



Minister's  
Estimates Notes

2024/2025

Ministry of  
Post-Secondary Education  
and Future Skills

April 2024

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### Estimates – Motions

<p><b>Opening Introductions and remarks</b> Commencement of Estimates</p>	<p><b>Minister:</b> “Mr./Mdme. Chair, it is with great pleasure that I rise to present the 2024/25 spending estimates for the Ministry of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills.”</p> <p>“Before I begin, I would like to introduce my Deputy Minister, Bobbi Plecas.”</p> <p>[Introduce other staff as appropriate].</p> <p>[Deliver opening remarks on Ministry priorities]</p>
<p><b>After Opening Remarks</b> to Begin Debate</p>	<p><b>Minister:</b> “Chair, I would be happy to receive comments, remarks and questions from the members of the Legislature.”</p>
<p><b>Adjournment of</b> Estimates Debate</p>	<p><b>Minister:</b> “I move that the committee rise, report progress and ask leave to sit again.”</p> <p><b>Chair:</b> Motion approved.</p>
<p><b>Completion of</b> Estimates Debate</p>	<p><b>Minister:</b> “I move that the committee rise and report resolution.”</p> <p><b>Chair:</b> Motion approved.</p>

List of people who will support the Minister:

- Bobbi Plecas, Deputy Minister
- Jason Butler, Assistant Deputy Minister of Finance, Technology and Management Services Division
- Chris Rathbone, Assistant Deputy Minister of Post-Secondary Policy and Programs Division
- Joanna White, Assistant Deputy Minister of Labour Market Development Division
- Tony Loughran, Assistant Deputy Minister of Governance, Legislation & Engagement Division
- Geoff Wilmshurst and Executive Directors will be available

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**SPEAKING NOTES FOR**

**Ministry of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills**

**Budget 2024 Estimates – Opening Remarks**

**HON. LISA BEARE**

**MINISTER OF POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION  
AND FUTURE SKILLS**

**April 2024**

- **Thank you, chair. Good morning/afternoon.**
- **I'd like to begin by recognizing that we're gathered here on the territories of the Lekwungen speaking peoples, the Songhees and Esquimalt Nations.**
- **I'd also like to also recognize the ministry staff who are present.**
  - **Bobbi Plecas - Deputy Minister**
  - **Jason Butler - Assistant Deputy Minister of Finance, Technology and Management Services Division**
  - **Chris Rathbone - Assistant Deputy Minister of Post-Secondary Policy and Programs Division**
  - **Joanna White - Assistant Deputy Minister of Labour Market Development Division**
  - **Tony Loughran - Assistant Deputy Minister of Governance, Legislation & Engagement Division.**

- **It was a true honour when only a couple of months ago the Premier appointed me Minister of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills, and since then I've made it a priority to visit as many post-secondary institutions as possible.**
- **Everywhere we are seeing local change, hearing about global challenges, while also seeing the tremendous opportunities that exist in British Columbia.**
- **The B.C. Labour Market Outlook tells us that 75 per cent of the one million job openings in B.C. over the next decade will require some form of post-secondary education and training.**
- **That's why we launched the StrongerBC: Future Ready Action Plan.**

- **Under the Action Plan we're removing barriers to post-secondary education and training. This includes providing the B.C. Future Skills Grant, doubling financial aid to students, and the expanded Provincial Tuition Waiver program.**
- **We're also helping to fill workforce gaps in high-demand fields, such as adding new student spaces in Early Childhood Educator programs, and more spaces in tech-relevant programs.**
- **In addition to these improvements my ministry is investing in more homes for students, enhancing international credential recognition, and is working closely with the Ministry of Health to expand and strengthen B.C.'s healthcare system.**

- **B.C.'s economy is changing, the world is changing, we need to be ready for it, and this government is meeting the moment for British Columbians.**
- **That's why this budget is built on investments to meet the needs of our society and our economy now and into the future.**
- **I look forward to discussing these important issues, and with that I turn it over to the chair.**
- **Thank you.**

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**SPEAKING NOTES FOR**

**Ministry of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills**

**Budget 2024 Estimates – Closing Remarks**

**HON. LISA BEARE**

**MINISTER OF POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION  
AND FUTURE SKILLS**

**April 2024**

- I want to thank the member and her colleagues for coming before the committee with their questions. We had a productive discussion.
- Before we move on with the vote, I want to say again it is a privilege to serve in this capacity as Minister responsible for Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills.

## Motion

- Thank you very much, I move vote number 41, resolved that a sum not exceeding three billion, three hundred seventy-one million, forty-three thousand dollars (\$3,371,043,000) be granted to his majesty to defer the expenses of the Ministry of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills to 31<sup>st</sup> of March 2025.



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**Title:** B.C. Access Grant

**Issue:** Highlights for the B.C. Access Grant Program

**Key Facts and Background:**

- The B.C. Government introduced the B.C. Access Grant in 2020/21 to help low- and middle-income learners access post-secondary education.
- The B.C. Access Grant provides up-front, non-repayable financial assistance to low- and middle-income learners who are enrolled in eligible full-time and part-time undergraduate certificate, diploma, and degree programs at B.C.’s 25 public post-secondary institutions.
- As of December 31, 2023, the B.C. Access Grant has supported over **71,000** students with approximately **\$129 million** in up-front, needs-based, non-repayable financial assistance.
- All students who apply for student financial assistance are automatically assessed for the B.C. Access Grant.
- The B.C. Access Grant offers the following three separate grant amounts:
  - A maximum of \$1,000 per year for students in programs two or more years in length.
  - A maximum of \$4,000 per year for students in programs under two years. A higher amount is provided because students in programs under two years are not eligible for the Canada Student Grant.
  - A maximum of \$1,000 per year for students in part-time programs.

**Table 1 – B.C. Access Grant**

2020/21 FY Actuals	2021/22 FY Actuals	2022/23 FY Actuals	2023/24 FY Projected
\$30,725,000	\$35,770,000	\$34,611,000	Advice/Recommendations

- A student’s eligible B.C. Access Grant amount replaces an equivalent amount of eligible B.C. student loan with non-repayable funding, thus reducing the amount of loan students will have to repay at the end of their studies. The B.C. Access Grant does not necessarily increase the amount of money available to the student.



- Prior to the introduction of the B.C. Access Grant in 2020, 22% of overall funding for eligible students was in the form of non-repayable grants. This increased to 33% with the introduction of the B.C. Access Grant.
- Students that receive the B.C. Access Grant are eligible to receive other financial support, such as federal loans and grants, interest free provincial and federal student loans, repayment assistance and supports for students with disabilities.

**Title:** Funding Formula Review – Public Post-Secondary Institutions

**Issue:** Draft *What-We-Heard Report* and Next Steps

**Key Facts, Data and Background:**

- In March 2022, B.C. announced a funding review that would examine how government funds the operations of British Columbia’s 25 public Post-Secondary Institutions. The funding review was led by Don Wright.
- The funding review was a mandate commitment established in the fall of 2020 to “make sure public post-secondary institutions have the resources they need to support economic recovery and student success.”
- Public institutions have three primary revenue streams: provincial grants, domestic tuition, and international student tuition.

Funding Source	Total Amount for Fiscal 2022/23 (in millions) <sup>1</sup>	Percentage of Total
Provincial government grants	\$2,928	37%
Domestic tuition	\$1,165	15%
International student tuition	\$1,487	19%
Sales of goods and services	\$733	10%
Federal government grants <sup>2</sup>	\$637	8%
Other revenue <sup>3</sup>	\$878	11%
<b>Total revenues</b>	<b>\$7,828</b>	<b>100%</b>

<sup>1</sup> 2022/23 Audited Financial Statements for Sector .

<sup>2</sup> Federal government grants may be provided for specific items like research funding, specialized equipment, and specific projects.

<sup>3</sup> Other revenues comprise grants from other sources, sales of goods and services from related entities, investment income, earnings from commercial subsidiaries, gains on sale of tangible capital assets, and other miscellaneous revenues.

- Provincial government grants to public institutions have been increased to fund collective agreements since 2013. In addition, some targeted funding for specific programs that has been added to their base.
- The provincial government has limited increases to tuition for domestic students to 2% annually since 2005.
- The first phase of the funding review was engagement with sector partners (public institutions, students, labour and sector associations, and Indigenous organizations) during the spring and summer of 2022. Feedback was gathered from more than 40 in-person and online sessions, and 50 written submissions.

