

Meeting Note Advice to Minister

Date: November 16, 2021

Cliff #: 123494

Prepared for: Honourable Anne Kang

Date, Time of Meeting and Location: November 18, 2021 (1:00-1:30 p.m.)

Attendees:

- Melissa Chirino, Chairperson, British Columbia Federation of Students (BCFS)
- Michael Gault, Secretary-Treasurer, BCFS
- Stewart McGillivray, Staff, British Columbia Institute of Technology Student Association (BCITSA)
- Abhay Bakshi, VP External Relations, BCITSA
- Mehre Dir, Director of External Relations, Douglas' Student Union (DSU)
- Aasha Thapar, Health Sciences Representative, College of New Caledonia Students' Union (CNCSU)

Issue(s):

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

Background:

- BCFS is a provincial, student-led alliance of 15 student societies (see Attachment 1 for list).
- It undertakes research and lobbying activities to advocate on issues of importance to its member associations and post-secondary students in British Columbia.
- BCFS's website indicates the organization represent more than 170,000 students.
- The BCFS provided their recommendations in the document, *Fund it. Fix it.* (see Attachment 2).

Discussion:

1. Student Financial Assistance

- BCFS raises concerns about increased youth unemployment due to measures taken to slow the spread of COVID-19 and student affordability issues exacerbated by the pandemic.
- BCFS recommends increasing funding to provide \$100 million through the BC Access Grant on an annual basis to ensure students can begin or continue their studies.
- The BC Access Grant is a needs-based, up-front, non-repayable grant available to undergraduate students in eligible programs at BC public post-secondary institutions (PSIs).

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2. Trades Training

- BCFS acknowledges the challenges posed by the pandemic and identifies the importance of supporting the training of skilled workers as an essential part of BC's economy.
- BCFS suggests that BC has experienced a decrease of over 30% in the completion of apprenticeships as the result of:
 - A shift to a "BC model" for trades training
 - Decreased support for apprentices
 - Removal of apprenticeship counsellors from PSIs
- The BCFS recommends the development of a student-centred, apprenticeship completion strategy, including re-instating apprenticeship counsellors.

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3. Institutional Funding and Fees

- BCFS feels PSIs are not adequately funded, leaving institutions to make up shortfalls through cost-recovery programming, international student tuition and ancillary fees. Also noted are concerns with the Tuition Limit Policy (TLP).
- BCFS makes recommendations to review the funding formula, increase annual funding by \$200 million, freeze tuition, and plan a tuition reduction.

- On average, Government provides approximately 40% of the revenue PSIs receive each year. Other sources of revenue include student tuition, other Provincial grants, Federal grants, ancillary revenue, and other revenue from sources unique to each PSI.
- The TLP puts a cap on annual tuition increases at 2% for domestic students. Institutions determine whether they will raise tuition by the full 2% or a lesser amount.

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4. International Students

- BCFS notes concerns that international students are unable to budget for their studies due to unpredictable increases in international tuition and that international students could be better supported by having a new international education strategy in place.
- BCFS recommends amending the TLP to regulate international student tuition and developing a new provincial International Education Strategy.
- The TLP limits domestic tuition increases, but not international student tuition increases.
- PSIs are encouraged to set tuition for international students that reflects the full cost of education, so taxpayers do not subsidize international students' education.

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Key Message:

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

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

Attachment 2: Fund it. Fix it. BCFS Lobby Days Document

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

Attachment 1 – List of BCFS Members

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

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

FUND IT.
FIX IT.



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



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Meeting Note Advice to Minister

Date: October 24, 2022

Cliff #: 126634

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

Date, Time of Meeting and Location:

- October 27, 2022, 1:00-1:30 pm, Hemlock Room #116

Attendees:

- BC Federation of Students (BCFS)

Issue(s):

- A meeting with BCFS, as part of lobby days, to discussing the following topics:
 1. Student Financial Assistance
 2. Institution Funding and Fees
 3. International Students
 4. Trades Training

Background:

- BCFS is a provincial, student-led alliance of 15 student societies (see Attachment 1 for list).
- It undertakes research and lobbying activities to advocate on issues of importance to its member associations and post-secondary students in British Columbia.
- BCFS's website indicates the organization represent more than 170,000 students.
- The BCFS provided their recommendations in the document, *Fund it. Fix it.* (Attachment 2).

Discussion:

1. Student Financial Assistance
 - BCFS recommends the Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Training (AEST) increase funding to the BC Access Grant to provide at least \$100 million in non-repayable financial aid annually to increase access to post-secondary education (PSE) and skills training.

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2. Institution Funding and Fees

- BCFS recommends AEST complete funding review and determine gaps in funding, in particular for regional colleges and universities and provide an infusion of \$200M annually.
- BCFS recommends AEST freeze tuition fees and develop a plan to progressively reduce tuition fees at public post-secondary institutions (PSIs) to lessen students' financial burden.
- BCFS recommend AEST strengthen the Tuition Fee Limit Policy (TLP) to ensure that PSIs are not increasing fees beyond the prescribed limits in the form of new ancillary fees.

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3. International Students

- BCFS recommends AEST amend TLP to include regulation of fees for international students in order to ensure fairness, consistency, and predictability of international student tuition.
- BCFS recommends AEST release a new BC international education strategy that will provide ample supports for international students in their cultural, social, and academic integration.

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4. Trades Training

- BCFS recommends AEST develop an apprenticeship completion strategy, which includes provisions for returning apprenticeship counsellors back to campuses.

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Key Message:

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

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

Attachment 2 - BCFS Lobby Days Document: Fund it. Fix it.

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FUND IT.
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**POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION AS A
KEY TO BC'S ECONOMIC RECOVERY**

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Title: Sexualized Violence Policy

Issue: Status of work relating to Sexualized Violence Policies

Key Facts and Background:

- The Ministry is committed to developing and delivering a Gender-Based Violence (GBV) Action Plan to prevent and respond to sexualized violence at post-secondary institutions in partnership with the public post-secondary sector, as per Parliamentary Secretary for Gender Equity Paddon's mandate commitment.
- The post-secondary sector has indicated a need for further sexualized violence (SV) awareness, prevention, and response resources at post-secondary institutions (PSIs).
 - The Ministry addressed these requests through the creation of a suite of synchronous and asynchronous training resources in 2021 on: Consent and Sexual Violence, Supporting Survivors, Accountability and Repairing Relationships, Active Bystander Intervention, and Safer Campuses for Everyone for PSIs.
 - In late 2021, the Ministry secured \$500,000 in funding from Women and Gender Equality Canada for a two-year project (completion June 2024) to develop intersectional training resources to address technology-facilitated SV and the impacts of SV on Indigenous, graduate, and international students.
 - This project is guided by an Advisory Group of representatives from the sector, including PSIs, students, First Nations and Métis partners, subject matter experts, and SV community organizations.
 - Contractors currently completing environmental scans of available resources to identify gaps and will present their results to the Advisory Group in April. The Advisory Group will review the recommendations to determine which resources to adopt and revise to fit the needs of the BC post-secondary sector.
- The B.C. Government has launched eight information campaigns over the past 4.5 years to raise awareness about consent and support creating safe and inclusive spaces for all.
 - The Ministry continues to explore how to improve future iterations of the campaign to ensure it is responsive to the needs of the sector.
 - Previous feedback has noted that improvements should include adopting trauma-informed and survivor-centered approaches and taking a more sex positive approach to resonate with diverse student populations.
 - The campaign does not currently run at private institutions; however, campaign posters are publicly accessible on the Ministry's website.
- The Ministry is reviewing all 25 public PSI SV policies to inform potential legislative amendments to the *Sexual Violence and Misconduct Policy Act (SVMPPA)*.

