

From: [Finn, Heather GCPE:EX](#)
To: [Filion, Corinna GCPE:EX](#); [Farrance, Melissa EDUC:EX](#); [Harrison, Veronica EDUC:EX](#)
Cc: [Byers, Lindsay GCPE:EX](#); [Badger, Joleen GCPE:EX](#)
Subject: Updated QA for event at UVic
Date: March 13, 2019 4:52:00 PM
Attachments: [20190313_QA_student_loans_Final.docx](#)
Importance: High

Hi folks,

Please see attached for an updated QA for MRF's event tomorrow at the University of Victoria.

Best,

Heather Finn

Heather Finn

Director – Cabinet Priorities

Government Communications and Public Engagement

Heather.Finn@gov.bc.ca

778-679-2104

Page 02

Withheld pursuant to/removed as

s.16;s.13

Page 03 to/à Page 04

Withheld pursuant to/removed as

s.13

From: [Harrison, Veronica EDUC:EX](#)
To: [Banh, Lindsay EDUC:EX](#)
Cc: [Farrance, Melissa EDUC:EX](#)
Subject: Re: Final NR - UVic students applaud elimination of interest on B.C. student loans
Date: March 13, 2019 4:04:22 PM

Thanks Lindsay!

Sent from my iPhone

> On Mar 13, 2019, at 4:01 PM, Banh, Lindsay EDUC:EX <Lindsay.Banh@gov.bc.ca> wrote:
>
> Hi,
>
> I am just about to run, I have printed whatever we got from AEST and GCPE.
>
> Also, Tracey Humphrey's event is printed out in MRF's decision fold. Haven't had a chance to ask him.
>
> Have a good night.
>
> -----Original Message-----
> From: Leslie, Sean GCPE:EX
> Sent: March 13, 2019 3:58 PM
> To: Harrison, Veronica EDUC:EX <Veronica.Harrison@gov.bc.ca>; Farrance, Melissa EDUC:EX
> <Melissa.Farrance@gov.bc.ca>; Banh, Lindsay EDUC:EX <Lindsay.Banh@gov.bc.ca>; Normand, Nicole AG:EX
> <Nicole.Normand@gov.bc.ca>
> Cc: Filion, Corinna GCPE:EX <Corinna.Filion@gov.bc.ca>
> Subject: FW: Final NR - UVic students applaud elimination of interest on B.C. student loans
>
> Final UVIC NR attached.
> Cheers.
> Sean
>
>
> -----Original Message-----
> From: Porter, Rodney GCPE:EX
> Sent: March 13, 2019 3:54 PM
> To: Filion, Corinna GCPE:EX <Corinna.Filion@gov.bc.ca>; Leslie, Sean GCPE:EX <Sean.Leslie@gov.bc.ca>
> Subject: Final NR - UVic students applaud elimination of interest on B.C. student loans
>
> Final attached.
>
> Permalink: <https://news.gov.bc.ca/19175>
>
>
> For Immediate Release
> 2019AEST0021-000403
> March 14, 2019
>
> Ministry of Advanced Education, Skills and Training
>
> UPDATE
> UVic students applaud elimination of interest on B.C. student loans
>
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eliminate interest from B.C. government-issued student loans, providing relief for about 200,000 people and making education more accessible for all.

>

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>

> Rob Fleming, Minister of Education, was joined by students at UVic to mark the historic announcement.

>

> "Post-secondary education is meant to open doors for people, not create a barrier to getting ahead," said Fleming. "By eliminating interest on B.C. student loans, we're helping young people get off to a good start in their lives and careers. Budget 2019 is about making life better for British Columbians, and access to education plays such a big role in helping people reach their full potential."

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> Students have advocated for interest-free loans in B.C. for many years. Instead of worrying about growing debt, students can focus on learning and graduates can put their energy into their next steps in life.

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> The elimination of interest on student loans means that low- to middle-income students are not paying thousands of dollars more for their education than their peers who can pay up front.

>

> Not only will eliminating interest on provincial student loans benefit current and future students, but also the impact will be felt by borrowers who are still paying off their student debt.

>

> A typical undergraduate borrower has \$11,200 in B.C. student loan debt, and \$28,000 in total student loan debt, including both federal and provincial loans. Eliminating interest on the provincial debt will save this borrower \$2,300 over a 10-year repayment period.

>

> Quick Facts:

>

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>

> * The student loan interest rate in B.C. had been prime plus 2.5% since 1996-97. Government first reduced interest from prime plus 2.5% to prime on Aug. 1, 2017.

>

> Learn More:

>

> B.C. Budget 2019: www.bcbudget.gov.bc.ca/2019/

>
> Contacts:
>
> Rodney Porter
> Ministry of Advanced Education, Skills and Training rodney.porter@gov.bc.ca
> 250 889-7494
>
> Denise Helm
> Director of Media Relations and Public Affairs University of Victoria dhelm@uvic.ca
> 250 721-7656
>
>
> Connect with the Province of B.C. at: <http://news.gov.bc.ca/connect>
> <2019AEST0021-000403.pdf>
> <mime-attachment>

From: [Banh, Lindsay EDUC:EX](#)
To: [Harrison, Veronica EDUC:EX](#); [Farrance, Melissa EDUC:EX](#)
Subject: FW: Final NR - UVic students applaud elimination of interest on B.C. student loans
Date: March 13, 2019 4:01:02 PM
Attachments: 2019AEST0021-000403.pdf
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To: Harrison, Veronica EDUC:EX <Veronica.Harrison@gov.bc.ca>; Farrance, Melissa EDUC:EX <Melissa.Farrance@gov.bc.ca>; Banh, Lindsay EDUC:EX <Lindsay.Banh@gov.bc.ca>; Normand, Nicole AG:EX <Nicole.Normand@gov.bc.ca>
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Learn More:

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Contacts:

Rodney Porter

Ministry of Advanced Education, Skills and Training rodney.porter@gov.bc.ca
250 889-7494

Denise Helm
Director of Media Relations and Public Affairs University of Victoria dhelm@uvic.ca
250 721-7656

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250 721-7656

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From: [Hahn, Andra EDUC:EX](#)
To: [Banh, Lindsay EDUC:EX](#)
Subject: PENDING FILE - FW: Advice: FW: Mar. 29 - BCEDAccess (Cliff 207260) Invitation to our fourth annual Advocacy Conference
Date: February 25, 2019 5:33:30 PM
Attachments: [Accept - FW \(Cliff 207260\) Invitation to our fourth annual Advocacy Conference.msg](#)