- From these engagements, an Interim What-We-Heard Report was drafted in December 2022, Advice/Recommendations; Cabinet Confidences

Advice/Recommendations; Cabinet Confidences

- In May 2023, the ministry released the StrongerBC: Future Ready Action Plan, which provided a significant investment of \$480M over three years into the post-secondary system. The StrongerBC Future Ready Action Plan provided student supports, expansion of public institution seats in priority sectors like technology and short-term training programs aimed supporting people to fill labour market shortages in areas like the technology sector, health care and early childhood education.
- In addition to the \$480M over three years, government also committed to investing in an additional 4,000 student beds and doubling student loan maximums to support affordability for students.
- Since the engagement concluded, sector partners and members of the media have requested the Interim report be released publicly.
- The ministry is currently considering options for the release of the What We Heard Report.



**Title:** Future Skills Grant

**Issue:** As part of B.C.'s StrongerBC Future Ready Action Plan, the future skills grant provides British Columbians with access to short-term skills training that responds to the urgent and growing need for skilled workers in the province.

**Key Facts, Data and Background:**

- The StrongerBC future skills grant provides access to up to \$3,500 in short-term skills training, delivered by public post-secondary institutions across the province, for British Columbians, 19 years of age or older.
- The StrongerBC Future Ready Action Plan committed a total investment of \$39M over three years to the future skills grant.
- Investing in short-term skills training equips British Columbians with relevant job skills, fosters economic growth, and supports resilience in an ever-changing job market.
- The future skills grant increases affordability and accessibility to job-related, short-term skills training that is not eligible for funding under other grants, bursaries, or loans, through StudentAid BC, provincial and federal apprenticeship supports, or WorkBC employment programs.
- Future skills grant -eligible programs are aligned with the 2023 Labour Market Outlook high-demand industries and support the StrongerBC Economic Plan and key strategies, such as B.C.'s Health and Human Resources Strategy and CleanBC.
- In Fall 2023, more than 400 programs were available through the future skills grant at 24 public post-secondary institutions across B.C., serving over 7,000 learners across the province. The future skills grant proved to be in high demand, Advice/Recommendations Advice/Recommendations
- Demand for the future skills grant exceeded expectations in the first year of implementation. The ministry was able to reallocate savings and secure additional funding within the fiscal year to ensure as many learners as possible could access the grant.
- Based on preliminary analysis of the Fall 2023 semester, the future skills grant is meeting learner and labour market needs across the province (*See Appendix 2 and Appendix 3*).
- The ministry anticipates ongoing high demand in 2024/25, and is reviewing eligibility and scope to prioritize future offerings aligned with high-demand occupations.

Advice/Recommendations; Government Financial Information

## Appendix 2: Fall 2023 Regional Distribution of Funding<sup>1</sup>

Economic Region	% of Funding
Cariboo	3%
Kootenay	2%
Mainland/Southwest	60%
North Coast and Nechako	2%
Northeast	1%
Thompson Okanagan	10%
Vancouver Island/Coast	22%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>

## Appendix 3: Labour Market Outlook Alignment

Top High-Demand Industries Based on Labour Market Outlook 2023 <sup>2, 3</sup>	% of Jobs Openings by 2033	% of Fall 2023 FSG Learners
Health care and social assistance	17%	12%
Professional, scientific & technical services	14%	19%
Educational services	7%	7%
Construction	7%	4%
<b>Total</b>	<b>45%</b>	<b>43%</b>

<sup>1</sup> The data was collected on February 7, 2024, as the ministry continues to receive the Fall 2023 claims.

<sup>2</sup> B.C. Ministry of Post Secondary Education and Future Skills. (2023). *British Columbia Labour Market Outlook (2023 Edition)*, accessed on February 7, 2024 at: [https://www.workbc.ca/sites/default/files/2023-11/MPSEFS\\_11803\\_BC\\_Jobs\\_LMO\\_2023\\_FINAL..pdf](https://www.workbc.ca/sites/default/files/2023-11/MPSEFS_11803_BC_Jobs_LMO_2023_FINAL..pdf)

<sup>3</sup> Retail trade is one of the top five high-demand industries identified in Labour Market Outlook 2023; no Fall 2023 future skills grant programs were aligned with this industry, and therefore retail trade was not included in this table.



**Title:** Graduate Scholarships and Internships

**Issue:** Government support for graduate student scholarships and Mitacs internships for innovation.

**Key Facts and Background:**

- As part of the *StrongerBC: Future Ready Action Plan, Budget 2023* approved access to contingencies of \$15 million over three years for graduate scholarships and internships.
- *Budget 2024* reflects the \$5 million annual commitment in 2024/25 and 2025/26.
- The \$15 million in funding builds on earlier investments from 2018 to 2022:
  - In 2018, \$12 million was provided to establish the British Columbia Graduate Scholarships, the largest investment in the province's history in scholarships for graduate students, supporting 800 awards of \$15,000 each through March 2021.
  - An additional \$3.75 million was provided in 2021 and again in 2022.
  - To date over 1,100 scholarships have been awarded to students in a variety of degree programs. Eligible programs range from research-intensive to professional degrees, with an emphasis but not exclusive focus on Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics disciplines.
  - As announced in summer 2023, the award value of the scholarships has increased from \$15,000 to \$17,500.
- Through a long-term partnership with Mitacs, since 2018 the ministry has provided over \$75 million in funding to support internships for innovation. Mitacs is a BC-based, national not-for-profit organization that delivers applied research training programs for students. It has funding arrangements with federal and other provincial governments.
  - The Mitacs model is one of partnership among levels of governments, industry, and post-secondary institutions.
  - Students receive a stipend of \$10,000 for their four-month internship while gaining hands-on work experience and applying their knowledge and skills to real-world problems faced by businesses and organizations in the province.
  - In spring 2023, the ministry provided \$50 million to Mitacs to support 10,000 additional internships over five years.

**Ministry Funding 2017/18-2022/23**

	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	Total
Scholarships	\$12M			\$3.75M	\$3.75M		\$19.5M
Mitacs	\$10M	\$5.6M	\$1.2M	\$1M	\$8.6M	\$50M	\$76.4M

- The ministry has a number of other supports for graduate students.
  - A range of student financial aid is offered through StudentAid BC, including grants, bursaries, loans, and targeted funding for graduate students with dependents and disabilities.
  - More than 4,000 BC graduate students accessed over \$50 million in combined federal and provincial student financial assistance through StudentAid BC in Fiscal Year 2023/24, including nearly \$0.6 million in non-repayable provincial grants and over \$13.2 million in interest-free BC student loan funding.
- Other examples of related supports for students and industry include the Innovator Skills Initiative administered by Innovate BC. In recent years, the Innovator Skills Initiative has received a provincial investment of over \$20.5 million to support more than 3,000 paid placements at businesses in the province for tech or tech-related roles.
- The *StrongerBC Economic Plan* commits to accelerate talent development and skills training across the province, including a commitment to more graduate scholarships and internships for innovation.
- The subject of the note is referenced in the Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services' recommendations on Budget 2024 and funding for graduate scholarships and internships are consistent with the recommendation to reduce financial barriers to post-secondary education.

**Title: Provincial Tuition Waiver for Former Youth in Care**

**Issue: Highlights for Provincial Tuition Waiver Program for Former Youth in Care**

**Key Facts and Background:**

- The Provincial Tuition Waiver Program removes barriers for former youth in care to access post-secondary education.
  - Implemented in September 2017, the Provincial Tuition Waiver Program has waived over \$19 million in tuition and fees for over 2,450 former youth in care as at December 31, 2023.
  - The program supports eligible former youth in care who are attending full-time or part-time undergraduate studies at any of the 25 B.C. public post-secondary institutions, Native Education College, and eligible union trades training institutes.
- The Provincial Tuition Waiver Program was expanded effective August 1, 2023. The following increased eligibility and supports for former youth in care were supported by a **\$6.4 million** annual program base budget increase and **\$1.4 million** Ministry of Children and Family Development program funding reinvestment in 2023/24:
  - Opened the program to former youth in care of any age (previously limited to age 19-26);
  - Inclusion of eligibility for former youth in care who turn(ed) 19 under any care status regardless of time in care;
  - Implementation of new annual \$3,500 Learning for Future Grant tied to Provincial Tuition Waiver Program eligibility;
  - Program communications and outreach initiative, and increases to administration to support program promotion, awareness and uptake; and
  - Dedicated funding to post-secondary institutions to provide on campus support for former youth in care.
- The program expansion meets the ministry's joint mandate commitment with the Ministry of Children and Family Development to "...lead work to expand tuition waivers to all former youth in care, regardless of age".

