

## Meeting Note

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

**Date:** March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022

**Cliff #:** 124315

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

**Date, Time of Meeting and Location:**

Tuesday, March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2022, 11:30am-12:00pm (Virtual)

**Attendees:**

- Honourable Minister Kang, Minister of Advanced Education and Skills Training
- BC Building Trades Council Executive Board
- Government Caucus MLA Colleagues- to be confirmed

**Issue(s):** Meeting between Government Caucus members and the Executive Board of the B.C. Building Trades Council.

**Background:**

- Established in 1967, B.C. Building Trades Council (BCBT) represents 25 local craft construction unions belonging to 13 international unions and more than 35,000 unionized construction workers in B.C. These highly skilled workers account for approximately 55% of the non-residential construction labour force.
- BCBT works with construction companies to leverage development opportunities, to advance economic prosperity and to position local workers first in the province.
- BCBT is a strong supporter of the apprenticeship system and is committed to hiring and training apprentices through their union members and technical training providers. BCBT invests more than \$31 million annually in student learning through instruction, support staff and educational resources.
- Brynn Bourke is the Executive Director of BCBT and their Executive Board has 15 members who come from a wide range of trades and training backgrounds (see Appendix A).
- In September 2021, BCBT launched the College of the B.C. Building Trades (BCBT College) to further support current and prospective apprentices. BCBT College is an association of training providers affiliated with the construction unions that belong to BCBT, offering technical training and wrap-around supports to apprentices in B.C.

**Discussion:**

- Pending royal assent for the Skilled Trades BC Act, Skilled Trades Certification will be implemented in phases between 2022 and 2024. The Skilled Trades BC Act replaces the Industry Training Authority Act and will transform the Industry Training Authority into

SkilledTradesBC, the modernized Crown Agency responsible for skilled trades training in British Columbia.

- BCBT is a strong proponent for the re-introduction of Skilled Trades Certification within B.C.'s skilled trades system.
- In response to the introduction of the new Skilled Trades BC Act, BCBT College commented that the legislation "is a recognition of the value of a highly skilled, competent, safe and sustainable skilled trades workforce."
- The construction trades will continue to 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.
- In 2018, government introduced the Community Benefits Agreement (CBA) for key public-sector infrastructure projects in B.C. to ensure these projects mobilize and grow a skilled and diverse workforce, by hiring local workers first, establishing priority hiring for Indigenous and underrepresented groups and creating better apprenticeship training opportunities.

#### Asbestos/underground economy

- Both worker and employer stakeholders (including the BC Building Trades) have expressed concerns that certain employers ignore safety requirements related to asbestos-containing materials and often work in an "underground economy" to avoid regulatory oversight.

#### **Key Messages:**

#### Asbestos/underground economy

- Government and WorkSafeBC take the issue of workplace exposure to asbestos containing materials very seriously.
- It is the commitment of this government, and the Minister of Labour in particular, that the health and safety of workers in British Columbia, and support for injured workers and their families, be a top priority. It is critical to recognize that asbestos-related illnesses are the leading cause of work-related deaths in the province.
- On February 16, 2022, The Honourable Harry Bains, Minister of Labour, introduced Bill 5, the Workers Compensation Amendment Act, 2022. Bill 5 will establish a new requirement that asbestos abatement contractors must be licensed to operate in British Columbia. The legislation also provides WorkSafeBC with the authority to create a mandatory safety training program for workers and contractors who perform asbestos abatement work, so they are trained to do their job safely.
- Bill 5 passed second reading on February 17. Upon Royal Assent, WorkSafeBC will begin to build the licensing and certification programs, with the hope that elements of the program will be in place by the end of 2022

#### Skilled Trades Certification

- Skilled Trades Certification will increase pathways to apprenticeship completion for more workers, support accessible skills training and career development opportunities in the trades, and maintain and enhance high standards of worker and public safety.

- I would like to thank B.C. Building Trades for their continued commitment to B.C.'s construction workforce and for advocating on behalf of issues that impact workers in the building trades.

**Attachment(s):**

**Appendix A – BC Building Trades Executive Board Members**

**Contact:**        *Bindi Sawchuk, ADM (s.17        )*

## **Appendix A – BC Building Trades Executive Board**

**NAV MALHOTRA**

Labourers 1611

**DAN JAJIC**

Painters DC 38

**BRIAN COCHRANE**

Operating Engineers 115

**AL PHILLIPS**

UA 170

**ROY BIZZUTTO**

Cement Masons 919

**JIM LOFTY**

Electrical Workers 213

**DOUG PARTON**

Ironworkers 97

**NEIL MUNRO**

Insulators 118

**JASON PEDERSEN**

Sheet Metal Workers 276

**ROBERT DEMAND**

Unite Here Local 40

**TONY SANTAVENERE**

Teamsters 213

**GEOFF HIGGINSON**

Bricklayers 2

**MIRO MARAS**

Millwrights 2736

**HAMISH STEWART**

BCRCC (Council of Carpenters)

**KURT KASHUBA**

Pile Drivers 2404

## Meeting Note

### Advice to Minister Anne Kang

**Date:** March 1, 2022

**Cliff #:**124452

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

**Date, Time of Meeting, and Location:**

- Wednesday, March 2, 2022 (5:30 pm – 5:50 pm)  
Minister's Office

**Attendees:**

**AEST:**

Honourable Anne Kang, Minister of Advanced Education and Skills Training  
Eric Peters, Senior Ministerial Assistant

**Douglas College:**

Adel Gamar, Douglas College Board Chair

**Issue:**

- Adel Gamar would like to share some of the great work of Douglas College along with key initiatives that would be of interest to the Minister.

