



KEY POINTS MEETING NOTE

Advice to Minister Selina Robinson

Cliff #: 130504

MEETING WITH: BC College Presidents Union of BC Municipalities Reception

DATE AND TIME OF MEETING: UBCM Monday, September 18th, 6:30 – 8:30 pm, Fairmont Waterfront Hotel Terrace Room - Level 3

ATTENDEES:

- BC Colleges: Colin Ewart, President BC Colleges
BC Colleges Presidents:
Dr. Lane Trotter, President, Camosun College
Dr. Laurie Waye, President, Coast Mountain College
Dr. Dennis Johnson, President, College of New Caledonia and Chair of BC Colleges
Paul Vogt, President, College of the Rockies
Dr. Paula Burns, President & CEO, Langara College
Dr. Lisa Domae, President, North Island College
Todd Bondaroff, President, Northern Lights College
Dr. Neil Fassina, President, Okanagan College
Maggie Matear, President, Selkirk College
Ajay Patel, President, Vancouver Community College
- See Attachment 1 for Bios BC College Presidents

KEY POINTS:

- BC Colleges was created in 2002 to articulate the education and training perspective of the Province's community colleges.
- Currently, 10 colleges are members; Douglas College is not a member.
- The Council of Presidents meets regularly to discuss policy, training, and funding issues of interest to the member colleges.
- The Minister has been invited to attend an informal BC Colleges UBCM evening reception. See Attachment 4 for UBCM BC Colleges Reception Invitation.
- Given the context of a reception, the college presidents are interested in hearing about the StrongerBC: Future Ready Action Plan initiatives that relate to the college sector.

StrongerBC: Future Ready Action Plan

- With \$480 million invested over three years in Budget 2023, the Future Ready Action Plan supports a broad range of British Columbians preparing the workforce of tomorrow. Work is now underway on implementing the Future Ready Action Plan. See Attachment 2 for Future Ready skills training and workforce development initiatives.
- Colleges are key partners in the Future Ready Action Plan by delivering additional targeted seats in health programs, early childhood education and tech-relevant programs.
- Colleges are also developing and delivering micro-credentials that are eligible for the Future Skills Grant. [s. 13](#)

[s. 13](#)

- The Future Ready Action Plan provides funding to support Indigenous communities to address their post-secondary education needs with in-community training. Colleges are encouraged to partner with local First Nations to identify programs that align with local nation priorities and submit applications for funding.
- College presidents may also be interested in the Ministry's response to recent media attention about international students and housing shortages. Our government is developing an International Education Framework that puts students first and generates positive educational outcomes for all learners through diversity and global experiences.
- The Ministry will be engaging with presidents at an upcoming meeting in mid-October on some of the proposed actions in the framework.

ATTACHMENTS: Attachment 1: Bios BC Colleges Presidents

Attachment 2: Future Ready Action Plan – Relevant Programs for BC Colleges

Attachment 3: Future Ready BC Colleges Fact Sheet

Attachment 4: UBCM BC Colleges Reception Invitation

CONTACT: *Bobbi Plecas, DM, [s. 17](#)*

Nicola Lemmer, ADM, [s. 17](#)

Reviewed by			
Dir: K Chirhart	ED: G. Stone	ADM: NL	DM: BP

Attachment 1 – Biographies of BC Colleges Presidents

Copyright	BC Colleges President Colin Ewart, President BC Colleges Copyright
Copyright	Camosun College Copyright
	Coast Mountain College Copyright
	College of New Caledonia Dr. Dennis Johnson, President (since October 1, 2019) Copyright

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College of the Rockies

Mr. Paul Vogt, President & CEO (since August 1, 2020)

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Langara College

Dr. Paula Burns, Interim President & CEO (since June 6, 2022)

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North Island College

Dr. Lisa Domae, President & CEO (since April 12, 2021)

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Northern Lights College

Todd Bondaroff, President & CEO (since January 2022)