	FY17/18 (actuals)	FY18/19 (actuals)	FY19/20 (actuals)	FY20/21 (actuals)	FY21/22 (actuals)	FY22/23 (actuals)	FY 23/24 (projected)
<b>Number of Recipients</b>	379	613	843	863	892	930	1,430
<b>Tuition &amp; Fees Waived</b>	\$1,182,329	\$2,413,033	\$3,268,622	\$3,017,038	\$3,336,923	\$3,390,233	Advice/Recommendations

- Between program expansion implementation on August 1, 2023, and December 31, 2023, Provincial Tuition Waiver Program applications have increased by approximately 250% over the same period last year, with the majority of these students receiving the new Learning for Future Grant, and the average age of applicants rising from 20 to 25.
- In addition to the tuition waived, the ministry anticipates issuing Advice/Recommendations in Learning for Future Grant funding to further support former youth in care eligible for the Provincial Tuition Waiver Program up to December 31, 2023. More data will be available in late February following the reporting deadline for institution partners.
- The ministry leads a Provincial Tuition Waiver Community of Practice with post-secondary institution Campus Navigators, and other student support staff at the post-secondary institutions, to support former youth in care students on campus to navigate their education journey.
- The Children and Youth in Care Protocol signed by First Nations Leadership Council, First Nations Education Steering Committee, Union of BC Indian Chiefs and the Ministries of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills, Education and Child Care, and Children and Family Development sets out a joint commitment to engage in dialogue and joint action to improve the education outcomes of all First Nations children and youth in care, and former youth in care.
- The First Nations Children and Youth in Care Protocol Workplan has several commitments to improve the Provincial Tuition Waiver Program and post-secondary education outcomes, including:
  - Ensure the Province provides funding for broad wraparound supports (tuition, living allowance, supplies, etc.) to First Nation former youth in care pursuing a post-secondary education.
  - Improve access to the Tuition Waiver Program (TWP) by expanding the eligibility criteria and building awareness by improving outreach.
  - Develop funding options to provide debt relief (loan forgiveness) to former children and youth in care with outstanding B.C. student loans.

**Table 1. Budget 2023 PSFS – Tuition Waiver Program Funding Summary**

(\$ millions)	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
Annual Program Base Budget	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0
Increase to Base Budget (MCFD Budget Transfer/Reinvestment)	-	1.4	1.4	1.4
Cabinet Program Base Budget Increase	-	6.4	6.4	6.4
<b>Total B.2023 Additional Funding</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>7.8</b>	<b>7.8</b>	<b>7.8</b>
<b>Total Annual Funding</b>	<b>4.0</b>	<b>11.8</b>	<b>11.8</b>	<b>11.8</b>

**Appendix 1: Provincial Tuition Waiver Program Recipients by Institution**

Institution	Fiscal Year 17/18	Fiscal Year 18/19	Fiscal Year 19/20	Fiscal Year 20/21	Fiscal Year 21/22	Fiscal Year 22/23	Fiscal Year 23/24 (Q3)
British Columbia Institute of Technology	16	22	40	30	29	44	46
Camosun College	47	75	87	76	74	60	74
Capilano University	11	16	25	22	23	27	22
Coast Mountain College		Personal Information					
College of New Caledonia	13	16	27	21	24	19	33
College of the Rockies		Personal Information		14	9	12	22
Douglas College	38	48	89	88	85	103	121
Emily Carr University of Art and Design		Personal Information					
Justice Institute of British Columbia	Personal Information		14	17	21	18	18
Kwantlen Polytechnic University	23	37	45	41	49	52	55
Langara College	28	44	56	52	56	49	68
Native Education College		Personal Information					
Nicola Valley Institute of Technology	23	27	32	25	14	16	20
North Island College	Personal Information		13	16	21	18	26
Northern Lights College	Personal Information						
Okanagan College	13	40	34	44	44	44	57
Royal Roads University		Personal Information					
Selkirk College	Personal Information				11	15	21
Simon Fraser University	16	22	26	33	29	34	32
Thompson Rivers University	31	53	84	70	68	72	99
University of British Columbia	14	19	28	33	35	54	72
University of British Columbia Okanagan	10	11	13	18	20	13	24
University of Northern BC		Personal Information			11	15	17
University of the Fraser Valley	29	47	70	77	89	92	100
University of Victoria	12	32	39	49	45	38	58



Vancouver Community College	11	18	27	20	28	30	28
Vancouver Island University	31	30	36	82	84	92	144
Out of Province student						Personal Information	
Trades Training							Personal Information
<b>Total</b>	<b>379</b>	<b>613</b>	<b>843</b>	<b>863</b>	<b>892</b>	<b>950</b>	<b>1,194</b>

### Appendix 2: Student Success: Graduation and Credentials

- From the 2017/18 to the 2021/2022 academic years, 570 former youth in care completed post-secondary credentials while receiving supports through the Provincial Tuition Waiver Program, including bachelor’s degrees, diplomas, and certificates.
- Former youth in care accessing the Provincial Tuition Waiver Program are pursuing studies in a range of programs that support provincial labour market priorities, including human and social services, health, and trades.

**Table 1: PTWP Credentials - 2017/18 - 2021/22**

Credential Type	Credentials Awarded
Certificate	225
Diploma	160
Bachelor	160
Developmental	20
Other	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>570</b>

**Table 2: PTWP Enrolment - 2017/18 - 2021/22**

Program Area	% of Total
Arts and Sciences	42.3%
Human and Social Services	16.5%
Business and Management	8.3%
Health	8.5%
Trades	7.8%
Engineering and Applied Sciences	5.7%
Developmental	3.8%
Visual and Performing Arts	4.4%
Education	2.7%

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Title: StudentAid BC Overview

Issue: StudentAid BC Student Financial Assistance Program Overview

Key Facts and Background:

- In 2022/23, approximately 70,000 British Columbians received over \$875 million in federal and provincial student financial assistance (Appendix A, Tables 1 and 2).
A range of financial support including interest free loans, non-repayable grants, loan forgiveness and repayment assistance are available to help students access and afford post-secondary education.
Provincial student financial assistance includes loans and grant programs, such as:
- B.C. Student Loans
- B.C. Access Grant
- Grants, services, and equipment for students with disabilities
- Tuition waivers for former children and youth in care
- Learning for Future grant for tuition waiver students
- Grants for adults seeking to upgrade their education
- Nurses' education bursary
- Loan forgiveness for health and child service professions in underserved communities throughout the province
- Repayment assistance
Eligibility for student financial assistance is based on a student's financial need and calculated based on education and living costs minus resources (i.e. family income).
Student financial assistance funding is intended to supplement other financial resources available to students (e.g., employment income, scholarships, bursaries, and family contributions).
Effective August 1, 2023, weekly loan limits were doubled. This is the first increase since 2006.

Table with 4 columns: Type, Previous (weekly), New 23/24 (weekly), New Federal (weekly). Rows include Without Dependents and With Dependents.

- As of December 31, 2023, the 2023 loan increases have resulted in a 10% increase in applications for student financial assistance (SFA) and a 13% increase in recipients of provincial disbursements. In addition, the average provincial disbursement increased from \$2,100 to \$3,400.
- In 2019, B.C. eliminated interest on student loans. This has resulted in over \$145 million in interest payments saved for students since that time.

#### Repayment Assistance Plan

- In 2023 B.C. strengthened the Repayment Assistance Plan and aligned with the federal government to increase the income threshold for when a student loan payment is required, as well as lowering the maximum payment required.

Payment	Previous	New (23/24)
Income Threshold	\$25,000	\$40,000
Percentage of Total Income	20%	10%

- It is estimated that changes to the Repayment Assistance Plan will save borrowers approximately \$35.4M in future repayment over the student loan repayment life cycle.

#### B.C. Loan Forgiveness Program

- The B.C. Loan Forgiveness Program provides a benefit to recent graduates working in select health occupations or working with children in underserved areas with identified needs throughout the province.
- Participants in the program may have up to 100% of their B.C. student loan forgiven over a 5-year term (up to 20% forgiven each year).
- Occupations for the B.C. Loan Forgiveness Program are selected based on high-priority labour market needs identified by partner ministries (HLTH, ECC, MCFD) and eligibility of training programs for student financial assistance.
- Since introduction of the B.C. Loan Forgiveness Program in 2002, approximately 4,250 graduates have enrolled in the program and a total \$31.9M of debt has been forgiven.