- Consultations were held over Summer/Fall 2022 with approximately 160 representatives from the post-secondary sector: public PSIs, student societies, sector associations, staff and faculty unions, student-led SV organizations, community organizations, and subject matter experts.
 - The sector appreciated the flexibility of the legislation, as it allows PSIs to create a policy that best fits the unique needs of their community.

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- Beyond these key areas, the Ministry also heard that there is a desire to:
 - Update the language to be trauma-informed, while still offering flexibility/being inclusive of all behaviours on the spectrum of SV.
 - Add stealthing and technology-facilitated sexual violence to Section 2 of the *SVMPA*.
 - Create a purpose section to articulate a clear intent for the legislation, which includes a recognition of the systemic nature of harms of SV.

- The Ministry of Attorney General (AG) introduced new standalone legislation to prohibit the sharing of intimate images without consent, the *Intimate Images Protection Act (IIPA)*.
 - The *IIPA*, if passed, will make a consequential amendment to the *SVMPA* to update the definition of non-consensual distribution of intimate images.
 - Section 1(g) of the *SVMPA* includes an existing definition that does not align with trauma-informed practices and is inconsistent with the definition in the *IIPA*.
 - The definition amendment would align the *SVMPA* with current practice.
- On February 15, 2023, the Alliance of BC Students provided an open letter to the Premier, the Ministry, and the Gender Equity Office, with the following Calls for Action:
 - Amend the *SVMPA* to adopt the 11 minimum standards outlined by Students for Consent Culture Canada (SFCCC).
 - The Ministry has examined SFCCC's 11 minimum standards as part of the review of the *SVMPA* and is considering the implementation of the recommendations that are within the scope of the policy review. For example:
 - A requirement for PSIs to have rape shield provisions.
 - Creating an SV prevention and support committee with at least 30% student representation at each PSI.
 - Students have advocated for funding on-campus SV support services in the amount of \$5 million per year.
 - To date, there has not been any dedicated ongoing funding provided to PSIs specifically for SV initiatives. It is left to institutional discretion to determine funding for SV initiatives within their budget.
 - In March 2022, the Ministry provided \$500,000 as year-end funding to public PSIs to establish or enhance existing anonymous or confidential SV reporting systems. Final PSI outcome reports to the Ministry will be received by May 1, 2024.
 - The Ministry has met with several PSIs to discuss how to best utilize the funding to support the needs of their institutional community and reduce barriers for survivors to come forward to disclose or report. PSIs are developing innovative plans for how to best use the funds to support survivors.
- This work aligns with Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services recommendation 186 to develop and fund intersectional and culturally-sensitive gender-based violence awareness and prevention programs, as well as response and support services in PSIs and 183 to conduct a system-wide audit of how the province is dealing with GBV and sexual assault to ensure supports are appropriate and adequate.

Information Note

Advice to Minister Anne Kang

Date: May 30, 2022

Cliff #: 125313

Issue: Sexualized Violence Initiatives

Background / Facts:

- The *Sexual Violence and Misconduct Policy Act (SVMPPA)* requires all post-secondary institutions (PSIs) to have a sexualized violence (SV) policy.
 - As of May 2017, SV policies have been in place and publicly available at all 25 public PSIs.
- The Private Training Regulation was amended as of September 1, 2021, to require all 300+ institutions certified under the *Private Training Act* to have an SV Policy. Previously, only those with residences were required to have a policy.
- SV policy and resource development initiatives were successfully completed.
 1. In June 2019, the Ministry hosted a Provincial Forum. Over 130 partners gathered to share information and best practices on SV initiatives. In June 2021, a second forum was held virtually. After the forum, monthly webinars (hosted by BCCampus) were held on key topics of interest to the sector to ensure ongoing momentum and engagement on SV.
 2. In 2020, institutions completed their first SV policy review cycle as required under the *SVMPPA*.
 3. In 2021, the Ministry and BCCampus completed the development of a suite of synchronous and asynchronous training resources to improve PSIs' response to SV in the post-secondary sector.
 - This initial phase of resources includes four synchronous training modules and facilitator guides on: consent and sexual violence; supporting survivors; accountability and repairing relationships; and active bystander intervention; and an asynchronous module called *Safer Campuses for Everyone* that can be embedded into PSIs' learning management systems.
- There are several SV policy and resource development initiatives actively underway in the Ministry. More detailed information can be found in Attachment 1.
 1. The Ministry has been approved for federal funding from Women and Gender Equity (WAGE) to develop a suite of intersectional training resources to address SV in the sector (not yet finalized; not announced).
 2. Policy review to inform potential amendments to the *SVMPPA*^{s.12}
s.12
 3. Student Perception Survey (required under the *SVMPPA*) to assess institutional SV policies.
 4. Provision of year-end funding (\$518,700) for the establishment or enhancement of anonymous or confidential SV reporting infrastructure at each of BC's public PSIs (not announced).
 5. The Ministry continues to co-chair the Sexualized Violence Data and Reporting Working Group.
 6. BC launched six information campaigns over the past 3.5 years to raise awareness on consent.

Conclusion / Next Steps:

- AEST SV policy team is working closely with the Gender-Based Violence Action Plan Working Group to ensure all of AEST's initiatives align with the recommendations stemming from their action plan.

Attachment(s): 1. *Description of AEST Initiatives related to Sexualized Violence*

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

Attachment 1: Sexualized Violence Initiatives – Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Training

SV Training Resources

- The Ministry is in the planning stages for the development of a second suite of intersectional training resources (supported by forthcoming WAGE funding) for the sector to address technology-facilitated SV, as well as the unique needs of Indigenous, international, and graduate students.
- The funding for this project has been committed, but not yet finalized.
- The funding amount is \$500,000 and anticipated receipt is Summer 2022.

SV Policy Review

- The Ministry has received feedback from students and PSIs about gaps in the *SVMPA* and its implementation. Concerns have also been raised about language in the Act that is not trauma-informed, lack of institutional compliance in reporting to boards, and inconsistency in the sector around tracking and reporting incidents.
- The Ministry is reviewing SV policies and the *SVMPA* to identify opportunities for potential amendments and is in the process of conducting external consultations with Indigenous partners, students, PSIs and subject matter experts.^{s.12; s.13}

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Student Perceptions of SV Survey

- The survey ran from January 2022 – March 2022. This project is in the final stages of completion.
- A report on the provincial survey results has been provided to the Ministry and will inform policy direction and legislative amendments.
- PSIs will also receive reports on their institution's specific results directly from the contractor, which will help inform their policies and programs to continue creating safer environments for students.