**Background:**

- Centrally located in the Lower Mainland, Douglas College (DOUG) has a regional mandate to serve residents living north of the Fraser River from Burnaby to Maple Ridge.
- DOUG educates about 24,000 students per year and has the largest number of degree and post-degree programs of any college in BC. It offers a wide range of applied programs at the certificate, diploma, degree, and post-degree level, as well as university transfer courses, associate degree programs, and developmental courses including more than 50 program options through Continuing Education and Contract Training Services.
- Based on 2020/2021 performance measures, Douglas College achieved or substantially achieved all Ministry targets except for one. The only measure not achieved was student spaces in developmental programs, due to the inability to deliver some programming in an online format during the pandemic.
- Douglas College is not a member of the BC Colleges sector association and does not deliver any trades programming.

**Discussion:**

- In 2020, DOUG developed a new Strategic Plan for 2020-2025, guided by a revised vision: To graduate resilient global citizens with the knowledge and skills to adapt, innovate and lead in a changing world.

- To achieve this vision, the college has developed a set of objectives that are organized in four overlapping themes: Successful Students, Responsive Learning, Social and Environmental Responsibility, and Healthy and Effective Work and Learning Environments.

s.13

### Capital Projects:

#### Building Envelope - Underway

- The new envelope will improve the campus's energy efficiency by offering better insulation, solar shading and air tightness, as well as larger windows to allow in more natural light. This will reduce energy usage for indoor lighting, heating, cooling and ventilation, which will produce energy and operating cost savings.
- Construction began in October 2021, and is projected to finish in 2025. The majority of the envelope project is being funded through annual capital funding provided by the Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Training, along with a contribution from the College.

s.12; s.13; s.17

**Attachment(s):** Attachment 1: Biography Adel Gamar  
Attachment 2: Douglas College Institutional Profile

**Contact:** Nicola Lemmer, Assistant Deputy Minister, <sup>s.17</sup>

Attachment 1

## **BIOGRAPHY - ADEL GAMAR**

Copyright

# DOUGLAS COLLEGE (DOUG)

## DOUGLAS GOVERNANCE



### PRESIDENT

Dr. Kathy Denton  
(since June 17, 2014)



### CHAIR OF THE BOARD

Mr. Adel Gamar  
(term expires June 30, 2023)

Education Council Chair  
Student Union Director of External Relations  
Faculty Association President  
Support Staff Association Chairperson

Graeme Bowbrick (term expires August 31, 2022)  
Mehre Dllir (affiliated with BC Federation of Students)  
Jasmine Nicholfigueiredo, FPSE (Local 4)  
Amber Keane, BCGEU (Local 703)

## First Nations territory acknowledgement

New Westminster Campus (main campus): *We (I) acknowledge with respect the traditional territory of the QayQayt (key-kite) Nation.*

Coquitlam: *We (I) acknowledge with respect the traditional territory of the Kwikwetlem (kwee-kwet-lum) Nation.*

## OVERVIEW



### Regional mandate

To serve residents living north of the Fraser River from Burnaby to Maple Ridge.



### Legislation

Douglas College operates under the authority of the *College and Institute Act*.

### Unique to Douglas

- Offers specialized programs in Psychiatric Nursing; Sign Language Interpretation; Therapeutic Recreation and Music Therapy
- Largest number of degree and post-degree programs of any college in BC
- Does not offer trades programs
- Is not a member of BC Colleges or any other sector organization
- One of six institutions piloting a Work Integrated Learning Early Childhood Educator (ECE) program, enabling current ECE workers to upgrade or obtain credentials while remaining employed

2

### Campuses

1. New Westminster (main campus)
  2. David Lam Campus in Coquitlam
- + Training centre in Surrey

6

### Program Areas

1. Child, Family & Community Studies
2. Commerce & Business Administration
3. Health Sciences
4. Humanities & Social Sciences
5. Language, Literature & Performing Arts
6. Science & Technology



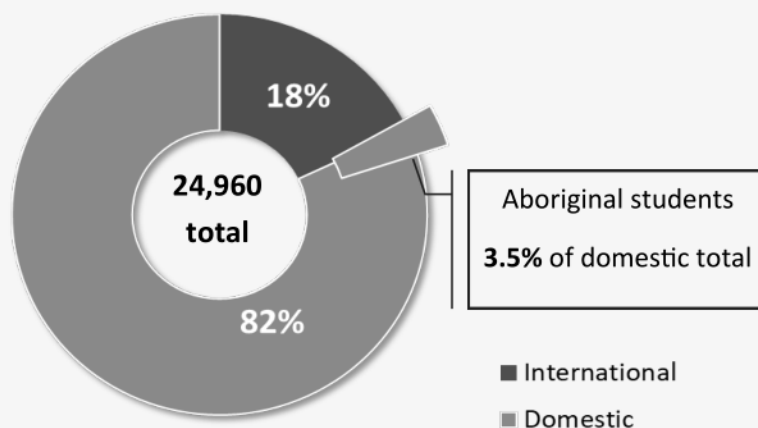
# DOUGLAS COLLEGE (DOUG)

## ENROLMENT

Annual Enrolment Headcount, 2019/20 Academic Year



\*Industry Training Authority

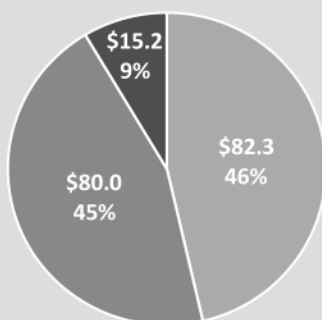


## FINANCIAL INFORMATION

### Total Revenue

Financial Statement

2020/21 4th Quarter Results (\$177.5 million total)



■ Total Provincial Grants ■ Tuition and Mandatory Fees ■ Other Revenues

### Base Operating Grants

AEST Base Operating Grants

2021/22: \$67.1 million 8,448 (FTE target)

2020/21: \$65.0 million 8,394 (FTE target)

ITA Investment

N/A

See Attachment 1 for information on One-time Funding

## ANNUAL OPERATING SURPLUS (DEFICIT)

Before Extraordinary Items and Endowment Contributions (in thousands of dollars)

	2019/20 Financial Statement	2020/21 Financial Statement
Surplus (Deficit)	\$16,290	\$15,733

## MAJOR CAPITAL PROJECTS UNDERWAY- DOUGLAS

s.12; s.13; s.17

Examples of key past projects are the Building Renewal to Improve Learning Environment and replacement of a deck membrane.

