President Indigenous.
- President Hall as a deep commitment to this work and will be looking to build on their leadership in this area including the new Indigenous Law program, new National Centre for Indigenous Laws (both funded by BC Government) and to build on this work and find ways to support BC Government's goals related to UNDRIP, TRC, etc.

Equity, Diversity and Inclusion:

- There is a significant amount of work happening on campus and they are exploring ways of playing a larger, more supportive role in the wider community.
- Kevin is excited about thinking in bigger and bolder ways about community-university engagement and how UVic as a regional university can be central/essential to its communities.

Other:

- Kevin is looking at a range of **pathway programs** so those who didn't get to go to university from high school for whatever reasons have the opportunity to attend as mature students – links to micro-credentials and lifelong learning and more.
- **Upskilling and reskilling the workforce** – as critical part of **economic recovery work** and looking to our WIL programs and more.
- s.22

- **Continued commitment to research** – and we are working on a new Research Plan and really looking at ways UVic can be a critical partner particularly as we transition to low-carbon economy and we see ourselves and providing essential talent and research to help BC achieve its ambitious goals. Projects like **UVIC/ONC's Solid Carbon** has been getting a lot of interest by Climate Change,

Energy and Mines as well as JERI. Link: <https://www.uvic.ca/news/topics/2019+solid-carbon-partnership+news>

Specifically, with the BC Government, here is a list of recent and/or upcoming meetings:

November 2020:

- November 16th, 2020 – AEST Deputy Minister Shannon Baskerville; and
- November 24th, 2020 – BC Innovation Commissioner Gerri Sinclair.

December 2020:

- December 11th, 2020 – Indigenous Relations Minister Murray Rankin.

January 2021:

- January 20th, 2021 – AEST Minister Anne Kang, and Deputy Minister Shannon Baskerville; and
- January 20th, 2021 – BC Lieutenant Governor Janet Austin.

February 2021:

- February 9th, 2021 – Jobs, Economic Recovery and Innovation Minister Ravi Kahlon;
- February 12th 2021 – Transportation and Infrastructure Minister Rob Fleming, and Citizens' Services Minister Lisa Beare;
- February 19th, 2021 – Special Advisor to the Premier, Carole James;
- February 19th, 2021 – Agriculture, Food and Fisheries Minister Lana Popham;
- February 19th, 2021 – Indigenous Relations Minister Murray Rankin – follow-up meeting;
- February 19th, 2021 – AEST Minister Anne Kang, and Deputy Minister Shannon Baskerville with Presidents at RUCBC;
- February 22nd, 2021 – Premier John Horgan; and
- February 23rd, 2021 – JERI Deputy Minister Bobbi Plecas meeting with Presidents at RUCBC.

Horizon:

- March 9th, 2021 – Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation Minister Bruce Ralston.
- TBD – AEST Parliamentary Secretary Andrew Mercier.

Attachment 3: Financial and Capital Update

Financial

- In the 2020/21 fiscal year, total Provincial grants committed to UVIC to date is \$218.8 million. In the recent few years, Provincial grants make up approximately 35% of their total revenue.
- UVic's pre-COVID budget for 2020/21 was a surplus of \$11.6 million. Over the course of this year, s.13; s.17

Transfer of Property from UVic to UVic's Property Trust:

s.13

Student Housing and Dining – Funding announced November 2019

- Construction of two new student housing buildings with 621 net new beds with expanded food services and multi-use space.
- Targeting Passive House and LEED Gold certification with mass timber elements.
- Total Project Budget: \$232.42 million
 - Provincial government: \$127.85 million, including \$122.65 million as a loan and \$5.20 million as a grant
 - UVic: \$104.57 million
- Construction currently actively underway on both buildings (see photos below).

National Centre for Indigenous Laws – Funding announced September 2020

- A state-of-the-art addition to the Fraser Law Building for the joint degree program in Indigenous legal orders and Canadian Common Law.
- Designed to meet LEED Gold.
- Total Project Budget: \$27.1 million
 - Provincial \$13 million / Federal \$9.1 million / Donor (Law Foundation of BC) \$5 million
- UVic is undertaking an extensive engagement process throughout the project with local Indigenous communities.
- Schematic design is complete, and anticipated project completion is Fall 2023.