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Okanagan College

Dr. Neil Fassina, President (since April 1, 2021)

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Selkirk College

Dr. Maggie Matear, President & CEO (Since May 30, 2022)

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Vancouver Community College

Mr. Ajay Patel, President & CEO (since September 1, 2019)

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Updated September 11, 2023

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Attachment 2 Future Ready Action Plan – Relevant Programs for BC Colleges:

- Rapid Response Initiative – TradeUpBC: This initiative is a province-wide continuous learning hub that brings together short-term training and micro-credentials for experienced trades workers into one online platform. PSFS has asked BCIT to coordinate TradeUpBC on behalf of government and provide targeted marketing, showcase course offerings, and create added visibility to short term trades training opportunities at individual institutions across the Province. s. 13

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PSFS staff are working closely with PSI's via the BC Association of Trades and Technical Administrators (BCATTA, the Deans responsible for trades training) to launch phase 1 of TradeUpBC and will continue to work through BCATTA and Trades Training BC (TTBC, Presidents responsible for trades training) to increase PSI support and participation and expand course offerings in January.

- Rapid Response Initiative – Micro-credentials: This initiative will further develop the provincial micro-credential system as well as new micro-credential initiatives that provide responsive, just-in-time, short-duration training and clear and accessible learner pathways to in-demand occupations. Upcoming funding opportunities include funding for development of shared curriculum micro-credentials, stackable micro-credentials, and funding for micro-credential redevelopment to ensure provincial framework alignment. Institutions can look forward to further information being circulated in the coming weeks.
- Contact North BC is hosted through Coast Mountain College. Contact North BC improves access to online learning for remote communities through in-community learning centres and resources.
- Future Skills Grant has supported a number of colleges to expand their micro-credential and short-term programming offerings, specifically:
 - o Camosun College has 55 programs/courses approved.
 - o Coast Mountain College has 6 programs/courses approved.
 - o College of New Caledonia has 11 programs/courses approved.
 - o College of the Rockies has 4 programs/courses approved.
 - o Langara College has 16 programs/courses approved.
 - o North Island College has 9 programs/courses approved.
 - o Northern Lights College has 18 programs/courses approved.
 - o Okanagan College has 22 programs/courses approved.
 - o Selkirk College has 14 programs/courses approved.
 - o Vancouver Community College has 31 programs/courses approved.
- Tech Seat Expansion: All 25 public post-secondary institutions, including the colleges, are receiving investment under the FRAP tech expansion, either on-going funding for new spaces or one-time capacity building.
- Early Childhood Educator Seat Expansions:
 - o Coast Mountain College has 44 projected student spaces.
 - o College of New Caledonia has 30 projected student spaces.
 - o College of the Rockies has 30 projected student spaces.
 - o Langara College has 40 projected student spaces.
 - o North Island College has 12 projected student spaces.
 - o Northern Lights College has 15 projected student spaces.

- Okanagan College has 86 projected student spaces.
 - Selkirk College has 42 projected student spaces.
 - Vancouver Community College has 20 projected student spaces.
- Expanded tuition waiver for former youth in care: Provides free tuition to former youth in care and ensures comprehensive supports for former youth in care so they can access and succeed in post-secondary education regardless of their age. The program will also introduce a single, consolidated grant to support additional educational costs (e.g., books, laptop, etc.).

FUTURE READY ACTION PLAN

BC Colleges

What We Heard from Post-Secondary Institutions in B.C.

Government heard extensively from post-secondary institutions and students through stakeholder engagement on Future Ready Plan (FRP) engagement sessions in Summer 2022.

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How will the Future Ready Action Plan Support BC Colleges?