**Appendix A: StudentAid BC Program Expenditure Overview:**

**Table 1: Federal and Provincial Program Expenditures by Fiscal Year**

Programs (in \$M)	2020/21 Actuals	2021/22 Actuals	2022/23 Actuals	2023/24 Projected
Canada Student Loans	\$492.005	\$375.905	\$334.593	Advice/Recommendations
Canada Student Grants	\$271.683	\$301.057	\$302.522	
B.C. Student Loans	\$182.539	\$186.056	\$179.935	
B.C. Student Grants	\$63.824	\$57.546	\$58.786	
<b>Total Funding</b>	<b>\$1,010.051</b>	<b>\$920.564</b>	<b>\$875.836</b>	

**Table 2: Full- and Part-Time Student Financial Assistance Recipients (FY 2022/23)**

Recipient Type	#	Recipient Type	#
Full-Time Recipients	64,647	Part-Time Recipients	6,826

\*Full- and part-time recipients are not summative; some students transition between full- and part-time study throughout the year and are represented in both categories.

Recipient Type	#
<b>Total Unique Recipients</b>	69,683

**Table 3: Full-Time Student Financial Assistance Recipients Profile (FY 2022/23)\***

**Full-Time Recipients Profile (FY 2021/22):**

Demographics	
Female	63% (40,893)
Single	82% (52,688)
Married	15% (9,460)
Single Parent	4% (2,747)
Under 25 Years Old	53% (34,026)
Aboriginal Identity	7% (4,307)
Permanent or Prolonged Disability	9% (6,023)

By Study Location	
B.C. Publics	43,032
B.C. Privates	12,583
Out of Province/Country	7,004
Out of Country	2,758
By Credential Type	
Graduate	4,117
Undergraduate	36,187
Certificate/Diploma	24,070
Other	1,193

\*Note: Columns cannot be summed due to overlapping categories. This is due to students having more than one demographic identifier or changing institutions or programs during the fiscal year and therefore being counted in more than one category.



**Table 4: Accounts Receivable (FY 2022/23 Ministry of Finance)**

<b>B.C. Student Loan Recipients</b>		
Type of Recipient	Total	Amount
Recipients in Study or Grace	64,101	\$413,679,444
Recipients in Repayment	145,544	\$780,056,365
Recipients in Default	19,251	\$127,944,599
<b>TOTAL Accounts Receivable</b>	<b>228,896</b>	<b>\$1,321,680,408</b>

**Title: Supports for Students with Disabilities**

**Issue: StudentAid BC Financial and Assistive Supports and Services for Students with Disabilities**

**Key Facts and Background:**

- B.C. government is committed to making post-secondary education and training more accessible for all learners through a variety of support programs.
- The ministry provides the following supports for students with disabilities through the student financial assistance program:
  - BC Access Grant for Students with Disabilities (\$1,560/year)
  - BC Supplemental Bursary for Students with Disabilities (\$800/year)
  - BC Access Grant for Deaf students (\$30,000/year)
- Supports through block-funded programs at the institution level:
  - Learning Disability Assessment Bursary (\$3,500 one-time)
  - Assistance Program for Students with Disabilities (\$12,000/year).
- B.C. additionally administers Federal grant programs for B.C. students with disabilities including:
  - Canada Student Grant for Students with Disabilities (\$2,800/year)
  - Canada Student Grant for Services and Equipment (\$20,000/year)
- In 2022/23, StudentAid BC provided over \$11 million in Provincial disability grant funding to over 6,800 students.
- The ministry provides funding to the Accessibility Services Offices at all 25 public post-secondary institutions through annual block funded operating grants. Staff at the Accessibility Services Offices support students with disabilities by:
  - Liaising with students and assessing their academic accessibility needs.
  - Working with the student and faculty to develop a student's accommodation plan.
  - Assisting the student with application for, and acquisition of:
    - StudentAid BC Financial Assistance;
    - assistive services including specialized tutoring, academic coaching or interpreting services; and
    - assistive technology and software.

- The Accessibility Services Offices also provide students with disabilities access to ministry funded Centralized Accessibility Services for students with disabilities through the:
  - Centre for Accessible Post-secondary Education Resources (Langara College) – supports increased participation in, and completion of post-secondary education by producing accessible digital and alternate format resource material for students with disabilities.
  - Academic Communications Equity Program (BC Institute of Technology) – provides provincial coordination and service provision to Deaf, Hard of Hearing and DeafBlind students through access to American Sign Language practitioners, transcriptionists, intervenors, and captioning.
  - Program for Institutional Loan of Adaptive Technology (Assistive Technology BC) – improves access to required adaptive technology to support institutions in meeting their duty to accommodate students with disabilities.
- In 2021/22 StudentAid BC aligned with the new federal disability definition to include a category of persistent or prolonged disability. This enhancement, along with the trend in increasing numbers of students identifying as having a disability, has resulted in average growth of approximately 25% annually in StudentAid BC Accessibility Programs over the past 3 years.
- Among those receiving student financial assistance (SFA), the number of students with disabilities increased by approximately 21% between 2021/22 and 2022/23, resulting in increased accessibility program expenditures of approximately \$2.85M.

	FY 21/22	FY 22/23	FY 23/24 (as at Q3)
Number of SFA recipients with a disability	6,020	7,292	7,391
Accessibility Grants	\$8,802,000	\$11,093,000	\$7,868,000
Other Accessibility Support Programs	\$3,907,000	\$4,471,000	\$3,206,000

**Adult Special Education Programs:**

- Adult Special Education programs for students with cognitive or developmental disabilities are offered at 13 public post-secondary institutions and are funded through annual block operating grants.
- Approximately 700 learners access Adult Special Education programs each year.
- These programs provide literacy, life skills and employment training for students with developmental and other disabilities that are barriers to further education, employment, or independence.





- Eligible Adult Special Education students can access the Adult Upgrading Grant to cover their education-related costs, including tuition, mandatory fees, books, technology, materials, eligible childcare expenses, and transportation.

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**Title:** Tuition Limit Policy

**Issue:** Mandate to strengthen the Tuition Limit Policy

**Key Facts, Data and Background:**

- The Tuition Limit Policy supports affordability of post-secondary education by ensuring domestic tuition and fee increases remain low and predictable.
  - In place since 2005, the policy has kept domestic tuition increases limited to 2% per year. The policy was expanded to include mandatory fees in 2007.
  - The Policy is intended to create an appropriate balance of costs between students, institutions, and taxpayers so students have affordable access to a post-secondary education system that is sustainable over the long term.
  - Limiting tuition and mandatory fee increases has helped provide certainty and stability for students and their families when planning for the future.
  - According to 2023/24 Statistics Canada data, B.C. has the fourth lowest undergraduate tuition for all provinces in Canada – lower than Prince Edward Island, Alberta, Ontario, New Brunswick, Saskatchewan, and Nova Scotia.
  - The Tuition Limit Policy does not apply to international student tuition.
- Work continues to address the previous Minister’s mandate commitment to “keep student fee increases low by strengthening the existing Tuition Fee Limit Policy to make sure institutions are not increasing fees beyond the prescribed limits.” This includes:
  - The ministry currently receives annual reporting from post-secondary institutions on tuition and fee increases and is consulted when new fees are being considered.
  - While reporting indicates little to no incidences of institutions increasing fees beyond the 2% cap, the ministry is reviewing the Tuition Limit Policy and its associated processes.
  - The ministry consistently seeks opportunities to clarify, update and refine the existing policy and associated processes.
  - This work will consider aspects of the policy where:
    - clarification is frequently sought or provided (e.g., what fees are considered mandatory; how increases can be applied to programs; what are the consultation requirements for new fees; what are the processes relating to revised programs);
    - input or concerns have been received by students or stakeholders; and,
    - the policy intersects with other ministry policies or work.

- The Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services Report does not make any recommendations specifically related to the Tuition Limit Policy, but it does reference tuition and makes recommendations which may have implications for the policy:
  - Recommendation #2 – create a provincial strategy for international students, regulating international student tuition fees to provide predictability.
    - We have heard student organizations call on the ministry to include international tuition in the Tuition Limit Policy, to provide predictability of costs and limit tuition increases for international students.
    - International student tuition at public post-secondary institutions is set by the Board of Governors of each institution, independent of government.
    - The ministry’s long-standing guidelines set out the expectation that institutions set international student fees at a level that covers direct costs and overhead.
    - As part of our new measures to enhance standards and provide greater accountability for international education in B.C., the ministry is updating these guidelines for public post-secondary institutions and is requiring international student tuition fee transparency to prevent unexpected program fee increases.
    - This will ensure incoming international students know the entire cost of their education before they start their program (see tab 27 International Education Framework estimates note for more information).
    - Including international tuition in the Tuition Limit Policy would be inconsistent with ensuring international students are responsible for covering the cost of their education without a taxpayer subsidy.
  - Recommendation #3 - complete the post-secondary education funding review and implement an updated funding model.
    - As tuition is a component of overall public post-secondary institution revenue, Government may wish to consider updates to the Tuition Limit Policy depending on any decisions or recommendations relating to the funding review process.