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s.12 ; s.14



Meeting Note

Advice to Deputy Minister Shannon Baskerville

Date: February 4, 2021

Cliff #: 120896

Prepared for: Shannon Baskerville, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Training

Date, Time of Meeting and Location:

- Tuesday, February 9, 3:45 pm to 4:15 pm
- Zoom or Teams Call – details to follow

Attendees:

- Robin Ciceri, Vice-President, External Relations, University of British Columbia (UBC)

Issue(s):

- VP Ciceri has requested this meeting to discuss the following:
 - Transit - Broadway Line Skytrain Extension
 - Relationship with Musqueam
 - Bachelor Indigenous Land Stewardship (BILS)
 - Recent meeting with DM Wanamaker re: Innovation
- In addition to discussing these topics, VP Ciceri is hoping for a general update on Provincial priorities and outcomes from the Cabinet retreat last month.

Transit - Broadway Line Skytrain Extension

- UBC is seeking Provincial support for the Broadway Skytrain extension from Arbutus Street to a UBC terminus.
- There have been a few meetings between UBC, MTC (Musqueam, Tsleil-Waututh and Squamish Nations), the City of Vancouver and Provincial Ministers, but there has been no federal engagement.
- The project does not qualify for federal infrastructure funding.
- UBC requested to meet with the Premier last fall and has been advised to meet with Ministers Heyman and Fleming.
- VP Ciceri is meeting with Minister Fleming on Tuesday, February 9.
- s.13
- UBC is seeking to secure funding for a business case for the project, which will cost about \$52 million.
- Funding for the business case is required by June. UBC is committed to contributing to the cost.
- UBC indicates that the total \$52 million ask can be pared down and sequenced if required.
- Another meeting with Ministers Heyman and Fleming is planned for the end of February.

Musqueam

- UBC and Musqueam will be having a signing ceremony on Monday, February 8, to sign engagement principles that will kick off the process of co-developing an eventual new relationship agreement between UBC and Musqueam.
- s.13; s.16

- s.13; s.16

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Proposed Bachelor Indigenous Land Stewardship (BILS)

- BILS is proposed by UBC as a keystone degree for the partnership with UBC Forestry and Westbank First Nation, to be offered out of the planned UBC Indigenous Land Stewardship Centre at UBC Okanagan.
- UBC feels that the program aligns with several key Provincial priorities, including reconciliation, implementation of UNDRIP, and Indigenous self-determination by building Indigenous capacity to manage forestry lands in a sustainable manner.
- UBC plans to enrol 25 domestic and 15 international students per year and will include options to ladder in from various B.C. college programs and various financial supports for Indigenous student access.
- UBC submitted the Bachelor of Indigenous Land Stewardship proposal for a Stage 1 Degree Quality Assurance Board (DQAB) review on December 14, 2020.
- Secretariat staff met with John Innes, Dean, Faculty of Forestry UBC to discuss the proposal on January 7, 2021.

s.13

- As proposals undergo a 30-day public/peer review, staff recommended to UBC that the wording in the proposal be revised as the Ministry cannot guarantee funding for these spaces at that time.
- The proposal was put into 'Revisions Required' on January 7, 2021 and is currently with UBC for revisions.

s.13

Meeting with DM Wanamaker

- s.13
- VP Ciceri will also be meeting with DM Bobbi Plecas and Minister Kahlon on Monday.
- VP Ciceri would like to better understand the current provincial perspective on innovation and would like to share some perspectives in terms of what initiatives are currently effective.

VP Ciceri may also raise the BC Graduate Scholarship program, which is set to expire on March 31, 2021.

- Ministry staff advise that UBC has not yet awarded all its scholarships under the program.
- The program is not reflected in the Ministry's most recent mandate letter s.13

s.13

Key Messages:

- Thank you for the update on the Broadway Skytrain Extension. I encourage you to continue to work with the Ministry of Transportation on this matter.
- Congratulation on the progress in your reconciliation work with Musqueam First Nation.

Contact: Nicola Lemmer, Assistant Deputy Minister, Post Secondary Policy and Programs and Division Responsible for Learner Supports, 778-698-9768



Meeting Note

Advice to Deputy Minister Shannon Baskerville

Date: February 16, 2021

Cliff #: 120963

Prepared for: Shannon Baskerville, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Training

Date, Time of Meeting and Location:

- February 23, 10:00 to 11:15 am
- Via Bluejeans

Attendees:

BC Colleges presidents:

- Sherri Bell, President, Camosun College and current Chair of BC Colleges
- Justin Kohlman, President, Coast Mountain College
- Dr. Dennis Johnson, President, College of New Caledonia
- Paul Vogt, President, College of the Rockies
- Dr. Lane Trotter, President, Langara College
- John Bowman, President, North Island College
- Dr. Bryn Kulmatycki, President, Northern Lights College
- Jim Hamilton, President, Okanagan College
- Angus Graeme, President, Selkirk College
- Ajay Patel, President, Vancouver Community College

Other Attendees:

- Colin Ewert, President, BC Colleges

Issues:

- Meeting will start with Honourable Anne Kang, Minister of Advanced Education and Skills Training and Andrew Mercier, Parliamentary Secretary for Skills Training attending from 10:00-10:30 a.m. for an open roundtable discussion about recent introductory calls with BC College board chairs and presidents.
- Following this, from 10:30-11:00 a.m., the Deputy Minister will speak with the BC Colleges Presidents.