Hi Lindsay

Start a pending file for this one – Speaking BCEDAccess Conference on Mar. 29

We discussed this one

- Tbc based on MRF's Spring Break Family schedule
- Deadline if MRF wants to be noted in the pamphlet is Mar. 15
- Otherwise we can let her know anytime prior to event

From: Hahn, Andra EDUC:EX

Sent: February 22, 2019 1:17 PM

To: Harrison, Veronica EDUC:EX

Cc: Leslie, Sean GCPE:EX ; Fillion, Corinna GCPE:EX ; Hahn, Andra EDUC:EX ; Banh, Lindsay EDUC:EX

Subject: Advice: FW: Mar. 29 - BCEDAccess (Cliff 207260) Invitation to our fourth annual Advocacy Conference

Hi Veronica

Please advise on Tracy's query on speech length at BCEDAccess on Mar. 29 – which is still to be confirmed based on MRF's availability during Spring Break

Andra

From: BCed Access <bcedaccess@gmail.com>

Sent: February 22, 2019 10:42 AM

To: Hahn, Andra EDUC:EX <Andra.Hahn@gov.bc.ca>

Cc: Leslie, Sean GCPE:EX <Sean.Leslie@gov.bc.ca>; Fillion, Corinna GCPE:EX <Corinna.Fillion@gov.bc.ca>; Banh, Lindsay EDUC:EX <Lindsay.Banh@gov.bc.ca>

Subject: Re: Mar. 29 - BCEDAccess (Cliff 207260) Invitation to our fourth annual Advocacy Conference

Sounds good. On the Friday we could put him at 9:45, or 10:55 am. Do you know how much time he'd like to be able to speak for? that will help me to build the schedule around it, tentatively.

thank you!

Tracy

Tracy Humphreys

founder and Chair, BCEDAccess Society

bcedaccess@gmail.com

BCEDAccess would like to acknowledge and appreciate that our members and volunteers live, work and advocate all over the province, on hundreds of unceded Indigenous territories.

On Fri, Feb 22, 2019 at 9:34 AM Hahn, Andra EDUC:EX <Andra.Hahn@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

Hello Tracy

To answer further, if Minister attends and speaks it would be on the Friday, March 29 and likely mid morning around 10 or 11am. Again, we will be in touch in March to confirm if he is available.

Andra

From: BCed Access <bcedaccess@gmail.com>

Sent: February 21, 2019 9:58 PM

To: Hahn, Andra EDUC:EX <Andra.Hahn@gov.bc.ca>

Subject: Re: Mar. 29 - BCEDAccess (Cliff 207260) Invitation to our fourth annual Advocacy Conference

Hi Andra,

That's great news!

Timing would really depend on whether we're going to include him in the conference brochure. If we do that, it would be really good to know by around March 15th.

On the other hand, if we don't put him into the brochure, we can really find out even just a few days before.

What I would need to know is what time and which day would work for him, as it's a two-day conference on the Friday and Saturday.

I would also want to know how much time he would like for us to reserve for him to speak. If I know which day, what time of day, and how long he would like to speak for, I will just plan two alternative schedules, one where he is present in one where he is not. I'm happy to do this as I know that parents would appreciate hearing from him at the conference.

Thanks so much!

Tracy

On Thu, Feb 21, 2019, 4:42 PM Hahn, Andra EDUC:EX, <Andra.Hahn@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

Good afternoon Tracy,

I have discussed this invitation with Minister Fleming and he would like to tentatively accept this invitation, however, it may conflict with another commitment. What date do you require a confirmation from us by and we will notify you by that date.

Thank you,

Andra

From: BCed Access <bcedadaccess@gmail.com>

Sent: January 16, 2019 11:24 AM

To: Hahn, Andra EDUC:EX <Andra.Hahn@gov.bc.ca>; Banh, Lindsay EDUC:EX <Lindsay.Banh@gov.bc.ca>; Maartman, William EDUC:EX <William.Maartman@gov.bc.ca>; Minister, EDUC EDUC:EX <EDUC.Minister@gov.bc.ca>

Subject: (Cliff 207260) Invitation to our fourth annual Advocacy Conference

Cliff 207260

Dear Minister Fleming,

We would like to extend an invitation to our fourth annual conference, Equitable Access to Education, being held March 29th and 30th in the lower mainland.

Should you be able to attend, we would be pleased to offer you time to address the attendees (ideally Friday but Saturday works if you're available); I hope that you or a representative will consider staying to listen and participate in our collaborative workshops on one or both days as well. This is a great opportunity to hear the parent perspective on inclusive education in BC.

I would also appreciate if you could share with your networks who may know of parents in need of these workshops offering training in advocacy.

<https://equitableaccesstoeducation.wordpress.com/2019/01/03/advocon2019-march-29th-and-20th-save-the-date/>

Warm regards,

Tracy Humphreys
250-858-5165

Tracy Humphreys
BCEdAccess founder
bcedaccess@gmail.com

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From: [Hahn, Andra EDUC:EX](#)
To: [Hahn, Andra EDUC:EX](#)
Subject: Accept - FW: (Cliff 207260) Invitation to our fourth annual Advocacy Conference
Date: February 21, 2019 3:26:02 PM
Attachments: [\(Cliff 207260\) Save The Date - #AdvoCon2019.msg](#)
[\(Cliff 207260\) Invitation to BCedAccess Society's 4th Annual Parent Conference.msg](#)

Yes accept – suggest 11ish for speaking / link in gcpe
Andra

From: Banh, Lindsay EDUC:EX
Sent: February 1, 2019 3:00 PM
To: Hahn, Andra EDUC:EX
Subject: FW: (Cliff 207260) Invitation to our fourth annual Advocacy Conference
Hi A,
Please see below and attached for BCedAccess speaking invites.
Lindsay

From: BCed Access <bcedaccess@gmail.com>
Sent: January 16, 2019 11:24 AM
To: Hahn, Andra EDUC:EX <Andra.Hahn@gov.bc.ca>; Banh, Lindsay EDUC:EX <Lindsay.Banh@gov.bc.ca>; Maartman, William EDUC:EX <William.Maartman@gov.bc.ca>; Minister, EDUC EDUC:EX <EDUC.Minister@gov.bc.ca>
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From: [BCed Access](#)
To: [BCed Access](#)
Subject: (Cliff 207260) Save The Date - #AdvoCon2019
Date: January 5, 2019 12:39:01 AM

Cliff 207260



Advocacy: Equitable Access to Education - #AdvoCon2019

Surrey, BC



Save the Date for our 4th annual advocacy conference, Advocacy:
Equitable Access to Education, to be held in Surrey, BC! Share with your



friends, family, clients and more.