# DOUG PROFILE: ATTACHMENTS

## Attachment #1: One-time Funding Examples

Douglas College

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	Funded in	
	2020/21	2021/22*
Disabilities Project Funding	\$75,000	
Indigenous Student Supports	\$125,000	
Indigenous Emergency Assistance	\$20,000	
Emergency Student Assistance Fund	\$126,000	
Health Care Assistant Partnership Pathway	\$957,500	\$72,500
CO-OP and Work-Integrated Learning Initiatives		\$391,600

*Examples include funding from AEST and partnership funding from other provinces/federal sources*

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# DOUG PROFILE: ATTACHMENTS

## Attachment #2: Issues - Douglas

- s.13
- Douglas is not part of the BC Colleges organization.<sup>s.13</sup>  
s.13

## Meeting Note Advice to Minister

**Date:** March 23, 2022

**Cliff #:**124775

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

**Date, Time of Meeting and Location:**

- March 29, 2022, 4:05pm – 4:50pm
- Birch Room 339

**Attendees:**

- Shannon Baskerville, Deputy Minister
- Jason Butler, Assistant Deputy Minister
- Rachel Franklin, Executive Director
- Don Wright
- Dan Perrin

**Issue(s):**

- Don Wright and Dan Perrin have been engaged to lead a Post-Secondary Funding Formula Review.

**Background:**

- The Minister's mandate letter directs the Minister to: "conduct a funding review of post-secondary education operating grants to ensure public post-secondary institutions have the resources they need to support economic recovery and student success."
- To accomplish this review, the Ministry will be engaging Don Wright and Dan Perrin to lead sector engagements and the development of findings to help government determine an updated, modern funding model for British Columbia's public post-secondary system.
- Mr. Wright and Mr. Perrin were chosen due to their wide range of experience, knowledge of British Columbia's post-secondary sector and the workings of government, and to ensure this work is led by eminent and experienced British Columbians.
- The review will seek to accomplish three objectives and will be guided by eight core principles.
- An announcement of the funding formula review and the involvement of Mr. Wright and Mr. Perrin is planned for March 31, 2022.

**Discussion:**

- A Deputy Minister Review Board will be responsible for oversight and governance of the review and will receive monthly reports from the contractors on review progress. Wright and Perrin will also be supported by a Ministry Project Office to act as a liaison between the contractors and government.
- Early deliverables will be a project charter, engagement plan, and a schedule for the review.

- Mr. Wright will lead stakeholder engagement over the spring and summer with a wide range of post-secondary partners and stakeholders.
- Mr. Wright and Mr. Perrin will bring forward initial findings in the Fall. <sup>s.12</sup>
- The Ministry will convene a Post-Secondary Institution Technical Group with key experts from post-secondary institutions to assist the contractors in assessing funding methodologies in a confidential setting.
- After further engagement and research, a final, public report will be prepared for the Ministry's consideration in Spring 2023.

s.12

**Suggested Response / Key Message:**

- The Funding Formula Review is a key priority of government.
- I am glad to have your expertise and knowledge supporting this key review that has been years in the making.
- It was important to me that this review be led by British Columbians with direct ties and knowledge of our public post-secondary sector.
- I am looking forward to your key findings that assist government in modernizing the approach to funding post-secondary education and helping ensure it continues to meet the needs of students.

**Attachment(s):** *Draft Information Bulletin*

**Contact:** *Jason Butler, ADM and EFO, Finance, Technology & Management Services  
778 698-3209*

**Total length:** 2 pages.

## Decision Note Advice to Minister

Date: March 15, 2022

Cliff #: 124207

**Issue: Changes to the Special Terms and Conditions of Consent for:**

1. Fairleigh Dickinson University (FDU) Master of Administrative Science degree; and
2. Western Community College (WCC) Bachelor of Hospitality Management degree

**Background / Facts:**

- The *Degree Authorization Act (DAA)* requires that all private and out-of-province public institutions undergo a quality assessment process and meet the established criteria before they may receive the Minister's consent to provide, advertise, or grant degrees in British Columbia.
- Fairleigh Dickinson University (FDU) and Western Community College (WCC) are privately-owned degree-granting institutions in BC that recently underwent degree program reviews conducted by the Degree Quality Assessment Board (DQAB). Both had *Special Terms and Conditions of Consent* (Conditions) attached to their degree programs which came before the DQAB for reassessment.
- Once the DQAB reassesses a condition, the DQAB may recommend to the Minister to remove or change any conditions attached to the consent.

**Degree Quality Assessment Board Review and Recommendations:**

FDU:

- On October 28, 2021, the Minister granted FDU's Master of Administrative Science (MAS) a 2-year extended consent with several Conditions.
- At its meeting of December 1, 2021, the DQAB reviewed a request from FDU for clarification on two Conditions:
  - Faculty: FDU asked whether the faculty hiring requirements should emphasize coursework or teaching experience.
  - Admissions: FDU asked whether IELTS or TOEFL iBT test scores could be used to measure English language proficiency for admission to the program and whether the required IELTS Writing score might be lowered.
- The DQAB agreed with FDU that the Faculty Condition should be revised to add clarity and advised FDU that only IELTS scores should be used for admissions, and these would not be lowered.