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**Title: Anti-racism/Anti-hate**

**Issue: An update on work related to anti-racism and anti-hate**

**Key Facts, Data and Background:**

- In March 2023, the British Columbia’s Office of the Human Rights Commissioner released *From hate to hope: Report of the Inquiry into hate in the COVID-19 pandemic*, which included information from a representation of B.C. public post-secondary institutions through UNBC, UBC, BCIT, Camosun College, and Selkirk College.
  - While none of the institutions reported having specific policies on hate or hate incidents, they shared relevant policies on harassment and discrimination, sexual violence and misconduct, abusive and threatening behaviour, and violence.
  - Some institutions had an office devoted to human rights or diversity, equity, and inclusion. All were active in their practices and communications to educate and promote diversity, inclusion, and anti-racism.
  - While the institutions did not collect data on hate, they reported a 100% increase in harassment and discrimination from 2018–19 and 2020–2021.
- B.C. public post-secondary institutions and the ministry currently collect data on Indigenous identity using the retired provincial Aboriginal Administrative Data Standard. This standard is scheduled for review as a part of *Anti-Racism Data Act* and is expected to be replaced with a new version using more inclusive terminology.
  - While the ministry does not directly collect other race, ethnicity, and ancestry data at this time, the [Guide on Using Categorical Race & Ethnicity Variables](#) is used for research and reporting on existing data.
  - In 2023, the BC Council on Admissions and Transfer, UBC, Education PlannerBC, and the BC Registrars Association collaborated on a review of the collection and use of race, ethnicity, and ancestry data in the post-secondary sector. Their [report](#) acknowledges the lack of disaggregated data in the post-secondary sector.
- ECUAD, KPU, SFU, UBC, UNBC, and UVIC have signed the *Scarborough Charter on Anti-Black Racism and Black Inclusion in Canadian Higher Education* - committing to redressing anti-Black racism and fostering Black inclusion in their institutions.
- In consultation with an anti-racism and anti-hate advisory group, made up of a diverse panel of subject-matter experts, students, and sector representatives, the ministry ran a project from 2021-2022 to begin the work of addressing, responding to, and preventing racism within the post-secondary sector. It included the following deliverables:
  - An environmental scan of available resources within B.C. post-secondary sector that address anti-racism and anti-hate and recommendations for the post-secondary sector to address anti-racism and anti-hate.

- A one-day series of webinars on Indigenization and anti-racism work, inequity in the post-secondary sector, and anti-racism responses.
- As part of the project, the ministry partnered with Tidal Equality to offer their Equity Sequence training, an evidence-backed practice designed to create more equality and inclusion in communities and workplaces, to 235 post-secondary partners. There are currently 79 funded spaces available.
- This subject is referenced in recommendation 114 from the Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services to provide funding for anti-racism, disability awareness, and inclusive reconciliation programs.
  - There has not been any dedicated ongoing funding provided to post-secondary institutions specifically for anti-racism initiatives. Institutions have discretion to determine funding for anti-racism initiatives within their budget.

#### Campus Safety

- Post-secondary institutions are responsible for campus safety policies and processes.
- Several institutions have made public statements on current global events and the importance of supporting and ensuring the safety of all students, staff and faculty.
- As part of messaging, institutions often share information on the supports and services that are available to students, staff and faculty, who may be impacted by events.
- In recent months, some Canadian universities have been asked by federal Members of Parliament to provide information on institutions' codes of conduct relating to antisemitism and ensuring Jewish students and staff feel safe.
  - It is understood that B.C. universities have complied with providing information.
- Presidents from all 25 public post-secondary institutions participated in a Ministerial dialogue around protests occurring on campuses, and tactics for supporting safety on campuses while not restricting freedom of expression.
- On December 6, 2023 and January 24, 2024, the Council of Canadian Ministers of Education met to share promising practices that have been or are being implemented to counter hate, particularly anti-Semitism and Islamophobia, in elementary, secondary, and post-secondary institutions. Subsequent ministerial meetings are being scheduled.

#### Other Provincial Initiatives

- The Province has launched initiatives to make B.C. a more equitable, inclusive, and welcoming Province. The ministry has supported these efforts as requested by other Ministries.
  - The *Anti-Racism Data Act* became law on June 2, 2022. The collection of race-based data helps identify where people are not getting equitable Government programs and services. It does not currently apply to post-secondary institutions, so there is no legislative requirement for them to report anti-racism data.





- The Province plans to launch a multilingual helpline in Spring 2024 to report racist incidents and refer people to support services.
- Advice/Recommendations; Cabinet Confidences

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**Title: Antisemitism**

**Issue: Actions taken to address rise in incidents of antisemitism**

**Key Facts, Data and Background:**

- Reports of hate-motivated crimes and incidents are increasing in B.C. This includes a rise in antisemitism and Islamophobia.
  - Since the Israel-Hamas conflict began on October 7, 2023, there has been a surge in hate crimes and protests in Vancouver, with the Vancouver Police investigating a 31% increase in hate-crime reports from the previous year, including a 62% rise in antisemitic incidents.
- Public post-secondary campuses have been the site of heated discussions and debates on the Israel-Hamas war, and rallies have been held at multiple campuses across B.C.
- Public post-secondary institutions are responsible for having the appropriate policies and processes in place to ensure campuses are safe for students, faculty, and staff.
- Several institutions have made public statements on current global events and the importance of supporting and ensuring the safety of all students, faculty, and staff.
- As part of these statements, institutions have included information about the supports and services available to students, faculty, and staff who may be impacted by the events.
  - In addition to institution specific supports, all post-secondary students have access to a mental health support called Here2Talk - a 24/7 provincially funded province-wide mental health resource with translation support.
- In November 2023, presidents from all 25 public post-secondary institutions participated in dialogue with the ministry regarding protests occurring on campuses and strategies for supporting safety while not restricting freedom of expression.
- In addition, B.C. has participated in multiple meetings with the Council of Canadian Ministers of Education to share promising practices that have been or are being implemented to counter hate, particularly antisemitism and Islamophobia, in elementary, secondary, and post-secondary institutions.
- Presidents have also responded to requests from federal ministers for information on institutional codes of conduct relating to antisemitism and ensuring Jewish students and staff feel safe.
- The B.C. Government has taken several additional steps to address antisemitism, Islamophobia and hate-motivated crimes and incidents. This includes:



- Launching a dedicated Racist Incident Helpline to offer a low-barrier and safe alternatives for those hesitant to approach police through a confidential and supportive environment.
- Requiring mandatory Holocaust education for high school students by the 2025-26 school year.
- Creating the Anti-Hate Community Support Fund, which offers up to \$10,000 for community organizations enhancing safety and tackling racism, hate crimes, and cultural intolerance, offering benefits to communities impacted by antisemitism and Islamophobia.

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**Title:** *Declaration Act Action Plan – PSFS Items*

**Issue:** Summary of PSFS Actions and Implementation Progress

**Key Facts, Data and Background:**

- The ministry is the lead on four *Declaration Act Action Plan* actions and is involved in an additional five actions led by other Ministries.
- Although the ministry is not officially identified as being involved in Action 3.3 (education system Indigenous racism review), this action will span K-12 and post-secondary education so the ministry is working closely with Ministry of Education and Child Care, the First Nations Education Steering Committee and the First Nations Leadership Council on a plan for implementation.
- The ministry continues to work with Indigenous partners on the other actions and good progress is being made. We are on target to meet our commitments within the remaining 3-year timeframe.