#AdvoCon2019 will provide parents, guardians and allies of students with disabilities and complex learners a unique opportunity to come together and learn practical information from professionals, families and self-advocates about equitable access to education and how to help these students assert their human rights.

Get ready for two days of learning and connecting with our pre-conference afternoon and evening on the 29th, and a full day conference schedule on the 30th. We have some very exciting speakers to announce as well - more information coming soon!

March 2019

**29th and
30th**



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You are receiving this email because you opted in to our email list through the BCEdAccess (formerly BC Parents of Children With Special Needs - Action For Access To Eductaion) Facebook group.

Our mailing address is:

BCEdAccess
1654 Hollywood Crescent
Victoria, BC V8S 1H9
Canada

[Add us to your address book](#)

Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).



From: [BCed Access](#)
To: [Hahn, Andra EDUC:EX](#); [Banh, Lindsay EDUC:EX](#); [Maartman, William PSSG:EX](#); [Minister, EDUC EDUC:EX](#); [Nicole Kaler; cmorv](#)
Subject: (Cliff 207260) Invitation to BCEdAccess Society's 4th Annual Parent Conference
Date: January 24, 2019 6:07:32 PM

Cliff 207260

Hello Andra,

I would like to again extend an invitation to Minister Fleming, to our fourth annual parent conference, to be held at the Civic Hotel in Surrey this year, March 29th and 30th.

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/bcedaccess-annual-conference-advocacy-equitable-access-to-education-tickets-52164124300>

Should the Minister be able to attend, I would be pleased to find a block of time for him to speak.

He is also very welcome to stay and participate in workshops and listen to other speakers as always.

If he is not able to make it, I would be pleased to accommodate someone else from the Ministry to attend instead. I think it would be very beneficial for them to be participate in the day as an attendee.

I would also appreciate it if you could share with your networks who may know of parents and guardians in need of these workshops.

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Cc: [Filion, Corinna GCPE:EX](#)
Subject: FW: Final NR - UVic students applaud elimination of interest on B.C. student loans
Date: March 13, 2019 3:57:47 PM
Attachments: [2019AEST0021-000403.pdf](#)

Final UVIC NR attached.
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Sent: March 13, 2019 3:54 PM
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- * The announcement in Budget 2019 to eliminate interest on B.C. government-issued student loans comes after years of advocacy by student groups throughout the province including the BC Alliance of Students and the BC Federation of Students.

- * StudentAid BC delivers the Canada-British Columbia integrated student financial assistance program. The federal government sets the interest rate for the federal component. Interest on the federal loan remains prime plus 2.5%. Integrated loans are based on a 60/40 split between federal and provincial funding respectively.

- * The 200,000 B.C. student loans include about 55,000 people in study, about 120,000 people in repayment and about 25,000 people in default.

- * The student loan interest rate in B.C. had been prime plus 2.5% since 1996-97. Government first reduced interest from prime plus 2.5% to prime on Aug. 1, 2017.

Learn More:

B.C. Budget 2019: www.bcbudget.gov.bc.ca/2019/

Contacts:

Rodney Porter
Ministry of Advanced Education, Skills and Training rodney.porter@gov.bc.ca
250 889-7494

Denise Helm
Director of Media Relations and Public Affairs University of Victoria dhelm@uvic.ca
250 721-7656

Connect with the Province of B.C. at: <http://news.gov.bc.ca/connect>

UPDATE

For Immediate Release
2019AEST0021-000403
March 14, 2019

Ministry of Advanced Education, Skills and Training

UVic students applaud elimination of interest on B.C. student loans

VICTORIA – Students at the University of Victoria (UVic) are celebrating the Province’s Budget 2019 decision to eliminate interest from B.C. government-issued student loans, providing relief for about 200,000 people and making education more accessible for all.

As of Feb. 19, 2019, all B.C. government-issued student loans stopped accumulating interest.

Rob Fleming, Minister of Education, was joined by students at UVic to mark the historic announcement.

“Post-secondary education is meant to open doors for people, not create a barrier to getting ahead,” said Fleming. “By eliminating interest on B.C. student loans, we’re helping young people get off to a good start in their lives and careers. Budget 2019 is about making life better for British Columbians, and access to education plays such a big role in helping people reach their full potential.”

Students have advocated for interest-free loans in B.C. for many years. Instead of worrying about growing debt, students can focus on learning and graduates can put their energy into their next steps in life.

“Students have been advocating for the elimination of interest on student loans for a very long time,” said Ainsley Kerr, director of campaigns and community relations, University of Victoria Students’ Society. “Budget 2019’s move to increase the accessibility of education is long overdue and will help level the playing field by ensuring more people can access the opportunities they need for their future. We welcome the B.C. government’s decision and thank them for listening to student voices.”

There are about 200,000 B.C. student loans representing \$1.24 billion in principal outstanding. Borrowers will collectively save about \$22 million in interest payments on these loans in 2019-20.

“The provincial government’s continued investment in students allows them to develop the skills, abilities and attributes necessary to achieve their academic and personal goals, while contributing effectively in their communities,” said Jim Dunsdon, associate vice-president of student affairs, UVic.

The elimination of interest on student loans means that low- to middle-income students are not paying thousands of dollars more for their education than their peers who can pay up front.

Not only will eliminating interest on provincial student loans benefit current and future students, but also the impact will be felt by borrowers who are still paying off their student

debt.

A typical undergraduate borrower has \$11,200 in B.C. student loan debt, and \$28,000 in total student loan debt, including both federal and provincial loans. Eliminating interest on the provincial debt will save this borrower \$2,300 over a 10-year repayment period.

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Denise Helm
Director of Media Relations and Public Affairs
University of Victoria
dhelm@uvic.ca
250 721-7656

Connect with the Province of B.C. at: news.gov.bc.ca/connect

From: [Filion, Corinna GCPE:EX](#)
To: [Harrison, Veronica EDUC:EX](#)
Cc: [Farrance, Melissa EDUC:EX](#); [Normand, Nicole AG:EX](#); [Banh, Lindsay EDUC:EX](#); [Leslie, Sean GCPE:EX](#)
Subject: RE: Quote approval - UVic budget echo event
Date: March 13, 2019 12:37:17 PM

Thank you

From: Harrison, Veronica EDUC:EX
Sent: Wednesday, March 13, 2019 12:37 PM
To: Filion, Corinna GCPE:EX
Cc: Farrance, Melissa EDUC:EX; Normand, Nicole AG:EX; Banh, Lindsay EDUC:EX; Leslie, Sean GCPE:EX
Subject: Re: Quote approval - UVic budget echo event

Quote approved.