Year-end Funding

- The Ministry provided year-end funding to all 25 public PSIs to support the implementation of an anonymous or confidential SV reporting platform, or the enhancement of an existing anonymous or confidential SV reporting system that is trauma-informed, survivor-centric, easily accessible to students, and will integrate with and/or enhance existing institution supports and services.

SV Data and Reporting Principles

- This working group developed through a need for PSIs to have a dialogue about comparability and SV data and in response to concerns over how PSIs can collect meaningful statistics on SV and report information out to the broader community.
- This working group initially explored whether PSIs could adopt the same data collection process so that annual reports could be compared with all PSIs across the province however, after careful review this approach was found not to be feasible.
- The Ministry is currently working with sector representatives on the co-design of shared principles for the reporting of SV incidents.

SV Awareness Campaign

- The Ministry invested \$180k in the 2021-2022 campaign, which is dedicated to raising awareness about consent and directing students to supports on their respective campuses.
- The Ministry conducted targeted feedback sessions on the campaign with the sector in Fall 2021, and the following changes were incorporated in the Winter 2022 re-launch of the campaign:
 - Replaced the word "rape" in the campaign's tagline, which now reads, "Sex without consent is assault" to include all forms of SV.
 - Updated language to focus more on inclusivity and fostering a culture of consent.
 - The removal of an ad image that was deemed triggering.

- Further substantive changes were also recommended by the sector, including reframing the campaign to be more sex-positive and to highlight what consent is instead of isn't, but time constraints didn't allow for these substantive changes.
- GCPE is planning to run the campaign again in Fall 2022. Ministry staff is meeting with GCPE to provide input on how to improve future iterations of the campaign to ensure it is responsive to the needs of the sector.

Attachment 1 – ISV Advisory Group Members

Name	Organization
Mez Jiwaji	North Island College
Rafael de la Pena	College of New Caledonia
Rhonda Schmitz	Selkirk College
Ashley Bentley	Capilano University
Christine Baccus	Capilano University
Glen Magel	BC Institute of Technology
Aryanna Chartrand	Alliance of BC Students
Joshua Millard	Alliance of BC Students
Suzanne Sterling-Bur	Nicola Valley Institute of Technology
Patricia Pryce	Coast Mountain College
CJ Rowe	Simon Fraser University
Rhiannon Wong	Women’s Shelters Canada
Perminder Flora	Ending Violence Association of BC
Chantelle Spicer	Students for Consent Culture Canada
Niko Mumford	Anti-Violence Project – University of Victoria
Cori Andrichuk	College of the Rockies
Violeta Fabiani	Graduate Student Society of UBC
Melissa Chirino	BC Federation of Students
Amanda Champion	Simon Fraser University
Jewell Gillies	Okanagan College
Natalie Clark	Thompson Rivers University
Sasha Wiley-Shaw	UBC
Tanya Joostema	Douglas College

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Attachment 3 – SV Training Resources Project Overview

- The goal of this project is to develop and deliver intersectional training resources, to support systemic changes in responding to and preventing sexualized violence at post-secondary institutions (PSIs).
- The sector identified the need for open-source training and resources to help support them in responding, preventing, and building awareness on sexualized violence on campus.
- AEST and BCcampus supported the development of a first series of open-sourced training resources on: Consent and Sexual Violence, Supporting Survivors, Accountability and Repairing Relationships, Active Bystander Intervention, and the asynchronous training Safer Campuses for Everyone.
- The sector has indicated that these resources are helpful for addressing sexualized violence more broadly, but feedback was received that there is a need for the development of tailored intersectional training resources.
- Key topic areas for these training resources will focus on the impacts of sexualized violence on specific student populations including: Indigenous students; international students and graduate students.
- These resources will be fundamental in incorporating an intersectional analysis into responding to sexualized violence, taking into consideration how intersecting variables of oppression impacts risk of sexualized violence, as well as barriers to reporting, access to resources, and overall individual experiences with systems (e.g., legal and/or institutional).
 - These resources will assist PSIs in identifying ways to support these student populations, address any systemic barriers that exist, and support a more comprehensive response to sexualized violence that utilizes an intersectional approach in its application.
- The other identified resource gap is specific to technology-facilitated sexualized violence (TFSV), which recognizes that sexualized violence is not limited to in-person contexts, but can be facilitated through technological means, including, but not limited to, cellular devices, computers, gaming platforms, and learning management systems.
 - Increasing shifts to online learning and socializing, accelerated by the COVID-19 pandemic, has increased the need to recognize TFSV and support institutions in developing appropriate resources to support those impacted by TFSV. The intersectional dimensions of sexualized violence apply as readily to TFSV as other forms of sexualized violence, and will be fundamental to the development of these resources.
- The 2-year project will support the development of intersectional resources and training materials that institutions can implement for students, faculty, and staff, to support those affected by the issue of sexualized violence.
- The project will create subject matter expert (SME) working groups, develop training and support material, run pilot sessions, publish openly licenced training, and implement facilitation guides for institutions.
- The project will result in institutions having the resources and training to support these populations and will tackle some of the barriers to accessing support at PSIs. The project will consult with front-line staff at PSIs, students, and other subject matter experts as necessary, during the development of these trainings and resources.

Attachment 4 - Summary of feedback received on British Columbia's *Sexual Violence and Misconduct Policy Act*

The Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Training (Ministry) sexualized violence (SV) policy team has reviewed feedback directed at the Ministry and has considered best practices and recommendations from subject matter experts and community organizations in relation to SV policy and the *Sexual Violence and Misconduct Policy Act (SVMPPA)*.

Specific material reviewed includes but is not limited to, surveys, expert reports, submissions from students and community organizations, letters, prior consultation, and calls to action.

Common across the material reviewed was a desire that post-secondary institutions (PSI) acknowledge the existence of campus rape culture, defined as the normalization of sexualized violence, misogynistic attitudes/thoughts/beliefs, which are often attributed to prevailing gender stereotypes, within post-secondary education. Furthermore, any changes to SV policy or legislation should be trauma-informed and survivor-centred.

The following are common themes, comments, and concerns that were present across the documents.

SVMPPA

Recommendations on changes to the *SVMPPA* have include the type of language used. Feedback includes calls to remove the term misconduct, as this does not properly convey the harmful nature of sexualized violence and its devastating long-term impacts. Using the term misconduct suggests that these matters are like other forms of misconduct in the post-secondary environment, such as academic misconduct and plagiarism. Requests have also been made to consider the accessibility of language used in the *SVMPPA* and in any guidelines or policies. Language should be clear, supportive, empowering, and acknowledge intersectionality and identity. Plain language manuals accompanying the legislation could also be considered. Lastly, there are also requests to include stealthing, the non-consensual removal of a condom during sexual intercourse, in the definition of sexualized violence.

Reporting Process

The Ministry has received feedback that the *SVMPPA* should include guidance on the complaint reporting process, including a survivor's choice to disclose or report. Additional changes to the *SVMPPA* should also outline clear expectations from the Ministry on reporting such as including creating clear timelines for a PSI to respond to a complaint or requests for accommodation.