WCC:

- On November 29<sup>th</sup>, 2021, the Minister granted WCC a 5-year consent to offer a Bachelor of Hospitality Management (BHM) degree with several Conditions, including:
  - Faculty: WCC must hire a qualified continuing faculty person prior to enrolling the first cohort of students.
  - Admissions: WCC must change its English entrance requirement to a minimum of a C.
- In a December 13<sup>th</sup> letter, WCC advised the DQAB that it had hired two new continuing faculty members, and provided evidence of their appointments and qualifications. In addition, WCC showed that it had revised its admissions policy to require a C minimum in English.
- On January 31, 2022, the DQAB held a special meeting to review WCC's materials and determined that the College had met the Conditions on hiring qualified faculty.

- The DQAB recommended that the Conditions attached to the BHM be revised to remove the hiring requirement so WCC may begin enrolling students and that the Condition on Admissions remain intact.

### Options:

#### 1: Accept the DQAB recommendations for revising the *Special Terms and Conditions of Consent*.

##### Pros:

- The DQAB found that WCC met the Condition on faculty hiring. The removal of the Condition will then allow WCC to enrol students and start the program.
- FDU will have better understanding of how to meet its Conditions.
- The DQAB will be monitoring WCC and FDU to ensure they continue to progress on the remaining Special Terms and Conditions.

##### Cons:

- None identified.

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### Recommendation / Next Steps:

#### Option 1: Accept the DQAB recommendations for revising the *Special Terms and Conditions of Consent*.

Letters to FDU and WCC are attached for signature along with the amended terms and conditions (Attachments 1 and 1a, and 2 and 2a, respectfully).

#### RECOMMENDED OPTION:

##### Approved Option 1



Honourable Anne Kang

March 29, 2022

Date

- Attachments:**
- 1: Minister's letter to FDU amending the Special Terms and Conditions of Consent
  - 1a: Amended Special Terms and Conditions of Consent for FDU MAS
  - 2: Minister's letter to WCC amending the Special Terms and Conditions of Consent
  - 2a: Amended Special Terms and Conditions of Consent for WCC BHM

**Contact:** Nicola Lemmer, Assistant Deputy Minister <sup>s.17</sup>





Our Ref. 124207

March 31, 2022

Dr. Christopher Capuano  
President  
Fairleigh Dickinson University  
1000 River Road  
Teaneck, New Jersey USA 07666

Dear Dr. Capuano:

I am writing with regard to the Fairleigh Dickinson University consent for the Master of Administrative Science degree program under the *Degree Authorization Act*.

At its meeting of December 1, 2021, the Degree Quality Assessment Board reviewed a letter from Fairleigh Dickinson University dated November 12, 2021, which requested clarification on two of the *Special Terms and Conditions of Consent* attached to the Master of Administrative Science. These were the conditions attached to the Faculty standard and those attached to the Admissions standard.

The Board agreed that in the interests of clarity the conditions for the Faculty standard should be revised and the English language proficiency requirements for Admissions should remain at IELTS 6.5 for writing but mention of TOEFL iBT scores should be removed.

As a result, I am amending the *Special Terms and Conditions of Consent* that are specific to this degree program (attached for signature).

I wish you every success in meeting these conditions.

Sincerely,

Anne Kang  
Minister

pc: Dr. Wilfred Zerbe, Campus Executive, FDU Vancouver

Degree Quality Assessment Board

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## SPECIAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF MINISTERIAL CONSENT

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**Name of Institution:** FAIRLEIGH DICKINSON UNIVERSITY VANCOUVER (FDUV)

**Consent for:** MASTER OF ADMINISTRATIVE SCIENCE

The following special terms and conditions are attached to the consent from the Minister of Advanced Education, Skills and Training under section 4(3) of the *Degree Authorization Act*.

- 1) **Consent period:** Consent is not renewed. The current term of consent is extended for two years for Fairleigh Dickinson University Vancouver (FDUV) to meet these *Special Terms and Conditions of Consent*. FDUV must submit a revised program application at least one year prior to the extended consent expiry date showing these conditions have been met.
- 2) **Admissions to Master of Administrative Science program is suspended as of September 2022:**
  - a) FDUV will not admit any new students into the Master of Administrative Science program as of September 2022.
  - b) Admissions will be suspended until the *Special Terms and Conditions of Consent* have been met to the Minister's satisfaction.
- 3) **Curriculum/Program Content:** FDUV will follow through on its commitments in response to the panel report to:
  - a) Review and ensure learning outcomes of courses in the Master of Administrative Science program are at the graduate level.
  - b) Review course content regularly to safeguard currency.
  - c) Apply more substantive student evaluation methods.
  - d) Continue to ensure the internship course is available to all students and encourage more students to have work integrated learning experiences, such as the internship course.
  - e) Fulfill other commitments made in response to the panel report.
- 4) **Admission and Transfer/Residency:** FDUV will
  - a) Raise the minimum academic standard for admission to a GPA of 3.0 and ensure this is publicly posted on the FDUV website and stated consistently in all academic policies.
  - b) Set the minimum ESL standard for admission at 6.5 for IELTS and ensure this is publicly posted on the FDUV website and stated consistently in all academic policies.
  - c) Set the minimum acceptable scores for Reading, Writing, Listening, and Speaking at 6.5 for IELTS and ensure this is publicly posted on the FDUV website and stated consistently in all academic policies.