Making Post-Secondary Education More Affordable and Attainable through:

- Doubling the weekly **student loan maximums** and align **Student Financial Aid** with the Federal enhancements to the Repayment Assistance Plan (including increased maximum income level to waive loan repayment and expanded definition of persons with disability to include borrowers with persistent and prolonged disabilities).
- **Expanded tuition waiver for former youth in care:** Provides free tuition to former youth in care and ensures comprehensive supports for former youth in care so they can access and succeed in post-secondary education regardless of their age. The program will also introduce a single, consolidated grant to support additional educational costs (e.g., books, laptop, etc.).

- Improving and expanding **learning opportunities at work**: Provide students with career pathways through job placements at local small and medium businesses and not-for-profit organizations.
- Creating a **new future skills grant** to provide up to \$3,500 for individuals to access short term training delivered by public post-secondary institutions to develop skills and certification to meet employers' needs. <https://www.educationplannerbc.ca/plan/finance/future-skills-grant>
- New **Rapid Response Training Initiative** provide expanded micro-credential offerings at public post-secondary institutions that are responsive to identified labour market and industry needs providing individuals quick, affordable access to high opportunity employment and learning pathways.
- **TradeUpBC** provides in-demand sector-based professional development for certified journeypersons and employers to build their skills in areas such as clean technologies, effective mentoring, business management, and inclusion and diversity training.
- **Review of racism in Post-Secondary Education**: Assesses and develops mechanisms to address Indigenous-specific racism in post-secondary education to remove barriers to Indigenous people's success in the education system.
- Establishing the **Find Your Path Tool**: a one-stop shop for students and workers to discover career paths (such as in the construction sector), high opportunity jobs, required skills and qualifications, availability of training, applications to institutions and linkages to job postings through WorkBC.ca. Phase one of this tool launches in October with additional services planned for future phases.
- **Digital Learning Strategy**: Increases access to high quality, flexible digital learning to improve opportunities and participation in the labour market for people who have historically been left behind.

Supporting Expansion Capacity for Post-Secondary Institutions by:

- Provide new student **on-campus housing beds** to help increase access to post-secondary education by providing safe and affordable living spaces for students.
- Expanding **Tech** seats, creating 3,500 new tech-relevant spaces at public post-secondary institutions responds to the immediate demand for more tech-relevant education and training.
- Expanding **Rural and Remote Teacher Spaces** invests in teacher education programs delivered in rural communities to addresses both long-standing recruitment shortages significantly impacting rural and remote areas of the province and the projected labour gap in coming years.
- Expanding **Early Childhood Educator Training Spaces**, adding an additional 270 spaces annually across public post-secondary institutions. Flexible delivery options such as online, hybrid, blended, and work integrated learning are available at B.C.'s public post-secondary institutions.

BC COLLEGES Reception

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2023

Accessible. Affordable. Applied.

They are the words that guide us every day.

Please join BC Colleges Chair **Dennis Johnson**, President of the College of New Caledonia, along with college presidents from communities across British Columbia, to learn more about the innovative, inclusive ways colleges are fuelling B.C.'s local and regional economies with job-ready graduates.

In a world of labour shortages and economic transformation, B.C. colleges are at the forefront of responding to local and regional workforce needs and opportunities by developing the talented, adaptive learners employers require. Predicting the future is tough. Preparing learners for it, is our job.

B.C. colleges are your partners as we prepare for the rapidly changing economy. Join us as we work together to make British Columbia even stronger.

YOU'RE INVITED!

BC Colleges Reception
Monday, September 18
6:30 pm - 8:30 pm
Fairmont Waterfront Hotel
Terrace Room - Level 3

- Meet the college Presidents
- Learn how B.C. colleges are providing relevant credentials for learners
- Share your ideas on how colleges can help meet B.C.'s labour market demands and contribute to inclusive economic growth



Colleges are vital community hubs that are at the heart of B.C.'s post-secondary education and training system.

50 community campuses & training centres across British Columbia.

Career & professional programs, micro-credentials, and work integrated learning.

125,000 learners annually.

Connect with us @BCColleges