Background:

- BC Colleges was created in 2002 to articulate the education and training perspective of the province's community colleges.
- Currently, 10 colleges are members; Douglas College is not a member of a sector association.

- The Council of Presidents meets regularly to discuss policy, training, and funding issues of interest to the member colleges.

Discussion:

- BC Colleges have asked the Deputy Minister to talk about the following topics of interest:
 1. Year End Funding Opportunities
 2. Budget 2021/22 - Expectations/Priorities
 3. Funding Review – Mandate Commitment – Scope/Process/Timing
 4. COVID-19 & Fall Term 2021 Planning
 5. AEST Plans Regarding Board Engagement & Training
- See Attachment 2 for speaking points on topics of interest.

Suggested Response / Key Message:

- Thank you for the opportunity to join today's meeting.
- I look forward to working together over the next four years to implement the shared priorities of Government and B.C.'s colleges.

Attachments: *1. Biographies of BC College Presidents*
 2. Speaking Points on Topics of Interest to BC Colleges

Contact: *Nicola Lemmer, ADM, Post-Secondary Policy and Programs, 778-698-9768*

Attachment 1

BC Colleges Sector Association Presidents' List

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Attachment 2
Speaking Points on Topics of Interest to BC Colleges

1. Year End Funding Opportunities

- The Ministry does not expect any significant opportunities for year end funding this fiscal year.

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- Some institutions have submitted opportunities for year end funding to the Ministry – we acknowledge receipt and will prioritize those in the event any funding becomes available – but right now, we’re not anticipating significant year end funding and we recommend institutions not count on it either.

2. Budget 2021/22 – Expectations/Priorities

- Government is still assembling its budget in time for Budget Day on April 20th, 2021 so there isn’t much I can say in any detail s.13
- Last September, government announced the StrongerBC program to help British Columbians recover from COVID-19. Our ministry plays an important role in that program through:
 - expanded access to short-term training to support youth and vulnerable populations to meet the workforce needs of employers;
 - expanded Indigenous skills training to promote culturally and community relevant education and training; and
 - establishment of micro-credentials to upskill and reskill workers for high opportunity jobs in the emerging economy.
- The Ministry appreciates the efforts of all BC Colleges institutions in supporting these initiatives as much as possible. We are hopeful we will see continuation of these programs in the next fiscal year.
- The Ministry continues our Student Housing program and to date we are approximately 73% toward the total goal of 8,000 net new beds. We expect to achieve that target in the next 18 months.

3. Funding Review – Mandate Commitment – Scope/Process/Timing

- Undertaking a post-secondary funding review is one of Minister Kang's mandate priorities. We are confirming with Government on the timing of all of Minister Kang's mandate priorities so we're working in a coordinated fashion both within the Ministry and with our colleagues across government.
- I expect that we'll be working on this funding review in the first two years of this Government's mandate. The Ministry is currently researching work from prior funding reviews in other jurisdictions. We will be working closely with you on defining the scope of the review and we expect to collaborate with you as the work is underway.

4. COVID-19 & Fall Term 2021 Planning

- Again, I would like to thank you for the hard work of keeping your campus communities as safe as possible during COVID. I know it hasn't been easy, but you've really done your part to keep the pandemic under control. I also know that your campus communities (students, faculty, and staff) are experiencing significant stress due to the pandemic.
- We recognize that institutions need to make decisions about the Fall term around five months in advance – this means in the next 8 to 10 weeks you need to make some hard decisions about how your institutions will start your students in September 2021.
- I am hopeful that with vaccines rolling out ^{s.13} that we'll see our communities vaccinated sufficiently to permit much greater in-person instruction for September.
- The Ministry is continuing to work closely with the BC Provincial Health Officer (PHO) and with BC Colleges on Fall term planning. We will also be convening bi-weekly meetings of the PSI expert panel that developed the Go-Forward Guidelines with medical staff from the Provincial Health Office to support your planning.
- In addition, I have established a teleconference for tomorrow (February 24th) to discuss Fall Term planning and Dr. Henry has been invited to join that call.
- However we plan for the Fall Term, I think there are two important things for us to remember:
 - 1) It is important that we develop contingency planning so the sector can pivot in response to a change in the pandemic, and;
 - 2) we work together as much as possible so there are no surprises or sudden decisions by one institution that takes the others by surprise and forces unplanned decisions.