Annual Reporting, Engagement and Data Collection

The Ministry has also received feedback from the sector on expanding the requirements for annual reporting, engagement, and data collection. Annual reports, for example, should be publicly released and not only shared with a PSI's governing body. When publicly released, annual reports should be easily accessible for students; they should not be available only through board meeting minutes or agendas. Furthermore, the *SVMPPA* should require that reports be provided directly to the Ministry by a specific and legislated date. In addition, the Ministry has heard that more groups, including entire communities, student body, staff, faculty, stakeholders, and other community organizations, should be involved during the creation of the annual report. There is a further call for mechanisms for continuous

feedback and review of SV policies. The sector has indicated that specific data should be included in the annual reports. This data should include but is not limited to the number of reports, complaints, and disclosures the PSI received. The Ministry has heard feedback that privacy needs to be prioritized when data is collected. These considerations should include the creation of legislated protections if sensitive data is to be collected and reported on.

Annual Surveys

Feedback from the sector has indicated a desire for a variety of annual surveys. One example is campus climate surveys (which highlight the experiences of individuals and groups on campus), which would require PSIs to release annual statistics of incidents of sexualized violence within their PSI, taking special notice of vulnerable populations, areas of unusually high incidents of abuse to target interventions, and information about disclosure reporting procedures and policies. Other surveys mentioned in feedback included voluntary surveys to be completed by a victim/survivor after they disclosed, filed a formal complaint, or requested accommodations.

Penalties

Feedback from the sector indicated that there should be mechanisms for individuals to file complaints when an PSI is not effectively addressing sexualized violence or following the legislation. PSIs that have ongoing failures should be identified and fined. There is also a desire from the sector to create an independent oversight body with investigative powers. The purpose of this oversight body would be to provide reports to the Ministry and address harmful PSI responses to sexualized violence. Further feedback indicated the desire for PSIs to undergo audits of internal management dynamics.

Scope

Recommendations have included that the legislation should clearly indicate that any PSI's sexualized violence policy should apply to all members of the PSI's community, and not just students. The most comprehensive recommendations included: students, faculty, staff, visitors, and alumni. Scope should also clearly outline where sexualized violence policies apply; whether on-campus, virtual or off-campus.

Training

The Ministry received multiple comments around the importance of requiring PSIs to implement mandatory sexualized violence training for those involved in the complaint process or for individuals who may receive a disclosure. The importance of having this training updated on an annual basis was also highlighted. Ensuring training is updated on an annual basis means all staff (including new hires) will be aware of the most up to date best practices for responding to and preventing sexualized violence.

Minimum Standards

Additional feedback and best practices recommendations include the creation of minimum standards for sexualized violence policies. Minimum standards should include immunity clauses and rape shield provisions. Persons who have experienced sexualized violence should not be subjected to questions about their sexual history and should not be penalized for the use of alcohol and/or drugs.

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Appendix A: Summary of feedback on British Columbia's Sexual Violence and Misconduct Policy Act

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Specific material reviewed includes but is not limited to, surveys, expert reports, submissions from students and community organizations, letters, prior consultation, and calls to action.

Common across the material reviewed was a desire that post-secondary institutions (PSI) acknowledge the existence of campus rape culture, defined as the normalization of sexualized violence, misogynistic attitudes/thoughts/beliefs, which are often attributed to prevailing gender stereotypes, within post-secondary education. Furthermore, any changes to SV policy or legislation should be trauma-informed and survivor-centred.

The following are common themes, comments, and concerns that were present across the documents.

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Reporting Process

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Annual Reporting, Engagement and Data Collection

The Ministry has also received feedback from the sector on expanding the requirements for annual reporting, engagement, and data collection. Annual reports, for example, should be publicly released and not only shared with a PSI's governing body. When publicly released, annual reports should be easily accessible for students; they should not be available only through board meeting minutes or agendas. Furthermore, the SVMPPA should require that reports be provided directly to the Ministry by a specific and legislated date. In addition, the Ministry has heard that more groups, including entire communities, student body, staff, faculty, stakeholders, and other community organizations, should be involved during the creation of the annual report. There is a further call for mechanisms for continuous

feedback and review of SV policies. The sector has indicated that specific data should be included in the annual reports. This data should include but is not limited to the number of reports, complaints, and disclosures the PSI received. The Ministry has heard feedback that privacy needs to be prioritized when data is collected. These considerations should include the creation of legislated protections if sensitive data is to be collected and reported on.

Annual Surveys

Feedback from the sector has indicated a desire for a variety of annual surveys. One example is campus climate surveys (which highlight the experiences of individuals and groups on campus), which would require PSIs to release annual statistics of incidents of sexualized violence within their PSI, taking special notice of vulnerable populations, areas of unusually high incidents of abuse to target interventions, and information about disclosure reporting procedures and policies. Other surveys mentioned in feedback included voluntary surveys to be completed by a victim/survivor after they disclosed, filed a formal complaint, or requested accommodations.

Penalties

Feedback from the sector indicated that there should be mechanisms for individuals to file complaints when an PSI is not effectively addressing sexualized violence or following the legislation. PSIs that have ongoing failures should be identified and fined. There is also a desire from the sector to create an independent oversight body with investigative powers. The purpose of this oversight body would be to provide reports to the Ministry and address harmful PSI responses to sexualized violence. Further feedback indicated the desire for PSIs to undergo audits of internal management dynamics.

Scope

Recommendations have included that the legislation should clearly indicate that any PSI's sexualized violence policy should apply to all members of the PSI's community, and not just students. The most comprehensive recommendations included: students, faculty, staff, visitors, and alumni. Scope should also clearly outline where sexualized violence policies apply; whether on-campus, virtual or off-campus.

Training

The Ministry received multiple comments around the importance of requiring PSIs to implement mandatory sexualized violence training for those involved in the complaint process or for individuals who may receive a disclosure. The importance of having this training updated on an annual basis was also highlighted. Ensuring training is updated on an annual basis means all staff (including new hires) will be aware of the most up to date best practices for responding to and preventing sexualized violence.

Minimum Standards

Additional feedback and best practices recommendations include the creation of minimum standards for sexualized violence policies. Minimum standards should include immunity clauses and rape shield provisions. Persons who have experienced sexualized violence should not be subjected to questions about their sexual history and should not be penalized for the use of alcohol and/or drugs.

Attachment 7 – SV Data and Reporting WG Terms of Reference (as of February 2, 2022)

Members:

- A cross section of public post-secondary institutions (PSIs) and Advanced Education and Skills Training (AEST) staff (see attached table).