**Status of PSFS Declaration Act Action Plan Items**

PSFS-led Action Plan Items		
Item	Status	Next Steps
<p><b>1.8 (PSFS only)</b> Recognize the integral role of Indigenous-led post-secondary institutes as a key pillar of B.C.’s post-secondary system through the provision of core funding, capacity funding and the development of legislation. This includes institutes mandated by First Nations, as well as a Métis post-secondary institute being developed by Métis Nation BC.</p>	<p>Through the StrongerBC: Future Ready Action Plan, the Ministry of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills secured \$6 million in annual ongoing operating funding for eligible First Nations Mandated Institutes and \$450,000 in annual ongoing capacity funding. The Ministry has undertaken two rounds of stakeholder consultation pertaining to the policy and draft legislation with First Nations and Modern Treaty Nations.</p> <p>In response to the Métis Nation BC business plan, strategic consultations are underway and continue with Métis Nation BC engaging all 40 Chartered Communities.</p>	<p>The proposed legislation is scheduled for Introduction in the Spring 2024 session. This will be followed by collaborative work to develop policies, procedures, and documentation required for implementation.</p>
<p><b>1.9 (PSFS only)</b> A) Work with the Nicola Valley Institute of Technology, and the Urban Native Youth Association to co-develop an urban</p>	<p>A) The Province has funded the business case development for the Urban Indigenous Youth Education Project in collaboration with the Urban Native Youth Association and Nicola Valley of Technology (NVIT)</p>	<p>A) Business case development to continue into 2024/25.</p>

<p><b>Indigenous centre that supports the childcare, housing and post-secondary needs of Indigenous learners, and;</b></p> <p><b>B) strengthen the capacity of the Native Education College to provide culturally relevant post-secondary opportunities for urban Indigenous learners (See also tab 18 Native Education College Estimates note).</b></p>	<p>aiming to establish a new Indigenous youth center in Vancouver and serve as NVIT's Vancouver campus.</p> <p>B) Through the StrongerBC Future Ready Action Plan, ongoing annual funding of \$1.25M has been secured for Native Education College.</p> <p>The ministry is actively collaborating with Native Education College to guide capacity building, operational processes, and secure additional funds required to transition to build its capacity</p>	<p>B) With Ministry of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills' guidance and support, Native Education College nears completion of Implementation Plan steps Advice/Recommendations; Cabinet Confidences</p>
<p><b>4.5 (PSFS only)</b> <b>Co-develop a policy framework for Indigenous post-secondary education and skills training that includes:</b></p>	<p>The development of a new Policy Framework is sequenced after the First Nations institutes legislation. There has been some progress on sub elements of the Action as identified below.</p>	<p>Collaborative work will continue in 2024/25.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Supporting post-secondary institutions to be more culturally relevant and responsive to the needs of First Nations, Métis, and Inuit learners and communities;</li> </ul>	<p>This will be addressed as the Framework is further developed.</p>	<p>Collaborative work will continue in 2024/25.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Expanding the Aboriginal Service Plan program to all 25 public post-secondary institutions;</li> </ul>	<p>The Aboriginal Service Plan program expanded to all 25 public post-secondary institutions in 2022-23.</p>	<p>Collaborative work will continue through 2024/25.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Ensuring that Indigenous learners have access to student housing that is safe, inclusive, and enables them to thrive personally, academically, and culturally;</li> </ul>	<p>Student housing mechanisms have been developed collaboratively with the First Nations Education Steering Committee and Métis Nation BC to expand priority access for Indigenous learners and former youth in care learners.</p>	<p>Advice/Recommendations</p>



<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Developing mechanisms for First Nations, Métis and Inuit learners and communities to play an integral role in public post-secondary institutions’ decision-making; and,</li> </ul>	<p>This will be addressed as the Framework is further developed.</p>	<p>Collaborative work will continue in 2024/25.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Identifying legislative amendments needed to ensure all public post-secondary institution boards include at least one Indigenous person.</li> </ul>	<p>Currently being addressed through policy. This work is sequenced after the First Nations institutes legislation.</p>	<p>On hold until Institutes Legislaton work is complete.</p>
<p><b>4.41 (PSFS and SDPR)</b> <b>Work with First Nations, Métis chartered communities and urban Indigenous organizations to provide funding for self-determined, community-led programs for Indigenous Peoples to upgrade skills, obtain credentials, secure employment, and develop and support community economies.</b></p>	<p>In 2023-2024, the Indigenous Skills Training and Education program provided \$27M in funding to First Nations and First Nation designated partner organizations, Métis Nation BC, and Friendship Centres. This funding supports community-led skills training and post-secondary education, and supports to upgrade skills, secure employment, and grow local economies.</p>	<p>Advice/Recommendations</p>

<b>Other Ministry lead, PSFS supported Action Plan Items</b>		
<b>Item</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Next Steps</b>
<p><b>4.2 (ECC and PSFS)</b> <b>Develop and implement an effective recruitment and retention strategy to increase the number of Indigenous teachers in the K-12 public education system.</b></p>	<p>The First Nations Education Steering Committee, Indigenous Adult and Higher Learning Association, Ministry of Education and Child Care, and Ministry of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills, are working collaboratively to co-develop initiatives to support the training, recruitment and retention of First Nations teachers.</p>	<p>Ministry of Education and Child Care (ECC) and Ministry of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills (PSFS) are consulting with Métis Nation BC, as part of the development of a broader K-12 workforce strategy, to identify priorities and actions specific to Métis teacher recruitment and retention.</p> <p>ECC and PSFS are engaging with existing teacher education programs, the Association of B.C. Deans of Education, and First Nations to develop and implement a plan to support</p>

		community-based teacher education programs.
<b>4.18 (ECC, MCFD, and PSFS)</b> <b>As committed to in the First Nations Children and Youth in Care Protocol, co-develop and implement measures to support improved education outcomes of current and former First Nation children and youth in care, including meaningful data collection to inform policy planning and service delivery.</b>	The Technical Table, consisting of the First Nations Education Steering Committee, First Nations Leadership Council, Ministry of Education and Child Care, Ministry of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills, and Ministry of Children and Family Development, developed a First Nation Children Youth in Care Protocol Workplan and Terms of Reference that were approved by the Minister and First Nations Leadership Oversight Table in November 2023.  The protocol includes bi-annual Oversight Table meetings.	The Technical Table continues to meet, and work continues by all parties to implement Workplan actions.
<b>4.29 (IRR, PSFS, and ECC)</b> <b>Establish an Indigenous-led working group to develop a strategy for the revitalization of Indigenous languages in B.C., including potential legislative supports.</b>	Advice/Recommendations; Interests of an Indigenous People	
<b>4.30 (IRR and PSFS)</b> <b>Support Indigenous language revitalization through sustainable funding.</b>	Through the StrongerBC: Future Ready Action Plan funding, the Ministry of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills provided \$1M in 2023/24 to Six Indigenous Language Fluency Degree pilots. In 2023, the ministry also provided \$876,000 in funding to two Nuu-Chah-Nulth Nations to participate in an Indigenous Language Fluency Certificate Program in partnership with North Island College.	Ministry of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills continues to support the work of the Indigenous Language Fluency degree pilot sites.  Advice/Recommendations; Cabinet Confidences

<b>ECC responsible in Declaration Act Action Plan</b>		
<b>Item</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Next Steps</b>
<b>3.30 (ECC)</b> <b>Conduct an external review of Indigenous-specific racism and discrimination in the provincial public education system, and create a strategy, including</b>	As a result of a request from First Nations Leadership Council in August 2023, the scope of work on this action has expanded to include post-secondary education.  A meeting in November with the First Nations Leadership Council, First	Ministry of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills and Ministry of Education and Child Care have committed to consult with the First Nations Leadership Council and the First Nations Education Steering Committee on the planning and implementation



<b>resources and supports, to address findings.</b>	Nations Education Steering Committee and ministers from Ministry of Education and Child Care and Ministry of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills provided support and direction for moving forward.	of an Indigenous-Specific Racism Review in both the K-12 and post-secondary public education sectors. Métis Nation BC will also be engaged in the work to represent the needs of Métis students in BC.
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**Title:** First Nations-Mandated Institutes Legislation

**Issue:** Development of legislation to recognize and fund eligible First Nations-Mandated Institutes

**Key Facts, Data and Background:**

- Through the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* Action Plan 1.8, the Province committed to “Recognize the integral role of Indigenous-led post-secondary institutes as a key pillar of B.C.’s post-secondary system through the provision of core funding, capacity funding, and the development of legislation. This includes institutes mandated by First Nations...”
- Currently there are over 40 Indigenous Institutes in B.C.; most are First Nations controlled and respond to First Nations communities’ unique priorities and education needs. The institutes provide academic, cultural, and personal services and cover K-12, post-secondary, or both.
- First Nations-mandated Institutes play a critical role in supporting First Nations’ capacity, addressing their workforce needs, revitalizing their languages and cultures, addressing the continuing impacts of colonialism and racism, and fill a need for First Nations and First Nation learners that cannot be met by public Post-Secondary Institutions.
- The ministry has provided operational funding to eligible institutes since 2021/22 and capacity funding twice over the past three years.
- Ongoing funding of \$6.45 million annually has been secured since 2023/24 through StrongerBC: Future Ready Action Plan for operational and capacity funding for eligible institutes.
- The ministry has collaborated extensively with the First Nations Education Steering Committee and the Indigenous Adult and Higher Learning Association to develop legislation to formally acknowledge the integral role of First Nations-Mandated Institutes and commit to stable funding through legislation.
- The First Nations Education Steering Committee is designated by the First Nations Leadership Council as the lead policy and advocacy organization to work with government regarding First Nations Education, including K-12 and post-secondary. The Indigenous Adult and Higher Learning Association represents First Nations-Mandated Post-Secondary Institutes.
- The proposed legislation responds to First Nations Leadership Resolutions.
- The First Nations Education Steering Committee and the Indigenous Adult and Higher Learning Association have reviewed and are supportive of the draft legislation.