5. AEST Plans Regarding Board Engagement & Training

- As you may recall, in September of 2018, the Ministry hosted its first ever British Columbia Board of Governance Workshop.
- It was a very well received and well attended – all day event, attended by over 175 attendees from all 25 public post-secondary institutions.
- Due to its popular demand, the Ministry had planned to host the event every other year – which would have been Fall 2020 – and we all know how priorities shifted in 2020 during the Pandemic.
- Since this is a big event and it provides excellent networking opportunities, it would be nice to have it in real time and in person – but it is difficult to do so at this stage.
- Regardless, we do plan to host another board governance workshop, whether in person or virtually for all 25 public post-secondary institutions again in Fall 2021 or Spring 2022.
- Besides the board governance workshop, in September 2019 the Ministry also co-hosted the first ever Indigenous Post-Secondary Board Members Gathering, in partnership with the First Nations Education Steering Committee, Métis Nation BC and Crown Agency Board Resourcing Office.
- A second “Virtual” Indigenous Board Member Gathering is planned for Spring 2021. It will bring together Indigenous board members for a half day session.

Meeting Note: Industry Training Authority President and Board Chair
Advice to Deputy Minister

Meeting: Feb 25 @ 2:30pm

CLIFF: 120908

Attendees: Shannon Baskerville, Tony Loughran and Charley Beresford with Shelley Gray, President and Cindy Oliver, Board Chair

Issue: Board Appointments – Industry Training Authority

- The Ministry/CABRO has not met with the Chair and President to discuss board issues in over four years.
- **Tracey MacKinnon** s.22
s.22

s.13

Background/Facts:




- There are currently 9 Minister appointed members on the Industry Training Authority (ITA) Board.
- ITA is governed by *Industry Training Authority Act*. The board is comprised of up to 9 directors and may appoint one of the directors as chair. Board appointments are done by Ministerial Order.
- The ITA was established to manage and support an industry training and apprenticeship system in BC. The Board's mandate is:
 - to increase access to training in trades and technical sectors;
 - to ensure industry training program development and delivery;
 - to strategically plan for and respond to current and projected skills shortages;
 - to ensure effective and efficient program delivery; and
 - to be accountable for program funding.
- **Cindy Oliver** was appointed to the board in May 2018 and made Chair in December 2019. She was the President of the Federation of Post-Secondary Educators of BC for 13 years.
- There are four members with terms expiring May 1, 2021, three have been recommended for reappointment. There is also one member that has moved out of the Province.
 - **Thomas James Nyce** – Indigenous member, first appointed in 2018, Red Seal Electrician, not recommended for reappointment. s.22
s.22
 - **Michelle Bryant** – Indigenous member, first appointed in 2020; recommended for reappointment for 2 years.
 - **Mary-Ann Bowcott** – first appointed in 2020, Red Seal Plumber; recommended for reappointment for 1 year.
 - **Peter Joel Baker** - Indigenous member, first appointed in 2018 recommended for reappointment for 3 years.

- **Tracey Ailene MacKinnon** ^{s.22}
s.22

- As part of the request for appointment (RFA) material, the Board has indicated the following competencies for the positions currently under consideration:
 - Executive leadership
 - Strong business acumen
 - Knowledge of government and public sector environment
 - Business / Industry experience related to trades training and/or apprenticeship
 - Capable of wide perspective
 - Previous board experience
 - Female
 - Indigenous
 - Northern region.
- The board has nominated **Richard David Gibbs**, he is a Red Seal Electrician and President of Neutron Factory Works which has a team of 50 highly skilled tradespeople and technical specialist that deliver innovative solutions to the manufacturing and food processing sectors across the province and Alberta. Richard lives in Delta.
- CABRO posted a notice of position on February 19th which will be closing on March 12, 2021.