Sent from my iPhone

On Mar 13, 2019, at 12:10 PM, Filion, Corinna GCPE:EX <Corinna.Filion@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

Hi, material attached for tomorrow's UVic event. As mentioned, just waiting for MRF quote approval

Thx
C

From: Porter, Rodney GCPE:EX
Sent: Wednesday, March 13, 2019 12:07 PM
To: Filion, Corinna GCPE:EX
Cc: Leslie, Sean GCPE:EX; Finn, Heather GCPE:EX; Korinowsky, Alexandra GCPE:EX
Subject: RE: Quote approval - UVic budget echo event

Hey Corinna; Just touching base. I under my MA has shared materials with your MA.

- NR – still pending quote approvals
- MA – still pending UVic approval
- Speaking points for MRF
- QAs – post-secondary
- Student scenarios
- KMs – student loans
- QAs – student loans

From: Filion, Corinna GCPE:EX
Sent: March 12, 2019 5:36 PM
To: Porter, Rodney GCPE:EX <Rodney.Porter@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Leslie, Sean GCPE:EX <Sean.Leslie@gov.bc.ca>; Finn, Heather GCPE:EX

<Heather.Finn@gov.bc.ca>; Korinowsky, Alexandra GCPE:EX
<Alexandra.Korinowsky@gov.bc.ca>

Subject: Re: Quote approval - UVic budget echo event

Yes, will do

Sent from my iPhone

On Mar 12, 2019, at 4:56 PM, Porter, Rodney GCPE:EX <Rodney.Porter@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

Hello Corinna and Sean;

MRF is doing a budget echo announcement on behalf of AEST / FIN this Thursday morning at UVic.

Could you please secure quote approval?

"Post-secondary education is meant to open doors for people, not create a barrier to getting ahead," said Fleming. "By eliminating interest on B.C. student loans, we're helping young people get off to a good start in their lives and careers. Budget 2019 is about making life better for British Columbians, and access to education plays such a big role in helping people reach their full potential." **NOT APPROVED**

Logistics are still coming together but we'll have KMs, QA, SN and an itinerary hopefully by EOD tomorrow.

Respectfully

Rodney Porter, Communications Director

B.C. Ministry of Advanced Education, Skills and Training

Mobile: **250 889-7494**

Email: rodney.porter@gov.bc.ca

<NR_UVic Student Loans_March12_3pm.docx>

<MA_UVic_student loans_March13_1050am.docx>

<NR_UVic Student Loans_March13_1110am.docx>

<SN_UVic_student loans_March13_1135am.docx>

<QAs_General PSE_March13_10am.docx>

<Student scenarios_Feb15_535pm.docx>

<KM_UFV_student loans_March12_11am.docx>

<QA_UFV_student loans_March7_8am.docx>

From: [Filion, Corinna GCPE:EX](#)
To: [Harrison, Veronica EDUC:EX](#); [Farrance, Melissa EDUC:EX](#)
Cc: [Normand, Nicole AG:EX](#); [Banh, Lindsay EDUC:EX](#); [Leslie, Sean GCPE:EX](#)
Subject: FW: Quote approval - UVic budget echo event
Date: March 13, 2019 12:10:09 PM
Attachments: MA_UVic_student loans_March13_1050am.docx
NR_UVic Student Loans_March13_1110am.docx
SN_UVic_student loans_March13_1135am.docx
QAs_General PSE_March13_10am.docx
Student scenarios_Feb15_535pm.docx
KM_UFV_student loans_March12_11am.docx
QA_UFV_student loans_March7_8am.docx

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Cc: [Leslie, Sean GCPE:EX](#) <Sean.Leslie@gov.bc.ca>; [Finn, Heather GCPE:EX](#) <Heather.Finn@gov.bc.ca>; [Korinowsky, Alexandra GCPE:EX](#) <Alexandra.Korinowsky@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: Re: Quote approval - UVic budget echo event

Yes, will do

Sent from my iPhone

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"Post-secondary education is meant to open doors for people, not create a barrier to getting ahead," said Fleming. "By eliminating interest on B.C. student loans, we're helping young people get off to a good start in their lives and careers. Budget 2019 is about making life better for British Columbians, and access to education plays such a big role in helping people reach their full potential." **NOT APPROVED**

Logistics are still coming together but we'll have KMs, QA, SN and an itinerary hopefully by EOD tomorrow.

Respectfully

Rodney Porter, Communications Director

B.C. Ministry of Advanced Education, Skills and Training

Mobile: **250 889-7494**

Email: rodney.porter@gov.bc.ca

<NR_UVic Student Loans_March12_3pm.docx>

March 13, 2019

MEDIA ADVISORY – Ministry of Advanced Education, Skills and Training

VICTORIA – Students at the University of Victoria are welcoming the Budget 2019 announcement to eliminate interest on B.C. government student loans.

Celebrating the decision will be Rob Fleming, Minister of Education, on behalf of the Province of B.C. alongside students from the university.

Event Date: Thursday, March 14, 2019

Time: 11:00 a.m.

Location:
University of Victoria
University Centre
Victoria

Media Contacts:

Rodney Porter
Communications Director
Ministry of Advanced Education, Skills and Training
250 889-7494
rodney.porter@gov.bc.ca

Denise Helm
Director of Media Relations and Public Affairs
University of Victoria
250 721-7656
dhelm@uvic.ca

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
[release number]
March 14, 2019

Ministry of Advanced Education, Skills and
Training

UVic students applaud elimination of interest on B.C. student loans

VICTORIA – Students at UVic are celebrating the Province’s Budget 2019 decision to eliminate interest from B.C. student loans, providing relief for about 200,000 people and making education more accessible for all.

As of Feb. 19, 2019, all B.C. student loans stopped accumulating interest.

Minister of Education Rob Fleming was joined by students to mark the historic announcement.