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## SPECIAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF MINISTERIAL CONSENT

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- 5) **Faculty:** FDUV will:
- a) Develop and apply specific hiring criteria for academically qualified faculty. The criteria will include the requirement that faculty teaching graduate courses hold a terminal degree in the field of teaching and have demonstrable expertise in the course being taught.
  - b) Develop and apply specific hiring criteria for professionally qualified faculty. The criteria will normally include a graduate degree in the area of teaching and significant professional experience in the area of teaching which may include professional certification, research and writing of a professional nature, and 5-10 years of work experience directly related to the topic of teaching.
  - c) Ensure faculty members appointed as academically qualified or professionally qualified have provided clear evidence of meeting the standards noted above in (a) and (b) in the area of teaching.
  - d) Follow through on its commitment in response to the panel report to hire two new full-time, tenure-track Master of Administrative Science faculty with experience teaching at the graduate level in addition to reintroducing FDU's previous practice of seconding senior faculty from other campuses to teach in the program.
  - e) Meet other Faculty requirements set out in the panel report.
- 6) **Lasting and meaningful reconciliation:** Reconciliation is an ongoing process and a shared responsibility for us all. Government's unanimous passage of the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* was a significant step forward in this journey – one that all post-secondary institutions are expected to support as we work in cooperation with Indigenous peoples to establish a clear and sustainable path to lasting reconciliation. True reconciliation will take time and ongoing commitment to work with Indigenous peoples as they move towards self-determination. Guiding these efforts, post-secondary institutions must also remain focused on creating opportunities that implement the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action.
- 7) **Equity and anti-racism:** Our province's history, identity and strength are rooted in its diverse population. Yet racialized and marginalized people face historic and present-day barriers that limit their full participation in their communities, workplaces, government and their lives. The post-secondary sector has a moral and ethical responsibility to tackle systemic discrimination in all its forms – and every institution has a role in this work. All post-secondary institutions are encouraged to adopt the Gender-Based Analysis Plus (GBA+) lens to ensure equity is reflected in operations (e.g., physical and human resources) and programs.

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**SPECIAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF MINISTERIAL CONSENT**

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I acknowledge that I understand the terms and conditions attached to consent, that all information provided in the application is true, and that I agree to comply with all representations made during the course of the application, and with the terms and conditions of consent.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of authorized representative

\_\_\_\_\_  
Position at the Institution

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date



Our Ref. 124207

March 31, 2022

Gurpal Dhaliwal, President  
Western Community College  
201-8318, 120 Street  
Surrey, BC V3W 3N4

Dear Gurpal Dhaliwal:

I am writing with regard to the Western Community College consent for the Bachelor of Hospitality Management degree program under the *Degree Authorization Act* (the *Act*).

The Degree Quality Assessment Board reviewed Western Community College's report on progress it has made towards meeting the *Special Terms and Conditions of Consent* at its meeting on January 26, 2022. The Board determined that the College met the condition on hiring of qualified continuing faculty.

As a result, I am pleased to amend the *Special Terms and Conditions of Consent* that are specific to this degree program (attached for signature).

I wish you success in implementing this new degree program.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Anne Kang'.

Anne Kang  
Minister

pc: Bradley Krause, Vice President of Academic Affairs  
Western Community College

Degree Quality Assessment Board

## SPECIAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF MINISTERIAL CONSENT

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**Name of Institution:** WESTERN COMMUNITY COLLEGE

**Consent for:** BACHELOR OF HOSPITALITY MANAGEMENT

The following special terms and conditions are attached to the consent from the Minister of Advanced Education and Skills Training under section 4(3) of the *Degree Authorization Act*.

- 1) **Faculty:** Western Community College must follow through on the commitments it made to implement its faculty hiring plan as enrolment increases.
- 2) **Admissions:** Western Community College will change its English entrance requirement to a minimum of a C.
- 3) **Co-op Requirements:** Co-op programs must be integrated into the degree program and structured so that each term or semester of schooling is alternated with a term or semester of work. Western Community College must integrate the co-op experience into the degree and establish clear learning outcomes for students to build on the classroom learning and bring work experience back into the classroom.
- 4) **Program Review and Assessment:** Western Community College must develop a robust degree program review process comparable to other degree-granting institutions in BC. The first program review must be conducted prior to submission of an application for renewal of consent.
- 5) **Lasting and meaningful reconciliation:** Reconciliation is an ongoing process and a shared responsibility for us all. Government's unanimous passage of the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* was a significant step forward in this journey – one that all post-secondary institutions are expected to support as we work in cooperation with Indigenous peoples to establish a clear and sustainable path to lasting reconciliation. True reconciliation will take time and ongoing commitment to work with Indigenous peoples as they move towards self-determination. Guiding these efforts, post-secondary institutions must also remain focused on creating opportunities that implement the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action.
- 6) **Equity and anti-racism:** Our province's history, identity and strength are rooted in its diverse population. Yet racialized and marginalized people face historic and present-day barriers that limit their full participation in their communities, workplaces, government and their lives. The post-secondary sector has a moral and ethical responsibility to tackle systemic discrimination in all its forms – and every institution has a role in this work. All post-secondary institutions are encouraged to adopt the Gender-Based Analysis Plus (GBA+) lens to ensure equity is reflected in your operations (e.g., physical and human resources) and programs.
- 7) **Reporting:** A report on the institution's progress in the areas listed above is to be included with the Annual Report to the ministry for the duration of the consent period.

## **SPECIAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF MINISTERIAL CONSENT**

I acknowledge that I understand the terms and conditions attached to consent, that all information provided in the application is true, and that I agree to comply with all representations made during the course of the application, and with the terms and conditions of consent.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of authorized representative

\_\_\_\_\_  
Position at the Institution

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

## Decision Note Advice to Minister

**Date:** February 28, 2022

**Cliff #:** 124354

**Issue:** Quest University Canada - *Sea to Sky University Act* Amendments

### Background/Facts:

- Quest University (Quest) has submitted a private bill requesting amendments to Section 11 of the *Sea to Sky University Act (SSUA)*, a private Act of the Legislature, to allow for property tax exemption for leased property used by Quest for educational purposes (see Attachments 1 and 2).