- The draft legislation commits to provide annual funding to eligible mandated institutes. The policies and procedures to operationalize the legislation will be developed in consultation and collaboration with First Nations.
- The draft legislation was introduced on April 9, 2024.
- Staff conducted an informal outreach on the policy direction of the legislation to Modern Treaty Nations in fall of 2022. Formal notification to all First Nations and Modern Treaty Nations was undertaken in June 2023 and February 2024. No concerns have been raised from these consultations.

**Title: Indigenous Skills Training and Education Program**

**Issue: Summary of 2023/24 Indigenous skills training and education funding.**

**Key Facts, Data and Background:**

- The ministry provides funding through the Indigenous Skills Training and Education (ISTE) program to First Nations, Métis Nation BC and the BC Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres to deliver self-determined, community-based skills training and post-secondary education leading to labour market participation, further education and training, community revitalization, and socioeconomic well-being.
  - The funding is guided by the Declaration Act Action Plan Item 4.41 to “Work with First Nations, Métis chartered communities and urban Indigenous organizations to provide funding for self-determined, community-led programs for Indigenous Peoples to upgrade skills, obtain credentials, secure employment, and develop and support community economies.”
  - Advice/Recommendations
- 
- In the 2023/24 fiscal year, the Indigenous Skills Training and Education program’s budget is \$31.53M. Government Financial Information
    - Government Financial Information
    - 
    -
  - In 2023/24, Indigenous Skills Training and Education provided \$7.49M to Métis Nation BC, \$2.10M to Friendship Centers and \$21.91M to 72 First Nations, First Nation designated and partner organizations.
  - Projects include essential skills and upgrading, literacy and numeracy, early childhood education, driver’s license training, firefighting, various trades training programs, language training, office administration, food sovereignty, and stewardship initiatives.
  - In addition to training and education, wraparound supports, such as childcare, transportation, life skills, counselling, and cultural supports, are provided to remove barriers to accessing and succeeding in the program (Appendix 1 - Program Examples).
  - Projects are expected to achieve a minimum completion rate of 70%. Employment and/or moving on to further education or training is a desired successful outcome; however, communities can identify other desired outcomes to measure success due to individual, community or labour market situations.



- An outcomes summary has not yet been completed, due to staggered start and end dates of agreements. It is expected that 6,003 participants will have been served, of which 3,477 are expected to move on to employment and 1,111 to further education or training.
- Since 2019, the program has been using an interim approach. In 2022, the program engaged, using a distinctions-based approach, on short-term improvements to the program with a commitment for further engagement and refinement in future years.
- Future engagement is intended to ensure funding is directed in a way that is evidence-informed, outcome-focused, distinctions-based, and aligned with the Declaration Act Action Plan. ¶Interests of an Indigenous People  
Interests of an Indigenous People





#### Appendix 1 Program Examples:

- In 2023/24 the Ahousaht First Nation received \$550K to support 15 members to complete a – language fluency certificate with North Island College. This training will increase the number of language speakers and language instructors for the critically endangered Nuu-chah-nulth language.
- In 2023/24 the Anspayaxw School Society designated by the Kispiox First Nation to act on their behalf, received \$379K to support 20 students with academic upgrading and training in bookkeeping to be professional bookkeepers.
- In 2023/24 the Construction Foundation of BC, designated by Halalt First Nation, received \$380K for Carpentry Level 1, 2, 3, essential skills, and occupational skills training to 16 participants. This training will support Halalt community members to complete their Red Seal in Carpentry and support the Nation to hire its own members to build needed housing and infrastructure in the community.
- In 2023/24, The Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council received \$492K for post-secondary courses with an Indigenous focus in English, Math and Biology at North Island College for a cohort of members that are furthering their education to become teachers.

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**Title:** Indigenous Specific Racism Review – Declaration Act Action Plan Action 3.3

**Issue:** Implementing a Comprehensive Indigenous Racism Review in Education

**Key Facts, Data and Background:**

- The Ministry of Education and Child Care is identified as the lead on Declaration Act Action Plan Action 3.3 which commits to “conduct an external review of Indigenous-specific racism and discrimination in the provincial public education system, and create a strategy, including resources and supports, to address findings.”
- As a result of calls from the First Nations Leadership Council, government committed to conducting a review of racism in the post-secondary system in 2021. The Ministry of Education and Child Care and the Ministry of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills are collaborating with the First Nations Leadership Council and the First Nations Education Steering Committee on a review that includes K-12 through post-secondary.
- In summer 2023, the First Nations Leadership Council shared a draft Terms of Reference and a proposed budget for the initiative.
- The draft Terms of Reference is based on the *In Plain Sight* report which considered Indigenous Racism in the health care system and includes both an inquiry into the report on Indigenous-specific racism and a commitment to make recommendations related to the review.
- Government Financial Information
- 
- In November 2023, the Minister of Education and Child Care and the Minister Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills met with the First Nations Education Steering Committee and First Nations Leadership Council leadership and agreed that staff would form a technical table.
- Advice/Recommendations
- 
- It should be noted that the new *Bill 23: Anti-Racism Act* was introduced in the Legislature on April 11.
- While the Act will require public bodies to undertake a number of actions to address system racism, Advice/Recommendations  
Advice/Recommendations

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**Title:** Indigenous Learners in B.C. Public Post-Secondary

**Issue:** First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Learners Data

**Key Facts, Data<sup>1</sup> and Background:**

- 7.5% (25,410) of domestic learners enrolled in British Columbia public post-secondary institutions in 2021/22 self-identified as Indigenous. Of those:
  - 45% (11,470) First Nations,
  - 20% (5,030) Métis
  - 2% (385) as Inuit
  - 37% (9,350) Indigenous Identity only
- In 2021, 6% of the BC population 15 to 64 years old were Indigenous.
- Compared to non-Indigenous learners, a higher proportion of Indigenous learners are women (60% vs. 53%) and enroll later in life (56% of Indigenous learners are 25 years and older vs. 50% of non-Indigenous learners).

**Transitions to Public Post-Secondary are slightly lower than non-Indigenous transition rates.**

- In 2021/22, the Indigenous learner 5-year cumulative transition rate to public post-secondary was 62% compared to a non-Indigenous learner transition rate of 69%.
- Indigenous women learners have a higher transition rate to public post-secondary than Indigenous men learners (see Table 1).

Table 1. 5-Year Cumulative Transition Rate by Gender, Indigenous Identity and High School Grad Year

Indigenous Identity	Gender	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17
Indigenous	Woman	68%	67%	66%	66%	67%
	Man	59%	60%	59%	59%	57%
<b>Indigenous Total</b>		<b>63%</b>	<b>64%</b>	<b>63%</b>	<b>63%</b>	<b>62%</b>
Non-Indigenous	Woman	73%	73%	73%	71%	70%
	Man	70%	71%	70%	70%	68%
<b>Non-Indigenous Total</b>		<b>72%</b>	<b>72%</b>	<b>71%</b>	<b>71%</b>	<b>69%</b>

Source: Student Transitions Project, Fall 2022 submission

**Enrolment - Regions**

- Indigenous Learners have higher proportions of enrolment in regions outside the Mainland/Southwest in Human and Social Services, Trades, and
- Developmental programs than non-Indigenous learners
- Approximately 11% of all Indigenous learners enrolled at a public post-secondary institution in B.C. are located in the Cariboo/North region.