“Post-secondary education is meant to open doors for people, not create a barrier to getting ahead,” said Fleming. “By eliminating interest on B.C. student loans, we’re helping young people get off to a good start in their lives and careers. Budget 2019 is about making life better for British Columbians, and access to education plays such a big role in helping people reach their full potential.” **NOT APPROVED**

Students have been advocating for interest-free loans in B.C. for many years. Instead of worrying about growing debt, students can focus on learning and graduates can put their energy into their next steps in life.

“Students have been advocating for the elimination of interest on student loans for a very long time,” said Ainsley Kerr, University of Victoria Student Society, Director of Campaigns and Community Relations. “Budget 2019’s move to do this is long overdue and will help level the playing field to ensure more people can access the opportunities they need to set the course for their future. We welcome the B.C. government’s decision and thank them for listening to student voices.” **NOT APPROVED**

There are about 200,000 B.C. student loans representing \$1.24 billion in principal outstanding. Borrowers will collectively save about \$22 million in interest payments on these loans in 2019-20.

“This provincial budget delivered tremendous news for post-secondary students – news students have been waiting to hear for years,” said Jamie Cassels, President of the University of Victoria. “We know the power of post-secondary education in terms of helping people grow and live successful lives. Eliminating interest on provincial student loans is a step toward helping more students achieve their dreams.” **NOT APPROVED**

The elimination of interest on student loans means that low- to middle-income students are not paying thousands of dollars more for their education than their peers who can pay up front.

Not only will eliminating interest on provincial student loans benefit current and future students, but the impact will be felt by borrowers who are still paying off their student debt.

A typical undergraduate borrower has \$11,200 in B.C. student loan debt, and \$28,000 in total student loan debt including both federal and provincial loans. Eliminating interest on the provincial debt will save this borrower \$2,300 over a 10-year repayment period.

Quick Facts:

- The announcement in Budget 2019 to eliminate interest on B.C. government student loans comes after years of advocacy by students groups throughout the province including the BC Alliance of Student and the BC Federation of Students.
- The University of Victoria Students' Society (UVSS) is a social justice based non-profit run by students. Separate from the university, the students' society exists to provide advocacy, representation, services, and events for its members. The UVSS works on issues affecting students, such as post-secondary funding, public transit, sexualized violence, campus sustainability, student employment and affordable housing.
- StudentAid BC delivers the Canada – British Columbia integrated student financial assistance program. The federal government sets the interest rate for the federal component. Interest on the federal loan remains prime + 2.5%. Integrated loans are based on 60/40 split between federal and provincial funding respectively.
- The 200,000 B.C. student loans includes about 55,000 people in study, about 120,000 people in repayment and about 25,000 people in default.
- The student loan interest rate in B.C. had been Prime plus 2.5% since 1996-97. Government first reduced interest from Prime +2.5% to Prime on Aug. 1, 2017.

Learn More:

B.C. Budget 2019: www.bcbudget.gov.bc.ca/2019/

The AMS of UBC: www.ams.ubc.ca

Media contacts:

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Ministry of Advanced Education, Skills and Training
250 889-7494
rodney.porter@gov.bc.ca

Denise Helm
Director of Media Relations and Public Affairs
University of Victoria
250 721-7656
dhelm@uvic.ca

SPEAKING NOTES FOR HON. ROB FLEMING,
MINISTER OF EDUCATION

Eliminating interest on
B.C. gov't student loans

University of Victoria
University Centre, Victoria

Thursday, March 14

11:00 a.m.

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Contact:

Joleen Badger, GCPE Event Services, 604-916-3551
 Tristan Denniston, UVic Gov't Relations, s.22

Parking:

Two parking meters directly across from University Centre. They will be marked with a yellow sign denoting VIP parking.

Event description:

Budget 2019 echo event to celebrate the elimination of interest on B.C. student loans, which will help make life more affordable for 200,000 British Columbians. The event at the University of Victoria is one of several echo events at PSIs.

The format at UVic is a roundtable discussion with 6-8 students.

Background:

Budget 2019 eliminates interest on B.C. gov't student loans effective Feb. 19, 2019 by including \$318 million over 4 years – including a one-time adjustment in 2018-19. StudentAid BC delivers the provincial and the federal component of the student financial assistance program. Integrated loans are based on 60/40 split between federal and provincial funding respectively.

As of March 31, 2018, approximately 200,000 people have student loans worth a total of \$1.2 billion including: 58,000 in study, 119,000 in repayment and 25,000 in default. Gov't first reduced interest from Prime +2.5% to Prime on Aug. 1, 2017.

What does the audience want to hear?

Budget 2019 is about making life better for people and opening the door to opportunity, so everyone can reach their full potential.

Gov't listened to students and delivered on its mandate to eliminate interest on B.C. gov't student loans effective Feb. 19th, 2019.

Gov't is working hard to make post-secondary education more affordable and accessible.

- Good morning, everyone.
- I'd like to acknowledge we're on the territory of the Lekwungen speaking peoples, including the Songhees, Esquimalt and WSANEC [wh-say-nuch] First Nations.
- My name is Rob Fleming. I'm the Minister of Education, and MLA for Victoria-Swan Lake.
- Thank you to the University of Victoria and the UVic Student Society for the opportunity to be here today.
- And thank you to everyone who has joined us for the round table.
- I am so pleased to be here representing Melanie Mark, the Minister of Advanced Education, Skills and Training.
- Our government is focused on making life more affordable for British Columbians.
- We understand that debt is one of the biggest issues facing post-secondary students and graduates.

- When we formed government in 2017, interest on B.C. student loans was among the highest in the country.
- Higher education should open doors, not make it harder to get ahead.
- After years of government decisions that ignored the problems facing the majority of British Columbians were facing, it was time to start putting people first.
- We acted quickly and within 16 days, we cut interest on provincial loans by 2.5%.
- And we are continuing to make post-secondary education and training more accessible and affordable for all British Columbians.
- In Budget 2019, the Minister of Finance announced the elimination of the interest on B.C. student loans.
- Effective February 19th, 2019 all B.C. student loans stopped accumulating interest.

- This gives immediate relief to those currently working to pay off their loans and means those who are still in school will face less debt when they graduate.
- Making life more affordable for the approximately 200,000 British Columbians receiving or repaying student loans.
- I want to thank and congratulate you – and all the students across the province who have advocated for measures like this one.
- Students spoke, and we listened.
- Your advocacy is helping make education more affordable.
- Budget 2019 is about making life better for people and opening the door to opportunity.
- Keep studying, training and innovating.
- You are helping us build a better B.C.