ITA's composition (9):

Name	First Joined Board	Term Expiry	Occupation	Regional Representation
Thomas James Nyce **	2018-05-01	2021-05-01	Indigenous Affairs Rep - Leducor Industries and Red Seal Electrician	Kelowna
Tracey Ailene MacKinnon	2019-05-31	2022-05-01	Civil Engineer – Canada LNG	Kitimat
Mary-Ann Bowcott	2020-05-01	2021-05-01	Red Seal Plumber and Owner of WestCom Pumping Company	Sooke
Michelle Bryant **	2020-05-01	2021-05-01	Corporate Affairs Manager for Ridley Terminals	Prince Rupert
Peter Joel Baker **	2018-05-01	2021-05-01	Development & Partnership Employment Negotiator - Squamish Nation	New Westminster
Wally C. Penner	2019-05-16	2022-05-01	(retired) Regional Project Manager of the Waneta Expansion Project	Nelson
William Laird Cronk	2018-05-01	2022-05-01	President of the BC Federation of Labour	Burnaby
Robert Thomas Davis	2018-05-01	2022-05-01	President of the Kwantlen Faculty Association and Red Seal Millwright	Surrey
Cynthia Catherine Oliver, Chair	2018-05-01	2022-05-01	Former President of the Federation of Post-Secondary Educators of BC	Burnaby

** Indigenous
 Immediate Vacancy
 Upcoming Vacancy / Renewable
 Upcoming Vacancy / Over 6 Years



Information Note

Advice to Minister Anne Kang

Date: February 11, 2021

Cliff #: 120910

Issue: Request for continued early childhood education seat expansion through Budget 2021

Background / Facts:

- In September 2018, the Province launched the ten-year Childcare BC Plan, the Path to Universal Child Care, investing over \$1 billion in childcare in the first three years.
- Eighteen public post-secondary institutions (PSIs) are recognized by the Ministry of Children and Family Development's (MCFD) ECE Registry to deliver ECE programs that qualify students to apply to become registered for certification and practice in B.C.
- ECE programs are offered in response to student and labour market demand. In addition to the ongoing programs offered by PSIs, the Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Training (AEST) provides funding for targeted seat expansions.
- As part of Childcare B.C.'s Early Care and Learning Recruitment and Retention Strategy, AEST invested \$7.38M over three years (2018-2021) for the expansion of ECE seats in public PSIs with a target of 820 FTEs.
- More than two-thirds of the program expansion were for rural and remote delivery, 12% for Indigenous program delivery, and over 50% in Infant Toddler or Special Needs Educator training.
- In 2020/21, as part of B.C.'s Economic Recovery Plan, AEST invested \$1.26M to fund an additional 108 FTEs at five PSIs.
- Of the 108 FTEs, two-thirds are for Work Integrated Learning program delivery and include Indigenous community-based and online programming, enabling ECE student's province-wide to obtain their ECE training.

Analysis:

Budget 2021

- For 2021/22 (Year 4 of the Childcare BC Plan), MCFD is requesting, on behalf of AEST, the continuation of the ECE seat expansion by proposing one-time funding of \$1.32M for an additional 110 FTEs at an average of \$12,000 per FTE. Please see table in Attachment 1 for overview of ECE FTEs funded.

s.12

- AEST staff would continue working closely with MCFD's ECE Registry to ensure program recognition prior to recommending funding.

s.12

Conclusion / Next Steps:

- AEST and MCFD work collaboratively to address ECE human resource needs with a training component.
- Since AEST ECE seat expansion is part of the broader Childcare BC plan, MCFD has included the AEST funding requests in its budget submissions.
- AEST proposes a one-time investment of \$1.32M in 2021/22 for an additional 110 FTEs.
- If funding is approved for the 2021/22 ECE seat expansion, AEST staff will issue a call for proposals to public PSIs.

Attachment(s): *Attachment 1: Summary of ECE FTEs*

Contact: *Nicola Lemmer, ADM, 778-698-9768*

Attachment 1 – Budget 2021 - Summary of ECE FTEs

Fiscal Year	Funded up to 2020/21
Approx. ongoing Annual Base Operating funded seats	700
One-time ECE Seats	
3-year expansion/WIL (2018-2021)	964
Econ Recovery	108
Budget 2021 Request	-
Totals	

s.12; s.17

- Public post-secondary institutions deliver ECE programming through base operating grants and targeted one-time funding, when available.
- Annual ECE base operating funded seats is estimated at approximately 700 seats.
- Since 2018, AEST invested approximately \$8M to create 964 additional FTEs through the three-year seat expansion and Work-Integrated Learning (WIL) pilots
- In 2020/21, as part of StrongerBC, B.C.'s Economic Recovery Plan, AEST invested \$1.26M for an additional 108 FTEs.
- For Budget 2021, Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD), has included a funding request of \$1.32M to fund an additional 110 FTEs in 2021/22, Year 4 of B.C.'s ten-year Childcare BC Plan.

s.12; s.17