#### Quest University

- Quest is a private, non-profit university located in Squamish B.C. It receives no funding from the Ministry.
- Quest is established under the *SSUA*. The *SSUA* provides Quest with authority to use the title “university” in B.C., as well as ancillary benefits such as exemptions from property taxation for lands owned by Quest. Quest is subject to the *Degree Authorization Act* for its degree program.
- Quest was facing cash flow issues and high debt servicing costs for several years. Quest filed for protection under the *Companies’ Creditors Arrangement Act* in January 2020 in order to refinance its \$23 million mortgage debt and repay \$5 million in short-term debts to other organizations.
- In December 2020, Quest sold all of the real property that it owned and used for educational purposes to Primacorp Ventures Inc. and began to lease some of that property back in order to continue its operations.
- Primacorp Ventures Inc. as the owner of the property is billed for the property tax, but in its lease arrangements with Quest, Primacorp requires Quest to pay the property tax.

#### Property Tax Exemptions

- Currently Section 11 of *SSUA* provides an exemption from taxation under the *Local Government Act*, the *School Act*, and the *Taxation (Rural Area) Act*, for property that is owned and used for educational purposes by Quest, but not for leased property.
- The *SSUA* private bill<sup>1</sup> has been sent to the Ministries of Advanced Education and Skills Training (AEST), Finance and Municipal Affairs to determine whether the Ministers will object to the proposed changes when the amendments are considered by the Select Standing Committee on Parliamentary Reform, Ethical Conduct, Standing Orders and Private Bills.
- Government has not provided property tax exemption under a private Act since 2007 as municipalities can provide permissive tax exemptions to property owned or held by a not-for-profit corporation.

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<sup>1</sup> A private bill is introduced by an MLA on behalf of a group outside the Legislative Assembly. These bills generally grant specific powers, benefits, or exceptions to that group, or may exclude other laws from applying to them under specific circumstances. Private bills do not affect the general public.



- Numerous theological colleges have been established by private Acts. Quest is one of three universities in BC established by private Acts. The other two are Trinity Western University (TWU) and the Pacific Coast University for Workplace Health Sciences.
- All three universities have property tax exemption for property owned by the university; only TWU is also exempted for leased property used for educational purposes. Four theological colleges are fully exempt from property taxes for leases and an additional two are only exempt when leased from a municipality or the Crown. See Attachment 3 for full details.
- In October 2021, the District of Squamish sent the Ministry a letter of support for Quest's request to be exempt from property taxes for leased property, given the potential job losses and economic impact on the region should Quest not remain financially viable (see Attachment 4).
- Tax exemption for property leased by Quest would not and should not extend to Primacorp for anything other than educational purposes in association with Quest.

### Analysis:

- The lease exemption would assist Quest in its financial recovery and operations.<sup>s.13</sup>  
s.13
- The amendments would be consistent with TWU as well as some theological colleges.
- Currently, Quest has no plans to operate outside of the District of Squamish, however, if the amendments are granted, its exemption would extend to any community in which it chooses to operate.
- The District of Squamish has the authority to provide property tax exemption to a non-profit organization such as Quest by permissive exemption for property held by the non-profit organization in a long-term capital lease. The permissive exemption could be for ten years and could be renewed. The exemption flows through to school and hospital property taxes. Such an exemption by council bylaw would not take effect until the 2023 tax year, in contrast with the Quest request for retroactive exemption for 2022.
- A permissive exemption for 2023 and beyond would require Council to adopt a permissive exemption bylaw including this property by October 31, 2022.  
s.13
- 
- All three Ministries have an opportunity to object to the proposed amendments in relation to their responsibilities. The amendments are focussed on the responsibilities of Finance and Municipal Affairs rather than AEST.

### Options:

s.13

2. Support a revision to the amendment that only enables leases by Quest for educational purposes within the District of Squamish to be exempt.

*Pros*

- Provides consistency to Quest (which did not pay property tax when it owned the land within the District of Squamish).
- The District of Squamish appears to support the amendment.
- Will not unduly impact other municipalities.

*Cons*

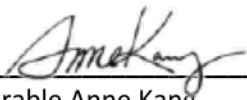
s.13

s.13

**Recommendation. Option 2** - Support a revision to the amendment that only enables leases by Quest for educational purposes within the District of Squamish to be exempt.

**RECOMMENDED OPTION:**

**Approved Option 2**



Honourable Anne Kang

April 5, 2022

Date

**Attachment(s):** 1 – *Petition*  
2 – *Proposed Amendments*  
3 – *Private Acts tax exemptions*  
4 – *Letter of Support from the District of Squamish*

**Contact:** Nicola Lemmer, Assistant Deputy Minister p.17

## PETITION

To the Honourable the Legislative Assembly of the Province of British Columbia, in Legislature Assembled:

The petition of the undersigned, Quest University Canada, states that:

**WHEREAS** Sea to Sky University was established as a corporation by enactment of the *Sea to Sky University Act*, S.B.C. 2002, c. 54, (“Act”);

**WHEREAS** in 2005 Sea to Sky University was renamed Quest University Canada by bylaw, pursuant to section 6 (4) of the Act;

**AND WHEREAS** the Act provides an exemption from taxation under the *Local Government Act*, R.S.B.C. 2015, c. 1, the *School Act*, R.S.B.C. 1996, c. 412, and the *Taxation (Rural Area) Act*, R.S.B.C. 1996, c. 448, for property that is owned and used for educational purposes, but not for property that is leased and used for educational purposes;

**AND WHEREAS** in 2020 Quest University Canada sold all of the real property that it owned and used for educational purposes and began to lease some of that same real property for educational purposes in order to continue its operations, thereafter, losing its tax exemption status;

Your petitioners respectfully request that the Honourable House amend the Act to extend the exemption from taxation under the above-listed statutes to property that Quest University Canada leases and uses for educational purposes in addition to those that it may own and use for educational purposes.

Dated this 8th day of February, 2022.