Page 37 to/à Page 39

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Key Messages

Eliminating interest on B.C. government student loans

- Budget 2019 is about making life better for people and opening the door to opportunity, so everyone can reach their full potential.
- Higher education should open doors for people, not make it harder to get ahead.
- Students graduating from post-secondary institutions have been saddled with high levels of debt for too long.
- That's why Budget 2019 eliminates interest on all B.C. student loans going forward.
- As of February 19th, all B.C. student loans stopped accumulating interest.
- This means everyone who is working to pay off their student loan will get immediate relief.
- 200,000 borrowers will save about \$22 million in interest payments on these loans in 2019-20.
- With this decision, we're helping young people and new families get off to a good start in their lives and careers.
- We're working to make higher education more accessible.
- Making life more affordable means more young people can feel confident about putting down roots and building a life right here in British Columbia.

Page 41 to/à Page 42

Withheld pursuant to/removed as

s.13

From: [Snoddon, Michael AEST:EX](#)
To: [Farrance, Melissa EDUC:EX](#)
Cc: [van Baarsen, Amanda AEST:EX](#); [Porter, Rodney GCPE:EX](#); [Fernandes, Jennifer GCPE:EX](#)
Subject: Additional Information for UVic Student Loans Event
Date: March 13, 2019 11:59:52 AM
Attachments: UVIC_Jan 9 2019.pdf
2019.02.08 QP AEST Vancouver Island Table - FINAL.DOCX
QA_UBC_student loans_March13_930am.docx
AEST_Top Ten_One pager_March13_930am.docx
Student scenarios_Feb15_535pm.docx
QAs_General PSE_March13_10am.docx
Mandate Letter to PSI Board Chairs - clean.docx

Hi Melissa,

Here is some additional information that Minister Fleming might find helpful for tomorrow's student loan event at uVic. I believe speaking notes and other materials are forthcoming.

- Institutional profile
- AEST Accomplishments
- Vancouver Island Accomplishments
- Student Scenarios
- General PSE Q&A
- Student Loans Q&A
- Mandate Letters to PSIs

Let me know if I can assist any further.

Thanks,

Michael

Michael Snoddon

Ministerial Assistant to the Honourable Melanie Mark
Minister of Advanced Education, Skills and Training
cell: s.17 | email: michael.snoddon@gov.bc.ca

GOVERNANCE



PRESIDENT & Vice-Chancellor
Professor Jamie Cassels, QC
(since July 1, 2013)



CHAIR OF THE BOARD
Ms. Beverly Van Ruyven
(board term expires July 31, 2020)

Chancellor Shelagh Rogers (board term expires December 31, 2020)

Senate Chair Professor Jamie Cassels
Student Association External Executive Ainsley Kerr
Faculty Association President Helga Hallgrimsdottir

First Nations territory acknowledgement

We (I) acknowledge with respect the traditional territories of the Songhees (song-geez), Esquimalt (es-kwai-malt) and W̱SÁNEĆ (wh-say-nuch) nations.

OVERVIEW



Mandate

The University of Victoria (UVic) is a research university and the province's third largest public post-secondary institution.



Legislation

UVic operates under the authority of the *University Act*.

Unique to UVIC

- Ranked highly in Canada (currently second) in Maclean's University Rankings (comprehensive category)
- Created a new Joint Juris Doctor and Juris Indigenarum Doctor law program, to prepare for work across Indigenous and non-Indigenous legal traditions
- A Canadian leader in co-operative education and experiential learning, including Canada's only comprehensive common law co-operative education program

1

1. Victoria

Campus

10

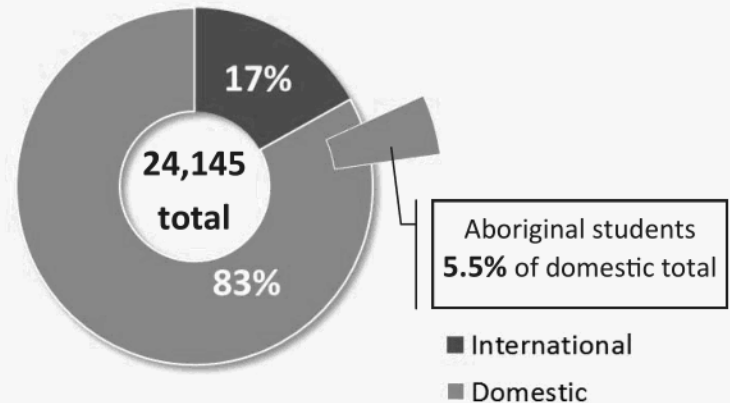
Faculties

1. Business
2. Education
3. Engineering
4. Fine Arts
5. Graduate Studies
6. Human and Social Development
7. Humanities
8. Law
9. Science
10. Social Sciences

UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA (UVIC)

ENROLMENT

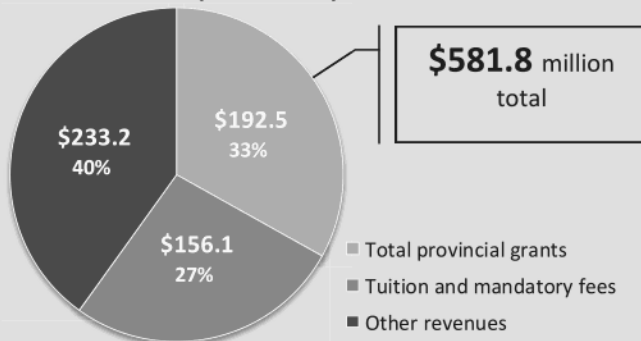
Annual Enrolment Headcount, 2016/17 Academic Year



FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Total Revenue

Financial Statement
March 2018 (in millions)



Base Operating Grants

AEST Base Operating Grants (as of June 27, 2018)

2018/19 : **\$187.2** million (**15,918** FTE target)

2017/18: **\$181.3** million (**15,863** FTE target)

ITA Investment

N/A

See Attachment 1 for info on One-time Funding

MAJOR CAPITAL PROJECTS UNDERWAY

Oceans and Climate Campus

- \$9.5 million / \$0.9 million provincial funding / \$3.5 million federal funding
- Renovation and upgrade to provide an interdisciplinary, collaborative space for UVic's ocean, climate change, and data management programs, including Oceans Network Canada.

Renovations for Bamfield Marine Science Centre

- \$3 million / \$0 million provincial funding / \$1.5 million federal funding
- Various mechanical, electrical and building envelope renovations to the Marine Science Centre research spaces.