Background:

- In May 2016, BC's *Sexual Violence and Misconduct Policy Act* (SVMPPA) was passed, requiring each public PSI to independently establish and implement a policy to prevent and respond to SV on campus; and set out procedures for making and responding to complaints/reports of SV. To assist in this process, AEST provided guidelines for policy development.
- In keeping with the principle of institutional autonomy, each PSI was tasked with developing its own administrative practices for policy implementation, including: the definition of key terms; and institutional-level protocols for the collection and reporting of qualitative and quantitative data.
- In accordance with SVMPPA, PSIs submit annual reports on the implementation of their SV policies to their Board of Governors. The content of these reports is at the discretion of each PSI and varies across the system with a mix of qualitative and quantitative data.
- To date, PSIs have not been required to report to the Province on the implementation of their SV policies. In December 2019, PSIs were required to report on the process and outcome of their three-year SV policy review as part of the annual IAPR reporting cycle.
- As part of AEST's 2017/18 public outreach campaign to gather input on priority actions to support SV policy implementation, the issue of transparency, accountability and a desire to explore the possibilities of developing a common reporting framework across the PSI sector was raised.
- Challenges for the development and implementation of a common reporting framework include:
 - Lack of consistent definitions;
 - Varying institutional practices in data collection due to the complexity of collecting data, differences in work due to policies, procedures, and campus community needs; and
 - Concerns regarding the communication and public interpretation of data.

Purpose:

- To develop a set of shared principles for the reporting of SV incidents and prevention education initiatives to support PSIs in responding to section 6.2 in B.C.'s SVMPPA.
- To provide advice and guidance for the development and implementation of a common understanding of reporting on incidents of SV within the jurisdiction of PSIs that is publicly available to their institutional community.

Goals:

- Establish a common understanding across the public PSI system for reporting on SV.
- Develop a common set of shared principles for the collecting and reporting of data elements. Provide recommendations for PSIs to consider in their implementation of annual data collection and reporting cycle.
- A shared set of principles should: provide transparency and accountability to students and the campus community; support efforts for the evaluation and assessment of SV policies and initiatives; enable comparability across institutions; and consider privacy/confidentiality as set out in FOIPA and SV policies.

Scope:

- The primary focus of this group is on quantitative data, with a secondary focus on qualitative data.
- Reporting of SV incidents and prevention education will be aligned with the scope of institutional policy. Some SV policies are limited to students only, and others include faculty and staff.

Term:

February 2, 2022

- Ongoing until shared principles and recommendations are developed.

Governance and Role of Working Group Members:

This working group will be co-chaired by AEST and PSI representatives.

- Co-chairs: develop agendas, facilitate meetings, and oversee Working Group activities.
- PSI members: represent the perspectives and experiences of their respective public post-secondary institutions, as well as PSIs with similar mandates; and undertake follow-up actions.
- AEST Staff: provide secretariat support; undertake follow-up actions; and align work of working group with legislation.

Time Commitment/Meetings:

- Regular monthly online meetings will be scheduled.
- Additional meetings will be scheduled as required.

Confidentiality:

- Confidentiality will be maintained in Working Group discussions to ensure a safe space for frank and open communication.
- Documents to be reviewed are not to be shared outside of the Working Group.

Members:*** Co-chairs**

VCC	Caralee Maloney ^{s.22} Manager, Student Safety	cmaloney@vcc.ca
KPU	Jennifer Jordan Director, Student Rights and Responsibilities	Jennifer.jordan@Kpu.ca
UVIC	Leah Shumka Associate Director of Equity and Human Rights	svpcoordinator@uvic.ca
UVIC	Reem Girgrah SVEP Officer	svpproject@uvic.ca
VIU	Irlanda Price Associate Vice President, Student Affairs	Irlanda.Price@viu.ca
*SFU	CJ Rowe Director, Sexual Violence Support and Prevention Office	cj_rowe@sfu.ca
CNC	Raphael de la Pena Director, Student Services	delapenar1@cnc.bc.ca
CAM	Jenny Holder Student Support Manager, Office of Student Support (Student Affairs)	holderj@camosun.bc.ca
*AEST	Kelly Chirhart, Director, Colleges & Community Access Jennifer Kusz, Senior Policy Analyst, Colleges & Community Access	Kelly.Chirhart@gov.bc.ca Jennifer.Kusz@gov.bc.ca



KEY POINTS MEETING NOTE

Advice to Minister Selina Robinson

Cliff #: 128779

MEETING WITH: Possibility Seeds

DATE AND TIME OF MEETING: April 19, 2023, 4:30-5:00pm via Teams

ATTENDEES:

- Farrah Khan, CEO of Possibility Seeds and Executive Director of Courage to Act
- Anoodth Naushan, Courage to Act Project Director
- Aubrianna Snow, Courage to Act Stakeholder Relations Specialist
- Eric Peters, Chief of Staff, PSFS
- Josipa Stojkovic, Ministerial Advisor, PSFS
- Nicola Lemmer, Assistant Deputy Minister, Post-Secondary Policy & Programs, PSFS
- Greg Stone, Executive Director, Strategic Policy & Initiatives Branch, PSFS

KEY POINTS:

- Possibility Seeds is a social change consultancy dedicated to gender justice, equity, and inclusion.
- The Federal Government has funded Possibility Seeds to lead Courage to Act, a multi-year national initiative to address and prevent gender-based violence (GBV) at post-secondary institutions (PSIs). See Attachment 2, Possibility Seeds' Slide Deck, for additional information about Courage to Act.
- Possibility Seeds is advocating for the following provincial actions:
 - Encourage BC's PSIs to use Courage to Act tools to update their sexualized violence (SV) policies, strengthen prevention education efforts, develop trauma-informed complaints processes, and create response and support procedures and protocols.
 - Strengthen minimum standards for data collection on SV reporting so that each campus collects consistent data.
 - Establish minimum standards for campus SV policies.
 - Implement legislation limiting the use of Non-Disclosure Agreements (NDAs) in SV cases.
 - Endorse and recognize the national Consent Awareness Week in 2023.

Education and Training

- Many provincial governments, such as Alberta, Quebec, Nova Scotia, and Prince Edward Island, have adopted the tools, policies, and strategies as “national best practice.”
- PSIs across Canada make use of Courage to Act’s tools and resources.
 - PSFS has shared Courage to Act’s tools and resources with BC public PSIs.
- PSFS is considering adopting Courage to Act’s tools for a suite of intersectional training resources that address the impacts of SV on specific student populations: Indigenous, graduate, and international students, and a known gap area, technology-facilitated SV.

Review of the *Sexual Violence and Misconduct Policy Act*

- PSFS is currently reviewing all the 25 public PSI SV policies to inform potential legislative amendments to the *Sexual Violence and Misconduct Policy Act* (SVMPPA).
- Consultations were held over Summer/Fall 2022 with the post-secondary sector; an Associate from Possibility Seeds who is also a PSI representative participated.
 - PSFS has previously been in contact with Possibility Seeds to discuss SV issues.
- Areas that are being considered for improvement to the SVMPPA include:
 - Creating a broad requirement in the SVMPPA for public PSIs to make education and training available to their institutional community.
 - Establishing core policy standards that would create benchmarks and consistency for what all public PSIs must include in their SV policies.
 - Improving transparency and accountability in PSIs’ annual reporting on their compliance with the SVMPPA.

s.14

- PSFS has examined *Our Campus, Our Safety*, and other reports from Courage to Act as part of the review of the SVMPPA and is considering the implementation of the recommendations that are within the scope of the policy review.