**QUEST UNIVERSITY CANADA**

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Jeff Warren, Vice President Academic

**BILL Pr 40X – 2022**

**SEA TO SKY UNIVERSITY AMENDMENT ACT, 2022**

WHEREAS Sea to Sky University was established as a corporation by the *Sea to Sky University Act*, S.B.C. 2002, c. 54, (“Act”);

AND WHEREAS in 2005 Sea to Sky University was renamed Quest University Canada by bylaw pursuant to section 6 (4) of the Act;

AND WHEREAS the Act provides an exemption from taxation under the *Local Government Act*, R.S.B.C. 2015, c. 1, the *School Act*, R.S.B.C. 1996, c. 412, and the *Taxation (Rural Area) Act*, R.S.B.C. 1996, c. 448, for property that is owned and used for educational purposes, but not for property that is leased and used for educational purposes;

AND WHEREAS in 2020 Quest University Canada sold all of the real property that it owned and used for educational purposes and began to lease some of that real property for educational purposes in order to continue its operations, thereafter, losing its tax exemption status;

AND WHEREAS Quest University Canada has by its petition requested that it be enacted as follows, and it is expedient to grant the request in the petition;

HER MAJESTY, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Assembly of the Province of British Columbia, enacts as follows:

**1**        *Section 11 (1) of the Sea to Sky University Act, S.B.C. 2002, c. 54, is amended by striking out “owned by” and substituting “owned or leased by”.*

**Commencement**

**2**        This Act is deemed to have come into force on December 31, 2021, for the purposes of the 2022 and subsequent taxation years.

Attachment 3: Operating Institutions with Private Acts			
Name	Act	Year Enacted	Property Tax Exemption
Canadian Chinese School of Theology	<u>Canadian Chinese School of Theology Vancouver Act</u>	2018	None
Millar College of the Bible	<u>Millar College of the Bible Act</u>	2016	None
Mennonite Brethren Biblical Seminary	<u>Mennonite Brethren Biblical Seminary Act, 2013</u>	2013	None
Pacific Coast University for Workplace Health Sciences	<u>Pacific Coast University for Workplace Health Sciences Act</u>	2007	<b>Taxation</b> <b>14</b> Subject to the regulations, all property owned by the university and used for university purposes is exempt from taxation under the <i>Community Charter</i> , the <i>Local Government Act</i> , the <i>School Act</i> and the <i>Taxation (Rural Area) Act</i> .
Quest University Canada	<u>Sea to Sky University Act</u>	2002	<b>Taxation and assistance</b> <b>11</b> (1)All property owned by the university and used for educational purposes is exempt from taxation under the <i>Local Government Act</i> , the <i>School Act</i> and the <i>Taxation (Rural Area) Act</i> . (2)Despite any prohibition in the <i>Local Government Act</i> that might otherwise apply, the District of Squamish may provide assistance to the university.
Vancouver School of Theology	<u>Vancouver School of Theology Act</u>	1992	<b>Property to be exempt from taxation</b> <b>6</b> The property of the school of theology and any property leased to and occupied by the school of theology are exempt from taxation under the <i>Municipal Act</i> , the <i>School Act</i> , the <i>Taxation (Rural Area) Act</i> , the <i>Vancouver Charter</i> and other similar taxation Acts so long as they are used and occupied for the purposes of the school of theology, and any real property so vested which is disposed of by a lease to a college affiliated with the school of theology, so long as it is used and occupied for the purposes of that college, continues to be exempt from taxation.
Columbia Bible College	<u>Columbia Bible College Act</u>	1987	<b>Property tax exemption</b> <b>12</b> (1)The college is exempt from taxation, levies and all other charges imposed under the <i>Community Charter</i> , the <i>Education (Interim) Finance Act</i> , the <i>Local Government Act</i> , the <i>School Act</i> , the <i>Municipal Finance Authority Act</i> , the <i>British Columbia Assessment Authority Act</i> and the <i>Taxation (Rural Area) Act</i> in respect of property (a)owned by it, or

			(b)leased by it from the Crown, a municipality or a board of school trustees where that property is occupied by the college and used by it for educational purposes.
Pacific Life Bible College	<u>Pacific Life Bible College Act</u>	1985 amended 2005	<p><b>Property tax exemption</b></p> <p><b>20</b> (1)In this section "college property" means land and improvements that are owned or leased by the college or by the Bible Fellowship Housing Society on behalf of the college, but "college property" does not include land and improvements used or occupied by the college for any purpose that is not an educational purpose;</p> <p>"improvements" and "land" have the same meaning as in the <u>Assessment Act</u>.</p> <p>(2)For the avoidance of doubt it is declared that the following land is "college property" within the meaning of subsection (1):</p> <p>(a)Parcel "A", Plan 57014 southeast quarter, Section 15, Township 2 except reference plan 62482, New Westminster District;</p> <p>(b)Lot 69, Plan 57506, southeast quarter, Section 15, Township 2, New Westminster District.</p> <p>(3)The college and the Bible Fellowship Housing Society are, in respect of college property, exempt from payment of real property taxes under the following Acts:</p> <p>(a)<u>Assessment Authority Act</u>;</p> <p>(b)<u>British Columbia Transit Act</u>;</p> <p>(c)<u>School Act</u>;</p> <p>(d)<u>Hospital District Act</u>;</p> <p>(e)<u>Library Act</u>;</p> <p>(f)<u>Local Services Act</u>;</p> <p>(g)<u>Municipal Act</u>;</p> <p>(h)<u>Municipal Finance Authority Act</u>;</p> <p>(i)<u>Park (Regional) Act</u>;</p> <p>(j)<u>Taxation (Rural Area) Act</u>.</p>
Okanagan Bible College	<u>Okanagan Bible College Act</u>	1983	<p><b>Property tax exemption</b></p> <p><b>20</b> The College is exempt from taxation under the <u>Community Charter</u>, the <u>Education (Interim) Finance Act</u>, the <u>Local Government Act</u>, the <u>School Act</u> and <u>Taxation (Rural Area) Act</u> in respect of property</p> <p>(a)owned by it, or</p> <p>(b)leased by it from the Crown, a municipality or a board of school trustees where that property is occupied by the College and used by it for educational purposes.</p>
Canadian Baptist Seminary	<u>Vancouver Bible Institute Enabling Act</u>	1968	None.