Student Housing Project

- \$200.8 million / \$122.7 million provincial funding / \$78.2 million institutional funding
- Construction of 782 (620 net new) housing beds, including dining facility and multipurpose space within two new buildings on the University campus. Total project completed date anticipated for 2024.
- Examples of key past projects are the renewal and improvement of six 40 year old buildings and the construction and refurbishment of buildings and procurement of specialized equipment to develop a superconducting electron accelerator and rare isotope beam facility located at the TRIUMF facility in Vancouver.

UVIC PROFILE: ATTACHMENTS

Attachment #1: One-time Funding Examples

	Funded in	
	2017/18	2018/19
Aboriginal Emergency Assistance Funding	\$35,000	
Work-Integrated Learning	\$75,000	
Graduate Student Scholarship	\$2,250,000	
MOE Teacher Education Funding	\$126,000	
Technology Programming Expansion - Computer Science and Engineering Degrees	\$400,000	\$725,000
<i>Examples include funding from AEST and partnership funding from other provincial / federal sources</i>		

UVIC PROFILE: ATTACHMENTS

Attachment #2: Issues

Indigenous Law

- Budget 2018 includes \$2.25 million in funding over two years for a new Indigenous Law Program at UVic (\$900,000 in 2019/20 and \$1.35 million in 2020/21), which supports Government's commitment to reconciliation with First Nations, and directly responds to the Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.
- UVic launched the new dual degree program in Canadian Common Law and Indigenous Legal Orders with the first intake in September 2018. Students will graduate in four years with two professional degrees: a Juris Doctor and a Juris Indigenarum Doctor.
- A unique program in Canada, if not the entire world, it will meet the demand for professionals who can work across Common Law and Indigenous Law in governance, resource management, child welfare and many other areas. It will enrol 25 students in each of the four years, for a total of 100 full time equivalent student spaces at steady state.

Vancouver Island

NEW programs	
UVic	First Indigenous law program in Canada \$2.2M over 2 years
VIU	New Centre for Innovation in Fish Health \$215,000
North Island College	Developing an applied forest resource diploma & enhancing coastal forest resource certificate \$328,000
VIU	12 week intro to forestry & innovative wood products \$200,000
Royal Roads	Developing a report on potential programs in Langford \$250,000

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NEW student housing	
UVic	620 new beds, a 25% increase in on-campus beds \$201M project (\$123M in prov. financing)

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NEW health-care assistant seats (178 / ~\$1.7M)	
Camosun College	108 seats, \$1.1M
North Island College	70 seats, \$591,000
NEW capital investments (\$1M)	
Camosun College North Island College VIU	Industry-standard trades training equipment Camosun - \$500,000; North Island - \$310,455; VIU - \$310,455

Page 50 to/à Page 52

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AEST Top Ten – One Pager

1. **SEPTEMBER 1, 2017:** Launched **tuition-free ABE and ELL programs**. Over 20,000 students are now benefiting from this important initiative. \$24 million a year.
2. **SEPTEMBER 1, 2017:** Investing \$2 million a year for the **provincial tuition waiver program** that includes 25 PSIs, NEC and 10 union trades trainers – 806 former youth in care are benefiting.
3. **JANUARY 16, 2018:** We're **adding 2,900 tech-related spaces** that will produce 1,000 additional tech-grads a year by 2023. We plan to increase investment up to a steady state of \$42 million a year.
4. **FEBRUARY 20, 2018:** Announced \$450 million in **new, affordable on-campus student housing** to create about 5,000 student homes over 6 years. In 2018, we funded 1,165 additional beds at TRU, UVic and CNC - an 800% increase from 130 beds funded in the previous 16 years.
5. **MARCH 28, 2018:** Providing \$21 million over 3 years for the **Aboriginal Community-Based Training Partnerships Program**, ensuring over 40 communities like Esquimalt First Nation and Penticton Indian Band can equip Indigenous learners with the skills for employment.
6. **MAY 16, 2018:** Announced a **\$12-million graduate scholarship fund** that will support 800 awards of \$15,000 to support students and help spark innovation, economic growth and research that will benefit communities and individuals throughout the province.
7. **JUNE 5, 2018:** Adult upgrading students are accessing **more open textbooks** after a \$250,000 investment from our gov't. Approximately 99,000 students in B.C. have saved as much as \$10 million since the open textbook project was launched in 2012.
8. **JUNE 2018:** Added **182 new student spaces in ECE training programs** with a \$1.2 million investment in 2018-19 in communities like Vanderhoof, Vancouver, Castlegar, Victoria, Burns Lake, Prince George, and many more throughout the province.
9. **JUNE 29, 2018:** The new **Workforce Development Agreement** is providing \$685 million over 6 years to deliver skills training and employment services people count on, while supporting a strong, sustainable economy that works for everyone.
10. **JULY 22, 2018:** Investing \$1.9 million so post-secondary students will get better opportunities to take part in **co-op and other work-integrated learning** opportunities.
11. **FEBRUARY, 1, 2019:** Eliminating **interest** on B.C. gov't loans effective Feb. 19, 2019, means the typical undergraduate student will save \$2,300 on their provincial loan.
12. **IN 2019-20:** This year, we're **funding over 27,000 apprenticeship and foundation training seats** at public and private institutions through the Industry Training Authority.
13. Since April 1, 2018, WorkBC's **Find Your Fit tour** has connected over 52,500 students and 16,000 adults with career information and hands-on experience. In 2018-19, the Find Your Fit tour includes 107 stops in 69 communities, and concludes in March 2019.

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Date: February [X], 2019

Our Ref. [XXXXXXX]

[Mr./Ms First Name Last Name of Board Chair]

[Name of PSI]

[Address of PSI]

Dear [Mr./Ms. Last Name of Board Chair]:

I would like to extend appreciation on behalf of Premier Horgan and the Executive Council for your dedication, and that of your board members, in serving the public interest. Public post-secondary institutions play a key role in delivering important services that benefit British Columbians in every region of our province.

Government's three priorities remain unchanged: make life more affordable, deliver the services people count on, and build a strong and sustainable economy that supports jobs throughout the province. Across government ministries and in strong partnership with public post-secondary institutions, our emphasis is on raising the standard of living for all British Columbians, delivering quality programs and services that are practical and realistic in a B.C. context and in our fiscal environment, and judiciously managing affordability pressures – both for citizens and for our business community.