Consent Awareness Week

- Courage to Act recommended PSFS endorse and recognize the national Consent Awareness Week in 2022.
- In honour of Consent Awareness Week, PSFS collaborated with the Gender Equity Office to create a Proclamation to recognize Consent Awareness Day on September 22, 2022.
- PSFS is supportive of acknowledging Consent Awareness Week on an annual basis.

ATTACHMENT(S): *Attachment 1* – Possibility Seeds Biographies
Attachment 2 – Possibility Seeds' Slide Deck
Attachment 3 – Courage to Act Bullets

CONTACT: Bobbi Plecas, DM, (778 698-4059), Nicola Lemmer, ADM, (778-698-9768)

Reviewed by			
Dir: Kelly Chirhart	ED: Greg Stone	ADM: NL	DM: BP

Attachment 1 – Possibility Seeds Biographies

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Farrah Khan, Executive Director

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Anoodth Naushan, Director

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Aubrianna Snow, Associate

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Introductory Meeting: Courage to Act x BC Ministry of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills

Farrah Khan, Anoodth Naushan & Aubrianna Snow

April 3, 2023

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Meeting With Possibility Seeds on Courage to Act

Background

- Courage to Act is a multi-year federally funded initiative to address and prevent gender-based violence (GBV) at post-secondary institutions (PSIs). Courage to Act is led by Possibility Seeds, a social change consultancy dedicated to gender justice, equity, and inclusion.
 - Courage to Act's national network has developed tools and toolkits to address the gaps in PSI GBV programs, procedures and policies identified in the Courage to Act Report (2019).
- Possibility Seeds indicated interest in collaborating on any work the Ministry of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills (PSFS) is undertaking to strengthen policies and minimum standards for addressing and preventing GBV at PSIs in BC.
- Possibility Seeds expressed a desire for Consent Awareness Week to be more formally recognized across Canada and it was held inaugurally September 19th-23rd, 2022.

Review of Sexual Violence and Misconduct Policy Act

- PSFS is currently reviewing all the 25 public PSI sexualized violence (SV) policies to inform potential legislative amendments to the *Sexual Violence and Misconduct Policy Act (SVMPPA)*.
- Consultations were held over Summer/Fall 2022 with the post-secondary sector: public PSIs, student societies, sector associations, staff and faculty unions, student-led SV organizations, community organizations, and subject matter experts.
- In Fall 2022, intersectional student focus groups gathered diverse feedback based on student self-identification.
- Areas that are being considered for improvement to the *SVMPPA* include:
 - Establishing core policy standards that would create benchmarks and consistency for what all public PSIs must include in their SV policies.
 - Creating a broad requirement in the *SVMPPA* for public PSIs to make education and training available to their institution community.
 - Improving transparency and accountability in PSIs' annual reporting on their compliance with the *SVMPPA*.
 - Strengthening consultation requirements to require PSI consultation with First Nations, Métis, and Inuit partners, and diverse student populations, during the mandated policy review process.
- Beyond these key areas, the Ministry also heard that there is a desire to:
 - Update the language to be trauma-informed, while still offering flexibility/being inclusive of all behaviours on the spectrum of SV.
 - Add stealthing and technology-facilitated SV to Section 2 of the *SVMPPA*.
 - Create a purpose section to articulate a clear intent for the legislation, which includes a recognition of the systemic nature of harms of SV.
- PSFS appreciates the work undertaken by Possibility Seeds and is committed to using lived experience and trauma-informed and survivor-centered research to inform the review of the *SVMPPA*, including the work conducted by Courage to Act.

Consent Awareness Week

- In August 2022, Courage to Act sent a letter to the Premier, PSFS, and the Gender Equity Office (GEO) requesting BC to recognize and adopt the third week of September annually as Consent Awareness Week.
- On September 22, 2022, and in honour of Consent Awareness Week, PSFS collaborated with GEO to create a Proclamation to recognize Consent Awareness Day.

s.13



REPORT ON

THE REALITIES FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

Evidenced Challenges



JANUARY 2021

www.onevoicecanada.org

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Attachment 2

COVID-19 Supports for International Students

- In Canada, the federal government has implemented temporary changes to work permits to give international students more flexibility during this challenging time.
- In B.C., the provincial government is ensuring international students have access to key supports including:
 - **Here2Talk** - the Province's new mental health counselling and referral service for post-secondary students. The service offers confidential, free single-session services by app, phone or online chat, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.
 - **MSP coverage** – temporary policy changes that benefit eligible international students.
- Institutions recognize the pressures faced by international students who are currently studying in the province and are responding by providing student housing, financial and other assistance, including bursaries, emergency funding and mental health support.
- The British Columbia Council for International Education (BCCIE), the provincial Crown Corporation responsible for promoting international education in and for the province, is working with institutions to improve their support system for students, including mental health, and training for frontline staff at institutions to better understand and respond to the cultural challenges students face.
- In addition, other provincial programs also supported international students during the COVID-19 pandemic:
 - The B.C. Emergency Benefit for Workers (BCEBW) — a one-time, tax-free \$1,000 payment. Students eligible for the federal Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB) program, such as international students, may have been eligible for the BCEBW.
 - B.C. Temporary Rental Supplement Program – international students renting off campus were eligible if they met the requirements.
 - International students who met the eligibility criteria for either Employment Insurance or the CERB program may have qualified to receive these federal financial supports.

Attachment 2

Additional Background Information

Travel Ban - India

- The federal government is responsible for deciding which travelers cross the border.
- s.16
- The travel ban from Pakistan was lifted on June 21, 2021. The ban from India remains in place until July 21, 2021.
- International students may travel to Canada from India via an indirect route. However, they must obtain a pre-departure negative COVID-19 molecular test result from a third country before continuing their journey to Canada.
- International students from India already in B.C. will be eligible for the vaccine free of charge when prioritized.

One Voice Canada Meeting

- On July 7, 2020, Minister Kang met with representatives from One Voice Canada, a non-profit organization, founded in 2019, that focuses on bridging gaps between international students from India and local communities.
- The organization consists of public and private sector professionals in various fields including healthcare, social work, law enforcement, information technology and academia.
- During the meeting, representatives from One Voice Canada outlined concerns relating to international tuition fees, regulatory oversight of private colleges enrolling international students, international student mental health supports and information resources, and Medical Services Plan coverage.
- The Ministry also identified a number of these issues through consultations with the international education sector in recent years.
- The Ministry is working on a student-centered and sustainable approach to international education, which is expected to help address some of the issues raised by One Voice Canada, such as tuition transparency and support services for international students.
- s.13

Meeting Note

Advice to Minister Anne Kang

Date: July 5, 2021

Cliff #: 122358

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

Date, Time of Meeting and Location:

- July 7, 2021, 1:30 pm – 2:30 pm

Attendees:

- TBC, One Voice Canada
- Carrie Dusterhoft: A/ED Strategic Policy and Initiatives Branch, AEST
- Jamie Edwardson: Director, International Education and Intergovernmental Relations

Issue:

- One Voice Canada has requested a meeting with the Honourable Anne Kang, Minister of Advanced Education and Skills Training, to discuss concerning evidence of the increased vulnerability of international students in Canada, which is outlined in the One Voice Canada report titled “The Realities for International Students” (see Attachment 1).