Regent College	<u>Regent College Act, 1968</u>	1968	<p><b>Property tax exemption</b></p> <p><b>9.1</b> (1)In this section, "<b>college property</b>" means property that is</p> <p>(a)owned by the College or leased by it from the Crown, a municipality or a regional district, and</p> <p>(b)occupied by the College and used by it for educational purposes.</p> <p>(2)The College is exempt from taxation under the following Acts in respect of college property:</p> <p>(a)<u>Assessment Authority Act</u>;</p> <p>(b)<u>British Columbia Transit Act</u>;</p> <p>(c)<u>Community Charter</u>;</p> <p>(d)<u>Hospital District Act</u>;</p> <p>(e)<u>Library Act</u>;</p> <p>(f)<u>Local Government Act</u>;</p> <p>(g)<u>Municipal Finance Authority Act</u>;</p> <p>(h)<u>Police Act</u>;</p> <p>(i)<u>School Act</u>;</p> <p>(j)<u>South Coast British Columbia Transportation Authority Act</u>;</p> <p>(k)<u>Taxation (Rural Area) Act</u>;</p> <p>(l)<u>University Endowment Land Act</u>;</p> <p>(m)<u>Vancouver Charter</u>.</p>
Summit Pacific College	<u>Summit Pacific College Act</u>	1967 amended 2004	<p><b>Exemption from taxation</b></p> <p><b>3.1</b> (1)In this section, "<b>property</b>" has the meaning given it in the <i>Assessment Act</i>.</p> <p>(2)The college is exempt from taxation under the <i>Municipal Act</i>, the <i>School Act</i> and <i>Taxation (Rural Area) Act</i> in respect of property</p> <p>(a)owned by it, or</p> <p>(b)leased by it from either the Crown or a municipality where that property is occupied by the college and used by it for educational purposes.</p>
Seminary of Christ the King*	<u>Seminary of Christ the King Act, 1966</u>	1966	<p><b>Tax exemptions</b></p> <p><b>26</b> The real or personal property owned by the Seminary or leased to the Seminary and used for educational purposes is exempt from taxation under the <i>Municipal Act</i>, the <i>School Act</i>, and the <i>Taxation (Rural Area) Act</i>.</p>
Trinity Western University	<u>Trinity Western University Act</u>	1964 amended 2004	<p><b>Taxation</b></p> <p><b>20</b> All property used for educational purposes whereof the University is the owner or a tenant is exempt from taxation under the <i>Municipal Act</i>, the <i>Public Schools Act</i>, and the <i>Taxation Act</i>.</p>
Carey Hall (Carey Theological College)	<u>Carey Hall Act</u>	1959	None.

Northwest Baptist Seminary	<u>Northwest Baptist Theological College Act, 1959</u>	1959	<p><b>College property exempt from real property taxes</b></p> <p><b>3.1</b> (1)In this section:  <b>"College property"</b> means lands and improvements that are owned or leased by the College or by the Fellowship of Regular Baptist Churches of British Columbia (hereinafter called the "Fellowship") on behalf of the College and occupied and used by the College for educational purposes;  <b>"improvements"</b> and <b>"land"</b> have the same meaning as in the <i>Assessment Act</i>.  (2)The College and the Fellowship are, in respect of College property, exempt from payment of real property taxes under the following Acts:  (a)<i>Assessment Authority Act</i>;  (b)<i>British Columbia Transit Act</i>;  (c)<i>Education (Interim) Finance Act</i>;  (d)<i>Hospital District Act</i>;  (e)<i>Library Act</i>;  (f)<i>Local Services Act</i>;  (g)<i>Municipal Act</i>;  (h)<i>Municipal Finance Authority Act</i>;  (i)<i>Park (Regional) Act</i>;  (j)<i>School Act</i>;  (k)<i>Taxation (Rural Area) Act</i>.</p>
St. Mark's College	<u>St. Mark's College Act, 1956</u>	1956	None.



October 13, 2021

Honourable Anne Kang  
Minister of Advanced Education and Skills Training  
Via email: [AEST.Minister@gov.bc.ca](mailto:AEST.Minister@gov.bc.ca)

**Re: Quest University – Letter of Support**

Dear Minister Kang,

At a meeting on October 5, the following motion was passed by District of Squamish Council:

*THAT the District of Squamish provide a letter of support to Quest University.*

Council's discussion related to an amendment to the Sea to Sky University Act to include exemption from property taxes on land leased by Quest University for educational purposes, instead of the more restrictive language in the Act, currently limiting the tax exemption to land owned by the University. We believe this amendment will support Quest University without benefiting the for-profit company that has purchased the land from Quest as part of the University's restructuring process.

District of Squamish has enjoyed a long-term relationship with Quest University, an established community partner that contributes post-secondary education as well as economic, intellectual and cultural vitality to the Squamish community.

Council supports Quest University's request to be treated similarly to other universities that operate as tenants, such as Trinity Western University. We hope that your Ministry is able to expedite this amendment in the Fall Session of the Legislature if possible to support Quest's continued contributions to the global post-secondary community through an exceptional degree program and to our community.

Sincerely,



Karen Elliott, Mayor  
District of Squamish

Copies to:  
Minister of Municipal Affairs Josie Osborne  
MLA Jordan Sturdy  
AEST Deputy Minister Shannon Baskerville  
George Iwama, Quest University President