Our government has also made important commitments to reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples, taking action against climate change, and working to ensure that our public service and public sector institutions are representative and inclusive of our diverse society:

- Government is adopting and implementing the United Nations Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC), demonstrating our support for true and lasting reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples. All public sector organizations are asked to incorporate the UN Declaration and TRC within their specific mandate and context. Additionally, in May 2018, government released 10 Draft Principles to Guide the Province's Relationship with Indigenous Peoples, which serves as a guide for all public sector organizations as we continue to build relationships with Indigenous communities based on respect and recognition of inherent rights.
- While government has already taken steps towards achieving our legislated carbon reduction targets, much remains to be done. Our new climate strategy will outline significant GHG

reduction measures in 2019/20 while supporting our program and service objectives through economic growth powered by clean, renewable energy, supported by technological innovation. I ask that your organization's operations align with government's new climate plan.

- Over the coming fiscal year, I look forward to working with your leadership team to provide effective, citizen-centred governance, through strong public sector boards that represent the diversity of British Columbia. The Crown Agencies and Board Resourcing Office (CABRO) at the Ministry of Finance provides leadership for the appointment process to fill positions on the boards of public post-secondary institutions. As your board is renewed over time, I encourage you to work with CABRO to actively seek out women, visible minorities, Indigenous Peoples, persons with disabilities, LGBTQ2S+ individuals, and others who may contribute to diversity to add to the CABRO candidate pool to fill open positions. My expectation is that candidates from all regions of our province will be invited to apply to help renew B.C.'s public sector boards, including individuals with a broad range of backgrounds in community, labour and business environments.

Having Canada's Digital Supercluster located in British Columbia creates an opportunity for industries, government ministries, crown agencies, public institutions and non-governmental organizations to collaborate in digital research and development projects. Should your institution intend to participate in or be a funding partner for Digital Supercluster projects, I encourage you to engage with the Ministry of Advanced Education, Skills and Training staff to identify opportunities for collaboration and partnership with government ministries and organizations. The Ministry of Advanced Education, Skills and Training will work with the recently-established Deputy Minister's Committee on the Digital Supercluster to ensure that projects involving provincial funding are coordinated effectively across government. This Mandate Letter confirms your institution's mandate under the [*University Act/College and Institute Act/Royal Roads University Act, Thompson Rivers University Act*], and sets out key performance expectations for the 2019/20 fiscal year.

As the Minister Responsible for public post-secondary institutions, I ask that you also make substantive progress on the following priorities and incorporate them in the goals, objectives and performance measures included in your Institutional Accountability Plan and Report:

1. Implement the education-related TRC Calls to Action relevant to your institution and actively participate in an engagement process with the Ministry and local, regional and other Indigenous partners to develop and implement a comprehensive strategy that increases student success and responds to the TRC Calls to Action and UN Declaration.
2. Work closely with government to support implementation of priority initiatives, including those outlined in my mandate letter (attached). Specific actions include, but are not limited to:

- a. Improving access to post-secondary education with a focus on vulnerable and under-represented students.
 - b. Expanding programming aligned with high demand occupations and priority sectors (such as trades, technology and health).
 - c. Expanding co-op and work-integrated learning opportunities for all students.
3. Improve student safety and overall well-being in the areas of mental health and the prevention of sexual violence and misconduct, including creating greater awareness of available supports.
4. Ensure that students are able to seamlessly transition into post-secondary education with the implementation of the new B.C. Graduation Program.
5. Continue to actively participate in the implementation of the EducationPlannerBC common application system for all undergraduate applicants.
6. Work closely with the Ministry to develop a balanced approach to international education, participating in the development and implementation of a provincial framework for international education.
7. Meet or exceed the financial targets identified in the Ministry's three-year Service Plan tabled under Budget 2018, including maintaining balanced or surplus financial results.
8. Comply with the Tuition Limit Policy, which sets a two percent cap on tuition and mandatory fee increases for domestic students to ensure courses and programs are affordable.

On behalf of the Province of British Columbia, thank you for your institution's contributions over the past year, including support for: the UN Declaration and TRC Calls to Action; Tuition-free Adult Basic Education and English Language Learning; and the tuition-waiver program for former youth in care. Collaboration on these strategic actions will continue to be priorities in 2019/20.

In addition to the strategic priorities outlined above, I also recognize progress made in other key areas such as increasing student housing; expanding the use of open education resources including open textbooks; increasing technology program spaces, and developing more degree and certificate programs to increase skilled workers in the forestry sector. These initiatives contribute significantly to our province's social and economic future. I look forward to continued work in these key areas over the next year.

Post-secondary institutions together form an ecosystem with a shared responsibility for ensuring that British Columbians have a clear pathway to high quality education and training programs needed to fully participate in society. This involves being responsive to student and labour market demands,

and ensuring that post-secondary education is affordable and accessible across all regions of the province. Together, our work to enhance post-secondary affordability and accessibility ultimately contributes to helping reduce poverty and inequality, and improving the social and economic success for British Columbians.

The Ministry posts the annual reporting requirements for public post-secondary institutions on its website at <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/education-training/post-secondary-education/institution-resources-administration/mandate-letters>. This document outlines the statistical, financial and performance reports for the fiscal year. The 2019/20 list will be posted on the Ministry website in spring 2019. Your institution is expected to meet these requirements by providing the reports and high quality data necessary for Government to carry out its responsibilities. In the coming months, we will be inviting you to join in a conversation about how we collectively support accountability for the post-secondary system.

Each board member is required to sign the Mandate Letter to acknowledge government's direction to your organization. The Mandate Letter is to be posted publicly on your organization's website by April 1, 2019.

I have appreciated your support for our shared priorities, and look forward to ongoing collaboration with your Board as we work together to deliver improved service and better outcomes for British Columbians.

Once again, thanks to you and your Board of Governors for your commitment to public service. Together, we will work to build a better B.C.

Sincerely,

[Signature Block]
Minister

Date: February [X], 2019

Enclosures: Signature page template
Minister's Mandate Letter

cc: Honourable John Horgan
Premier

Don Wright

Deputy Minister to the Premier and Cabinet Secretary

Lori Wanamaker
Deputy Minister
Ministry of Finance

Heather Wood
Associate Deputy Minister and Secretary to Treasury Board
Ministry of Finance

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

[First name Last Name]
Board Members
[Name of PSI]

[First Name Last Name]
Chief Executive Officer/President
[Name of PSI]

For Signature by all [Name of PSI] Board Members:

<Insert Signature Page for PSI>

<Insert Minister's July 18, 2017 Mandate Letter>