Background:

One Voice Canada

- One Voice Canada is a non-profit organization, founded in 2019, that focuses on bridging gaps between international students from India and local communities.
- The organization consists of public and private sector professionals in various fields including healthcare, social work, law enforcement, information technology and academia.
- The organization provides awareness, support, and advocacy through activities such as workshops/seminars on the rights of students in Canada, the provision of mental health support and the collection of information for evidence-based advocacy. It does not provide financial support to international students.
- In January 2021, One Voice Canada released a report: “The Realities for International Students” (attachment 2).
- The report highlights challenges that international students face, including: lack of access to adequate supports; vulnerability to economic, social, and criminal exploitation; and abuse experienced by international students.
- The report made three main recommendations to improve the integrity of the international student program and the welfare of international students:
 1. Conduct a comprehensive evaluative study of the international student program, examining the period between 2014 and 2020.
 2. Regulate and reduce tuition fees for international students.
 3. Increase funding and training for specialized services within international student offices.

Indian Students in British Columbia

- In 2020, there were 55,300 students from India studying at all levels in British Columbia (B.C.), representing over 30 percent of all international students in the province.
- India is the largest source country for international students in both B.C. and Canada.

- The number of students from India studying in B.C. decreased by 4% between 2019 and 2020, likely due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Over the last eight years however, the number of students from India studying in B.C. increased by almost 740% (6,595 in 2013 to 55,300 in 2020).
- B.C. is the second most popular study destination for students from India in Canada, with over 20% of students from India studying in the province.

Discussion:

- The rapid, concentrated growth in the number of international students in the province in recent years has created both benefits and challenges for schools, institutions, and communities.
- The One Voice Canada report is consistent with the challenges the Ministry identified through consultations with the international education sector, including institutional capacity; student support services; and tuition transparency.
- AEST is working on several actions under a renewed international education policy framework that reflect the priorities identified by One Voice Canada.

1. Review of international education in B.C.

- Ministry reviewed the international education sector, meeting with key stakeholders, institutions, and students (2018-2020). Rapid growth (2012-2019) created benefits, tensions, trade-offs, and the need for government direction.
- AEST is working on a student-centered and sustainable approach to international education that will:
 - Support positive education outcomes for all learners through diversity and global experiences;
 - Ensure all B.C. communities benefit from international education; and,
 - Drive system integrity through high quality standards.

2. International Student Tuition

- Ministry review identified the pressures unexpected tuition increases have on international students.
- Institution boards have autonomy under legislation to set tuition and fees for international students. International students are expected to pay the full cost of their education, including program delivery and support services. Government does not subsidize international students.
- The federal government requires international students to have the financial resources to support themselves while they study in Canada.
- The ministry is working on ways PSIs can be more transparent about the tuition costs international students can expect.

3. Improved support services for international students at PSIs

- Improved student support services are a priority under the ministry's renewed framework.
- The BC Council for International Education (BCCIE) has been given the mandate to strengthen the capacity of school districts and PSIs, particularly outside the Lower Mainland, to support international students.
- B.C.'s Education Quality Assurance (EQA) designation is the standard for institutions to be allowed to host international students with study permits. EQA Policy sets expectations on institutions and their representatives, including overseas agents, to provide current and accurate information about the institution. Institutions must comply with EQA Policy or risk losing their designation. If an international student does not believe their institution is complying with EQA Policy, they are encouraged to contact the ministry's EQA office (EQA@gov.bc.ca).

Attachment(s):

1. One Voice Canada report “The Realities for International Students”
2. COVID support for international students

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

Meeting Note

Advice to Minister Anne Kang

Date: July 12, 2021

Cliff #: 122435

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

Date, Time of Meeting and Location:

- July 15, 2021, 3:00pm – 3:30pm
- MS Teams: link provided by IGRS

Attendees:

Mr. Manish, Consul General of India, Vancouver (*see Attachment 1 – bio*)

Manjish Grover, Consul (Commerce, Culture) & Head of Chancery (TBC)

Jeff Hannah, Ministerial Advisor

Manjit Khaira or Annette Jordan, Protocol Manager, Intergovernmental Relations Secretariat

Carrie Dusterhoft, A/Executive Director, Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Training

Issue:

- Mr. Manish, Consul General of India, Vancouver, has requested an introductory meeting with the Honourable Anne Kang, Minister of Advanced Education and Skills Training, to discuss students from India studying in British Columbia and cooperation between education institutions in India and B.C.
- The Consul General would like to have a virtual photo with Minister Kang, which will be coordinated by the Consul General's office.

Background:

Higher Education and International Education in India

- The Ministry of Education (MoE) in India is responsible for the implementation of the National Policy on Education (NPE).
- The MoE is divided into two departments: The Department of School Education and Literacy, which deals with primary, secondary, and higher secondary education, adult education, and literacy; and, The Department of Higher Education, which deals with university education, technical education, scholarships, etc.
- The Department of Higher Education is responsible for the third largest higher education system in the world, following the United States and China.
- Higher education in India is publicly funded. It is provided by approximately 1,040 universities, 42,340 colleges and 11,780 stand-alone institutions¹. Total enrolment in 2019/20 was an estimated 38.5 million students.
- In 2020, the Government of India introduced NPE 2020, which outlines the vision for India's new, transformed education system. It replaced NPE 1986.
- NPE 2020 is a comprehensive framework for elementary education to higher education, as well as vocational training, in both rural and urban India.

¹ Stand-alone institutions can offer diploma level programmes only.

- The aim is for India to have an education system with equitable access to the highest-quality education for all learners regardless of social or economic background by 2040.
- International education goals in NPE 2020 include: an increase in inbound international students and outbound Indian students; partnership development through the signing of agreements with foreign countries; and, increased research/teaching collaborations.

British Columbia Education Cooperation and Engagement with India

- In 2020, there were 55,300 students from India studying at all levels in B.C. – representing over 30 percent of all international students in the province.
- India is the largest source country for international students in both B.C. and Canada.
- The number of students from India studying in B.C. decreased by 4 percent between 2019 and 2020, likely due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Over the last eight years, however, the number of students from India studying in B.C. increased by almost 740 percent (6,595 in 2013 to 55,300 in 2020).
- B.C. is the second most popular study destination for students from India in Canada, with over 20 percent of students from India studying in the province.
- There are over 100 partnership agreements between institutions in B.C. and India.
- B.C. institutions have shown an increased interest in engaging other Indian educational institutes, corporate India, and the Indian government for partnership opportunities.
- Examples of academic collaboration, and research and development projects include:
 - University of Fraser Valley established a campus in Chandigarh, India over 10 years ago.
 - Simon Fraser University:
 - PHD exchange program with Indian Oil Corporation (IOCL) related to fuel cells, clean energy technology and advanced materials;
 - Relationship with the Bombay Stock Exchange and Zone Start-ups, India's only Canadian-led business accelerator; and
 - Partnerships with the Indian Institute of Technology partners in India (Delhi, Ropar).
 - The University of British Columbia maintains a representative in Delhi to foster on-the-ground relationships with potential partners.
- s.16
- s.16 There are no BC Offshore schools currently in India and the vast majority of the students that come to B.C. from India are at the post-secondary level.
- See Attachment 2: additional background information on Canadian travel restrictions and July 2020 meeting with One Voice Canada.

Discussion:

- The Government of India and the Government of B.C. have shared interests in supporting and promoting international education in areas such as strengthening global linkages and driving system integrity through high quality standards.
- Given the shared interests in international education, and the relationships that already exist between institutions in B.C. and India, this meeting could open doors to further academic cooperation, research and development agreements, and increased student mobility between post-secondary institutions.

Attachments:

1. *Biography of Mr. Manish, Consul General of India, Vancouver.*
2. *Additional Background Information*

Contact: *Nicola Lemmer, Assistant Deputy Minister,
Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Training (778) 698-9768*

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Information Note

Advice to PS Grace Lore

Date: June 20, 2022

Cliff #:125851

Issue: Follow-up Information on Sexualized Violence Initiatives

Background / Facts:

- The *Sexual Violence and Misconduct Policy Act (SVMPPA)* requires all post-secondary institutions (PSIs) to have a sexualized violence (SV) policy.
 - As of May 2017, SV policies have been in place and publicly available at all 25 public PSIs.
- There are several SV policy and resource development initiatives actively underway in the Ministry.
 - The Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Training (the Ministry) is approved for federal funding from Women and Gender Equity (WAGE) to develop a suite of intersectional training resources to address SV in the sector (finalized; not yet announced).
 - Policy review to inform potential amendments to the *SVMPPA* s.12
 - The Ministry continues to co-chair the Sexualized Violence Data and Reporting Working Group (WG).

Analysis:

SV Training Resources

- **Current Status:** The Ministry has finalized the Contribution Agreement with WAGE and is awaiting a public announcement of the funding.
- The Ministry has engaged BCcampus as a project manager for this work. The Ministry and BCcampus have coordinated creating an Intersectional Sexualized Violence (ISV) Advisory Group composed of representatives from the post-secondary sector, including institutions, students, Indigenous partners, and subject matter experts (see Attachment 1 ISV Advisory Group Members).
 - MOSAIC has been identified as a potential member for the International Students Working Group (not yet finalized).
- The Gender Equity Office (GEO) reviewed and approved the proposal for this project in Spring 2021 and submitted it to WAGE on the Ministry's behalf.
 - Ministry SV policy team continues to provide updates to GEO on the progress of this project.
- The project will result in the development of intersectional training resources for the sector to address technology-facilitated SV, as well as the unique needs of Indigenous, international, and graduate students.
 - All of these resources will be open-sourced and can be adapted by PSIs (or other sectors or Ministries) to meet their specific needs.
- The funding amount is \$500,000 and anticipated receipt is Summer 2022.
- s.16 Attachment 3 for SV Training Resources Project Overview.

SV Policy Review

- The Ministry has received feedback from students and PSIs about gaps in the *SVMPPA* and its implementation. Concerns have also been raised about language in the *Act* that is not trauma-

informed, lack of institutional compliance in reporting to boards, and inconsistency in the sector around tracking and reporting incidents (see Attachment 4 for Summary of Feedback Received).

- The Ministry is reviewing SV policies and the *SVMPA* to identify opportunities for potential amendments.
- s.12; s.13
 - Consideration is being given to rescheduling to Spring 2024 to accommodate an optimized engagement cycle.
- **Current Status:** The SV policy team has completed internal consultations, and has begun conducting external consultations with Indigenous partners, PSIs, community organizations and subject matter experts.
 - The Ministry is in the final stages of completing the procurement process to hire a counsellor and facilitator to conduct student focus groups.
 - The Ministry is in the early stages of finding an Elder to provide cultural support during student focus groups.
 - Student focus groups are tentatively scheduled for September/October 2022.
 - s.12; s.13
- There were unforeseen complexities in planning for student focus groups and other procedural delays:
 - There was a delay in finalization of the PIA.
 - There have been additional delays in procuring a trauma-informed counsellor and facilitator, and an Elder for student focus group sessions.
 - There were delays in properly aligning GCPE and MO support/approval of SV Announceables for the review.
 - Delays in completing the Student Perceptions of SV Survey, which informs the policy review.
- The Ministry is having targeted conversations with PSIs to identify and discuss any gaps or recommendations that institutions have that was not captured in the feedback Ministry has already received. The Ministry is also looking for institutions to provide suggestions on how to improve the legislation.
- Student focus groups will be broader conversations asking students to consider the following questions:
 - What changes do students feel are needed to improve the *SVMPA*?
 - What is working with the *SVMPA* with the implementation of the SV policies?
 - What is not working with the *SVMPA* with the implementation of the SV policies?
 - Any other concerns/recommendations students would like to bring forward.
- s.13
- The Ministry SV policy team had a consultation session with GEO and PSSG staff on May 20, 2022 to discuss the SV policy review, potential legislative changes, and alignment with Gender-Based Violence (GBV) Action Plan.
 - The Ministry will continue to keep GEO and PSSG updated on the progress of this work.

SV Data and Reporting Principles

- The SV Data and Reporting Working Group (WG) was developed through an interest in PSIs having a dialogue about comparability and SV data and in response to concerns over how PSIs can collect meaningful statistics on SV and report information out to the broader community.
- This WG initially explored whether PSIs could adopt the same data collection process to allow for annual reports to be compared with all PSIs across the Province however, after careful review this approach was found not to be feasible.

- **Current Status:** The Ministry is currently working with sector representatives on the co-design of a common set of shared principles for the collection and reporting of data elements of SV.
 - This document will provide recommendations for PSIs to consider in their implementation of annual data collection and reporting cycles.
- The WG is comprised of Ministry and PSI representatives. Please see Attachment 7 for SV Data and Reporting WG Terms of Reference, which includes a list of members.
- The WG recently met with student representatives to discuss their document, *Data Collection, Reporting, and Accountability Report*. The students also requested that student representatives be invited to join the group.
- The WG is aiming to have a draft of the shared principles developed by Fall 2022. The draft will be circulated to the SV policy staff in the post-secondary sector for feedback. A final version may be ready for circulation by Spring 2023.
- GEO has been made aware of this initiative as part of their scan of current GBV initiatives in Government.

Conclusion:

- The Ministry SV policy team would welcome the opportunity to provide a more detailed briefing on any of the above projects to PS Lore if desired.
- The Ministry SV policy team would welcome PS Lore and/or the GBV Action Plan project team's involvement in any of the consultation sessions for the SV policy review, while being mindful that the presence of government staff should not impede students' safe participation.

Attachment(s): *Attachment 1 – ISV Advisory Group Members*

s.16

Attachment 3 – SV Training Resources Project Overview.

Attachment 4 – Summary of Feedback Received

s.12

s.13

Attachment 7 – SV Data and Reporting WG Terms of Reference

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