**Contact:** Chelsea Chalifour Executive Director Labour Market Policy and Research 250-216-0452  
 Fiona Cubitt Executive Director Indigenous Policy and Engagement 778-698-2091

**Last Updated: April 11, 2024**

Table 2. 2021/22 Academic Year Domestic Enrolment and 2021 BC 15- to 64-year-old Population by Region and Indigenous Identity

Development Region	Indigenous		Non-Indigenous	
	Public Post-Secondary Enrolment	Population 15-64 years old	Public Post-Secondary Enrolment	Population 15-64 years old
Cariboo/North	11%	22%	3%	5%
Thompson Okanagan/Kootenay	30%	21%	19%	14%
Mainland/Southwest	38%	34%	64%	65%
Vancouver Island/Coast	21%	23%	15%	16%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>

Source: Student Transitions Project, Fall 2022 submission; Statistics Canada 2021 Census program

### **Enrolment – Institution type**

- A higher proportion of Indigenous learners enroll at Colleges than non-Indigenous learners (see Table 3 below).
- Approximately 35% of all Indigenous learners enrolled at a public post-secondary institution in B.C. are attending a college.

Table 3. 2021/22 Academic Year Domestic Enrolment by Institution Type and Indigenous Identity

Institution Type	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous
Colleges	35%	29%
Institutes	18%	19%
Teaching-Intensive Universities	27%	22%
Research-Intensive Universities	20%	30%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>

Source: Student Transitions Project, Fall 2022 submission

### **Enrolment – Area of study**

- A higher proportion of Indigenous learners enroll in Human and Social Services, Trades, and Developmental programs than non-Indigenous learners (see Table 4).

Table 4. 2021/22 Academic Year Enrolment by Program Area and Indigenous Identity

Program Area	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous
Arts and Sciences	35%	35%
Business and Management	11%	15%
Developmental	11%	4%

Health	11%	12%
Human and Social Services	10%	9%
Trades	8%	4%
Engineering and Applied Sciences	7%	14%
Education	5%	5%
Visual and Performing Arts	3%	3%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>

Source: Student Transitions Project, Fall 2022 submission

**FTEs – Indigenous Learners comprise 7 percent of the total domestic student FTE**

- In the 2021/22 Fiscal Year, Indigenous learners represent 7.0% of domestic FTEs.
- 13,779 Indigenous FTEs system-wide.

**Credentials – Growth in bachelor’s degrees awarded over the past five years**

- 3,755 Credentials were awarded to Indigenous learners in 2021/22, an increase of nearly 10% from the previous year (3,430).
- A higher proportion of credentials awarded to Indigenous learners are at the certificate level than non-Indigenous learners (see Table 5).

Table 5. 2021/22 Fiscal Year Credentials Awarded by Credential Type and Indigenous Identity

Credential Type	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous
Certificate	40%	24%
Bachelors	29%	44%
Diploma	16%	15%
Graduate & First Professional	11%	16%
Developmental	4%	1%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>

Source: Student Transitions Project, Fall 2022 submission

- In the past five fiscal years, the most notable increases in credentials awarded have been for bachelor’s degrees (17%; 935 to 1,095) and graduate and first professional degrees (27%; 340 to 430).
- Although bachelor's, graduate and first professional degree credentials accounted for only 41% of credentials awarded to Indigenous learners in 2021/22, this increase has resulted in the overall increase in credentials awarded.
- The number of eligible Indigenous learners for new teacher certification increased from 2017/18 (75) to 2021/22 (115) by over 50%.

**Student Outcomes – Higher unemployment rates overall except for Baccalaureate grads**

- Indigenous graduates have higher unemployment rates than non-Indigenous graduates in three out of four credential groups.

- Indigenous Baccalaureate Graduates, conversely, had lower rates of unemployment and were also more likely to be employed in a job related to their program (83%) than non-Indigenous Baccalaureate Graduates (76%).

Table 6. Graduate Unemployment Rate: 2020-2021 Student Outcomes Survey Results

Student Survey Group	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous
Diploma Associate Degree and Certificate Students	9.3%	7.6%
Apprenticeship Students	9.0%	3.8%
Trades-related vocational and Trades Foundation Students	18.1%	10.1%
Baccalaureate Graduates	6.1%	7.0%

Source: BC Student Outcomes Surveys

The ministry is working to implement its commitments in the Declaration Act Action Plan including developing and implementing First Nations-mandated Institutes legislation, supporting First Nations languages and teacher education as well as providing community-based program funding for education and skills training.

## Appendix 1 – Success Stories

### Success Story – Indigenous Language Fluency Bachelor’s Degree

- Two years after University of British Columbia Okanagan introduced a bachelor’s degree in Indigenous language fluency, eight students were conferred Bachelor of Nsyilxcn Language Fluency degrees. The University of British Columbia Okanagan delivers the degree through an innovative partnership with Nicola Valley Institute of Technology in Merritt and the En’owkin Centre in Penticton.
- Four additional Indigenous language fluency degrees have launched and one more is under development. These degrees support Indigenous peoples’ rights to develop and transmit their languages, knowledge, and oral traditions.

### Success Story – Indigenous People in Trades Training

- Camosun College’s Indigenous People in Trades Training program is open to Indigenous people of all ages, backgrounds, and skill levels. Indigenous trades students are provided a full support system throughout their apprenticeship journey to becoming Red Seal certified.
- Last summer, Cowichan canoe builder, Francis Wilson, guided Indigenous students to apply their carpentry skills to create cedar paddles with artwork by Coast Salish artist Dylan Thomas. This program supports students to learn traditional skills in their trades training.

- Data included in this note was collected based on learners self-identifying as an Aboriginal person (i.e. First Nations, Métis, or Inuit) at a B.C. public post-secondary institution, or as a person with Aboriginal ancestry in the B.C. K-12 system. The term “Aboriginal” has been replaced with the updated term of “Indigenous” in reference to individuals who identify themselves as First Nations, Métis, or Inuit.

<b>Contact:</b> Chelsea Chalifour	Executive Director	Labour Market Policy and Research	250-216-0452
Fiona Cubitt	Executive Director	Indigenous Policy and Engagement	778-698-2091



**Title:** Native Education College

**Issue:** Advice/Recommendations;  
Cabinet Confidences: of Native Education College

## Key Facts, Data and Background

### Background

- Action 1.9 of the Declaration Act Action Plan commits the ministry to “strengthen the capacity of the Native Education College to provide culturally relevant post-secondary opportunities for urban Indigenous Learners”.
- Native Education College is a non-profit society, designated under the *Private Training Act*. It currently serves approximately 250 students.
- Native Education College is located in Vancouver on the unceded territories of the x<sup>w</sup>məθk<sup>w</sup>əyəm (Musqueam), Sḵwḵwú7mesh (Squamish), and səliłwətał (Tsleil-Waututh) peoples.
- Native Education College’s curricula and methodologies, infused with host Nations’ Longhouse Values, demonstrably lead to employment, break cycles of historic oppression, and improve quality of life for multi-barriered Indigenous people.
- In addition to Indigenous Adult Basic Education, Native Education College offers a range of programs to meet the needs of urban and adult Indigenous learners including business; fine arts; health sciences (incl. Health Care Assistant); humanities and social sciences, and continuing education.
- Native Education College was recently approved to offer its first associate degree in Indigenous Studies and aims to offer the program in September 2024.
- While predominately serving Indigenous needs in the lower mainland, Native Education College offers post-secondary programs to First Nations and Indigenous organizations across the province. Rural and remote examples include: two cohorts of Health Care Assistance training in the Nass Valley at the request of Wilp Wilxo’oskwhl Nisga’a Institute (WWNI) (2022/23); and delivery of Early Childhood Education in Vanderhoof and Squamish in previous years.
- In fiscal year 2023/24, Native Education College received a total of \$5M (\$4,993,903) made up of:
  - \$4.2 million for operations
  - \$791,000 for Indigenous Adult Basic Education, Provincial Tuition Waiver Program, Adult Upgrading Grant and Health Career Access.



Advice/Recommendations; Cabinet Confidences; Intergovernmental Communications

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**Title: Capital Infrastructure**

**Key Facts, Data and Background:**

- The ministry’s capital plan consists of a number of funding envelopes and project funding. *Budget 2024* confirms funding totalling \$3.4 billion for the fiscal plan period (2024/25 to 2026-27), as outlined in the following table:

Funding Envelope	Description	Total Provincial	Total (all sources)
Priority Investments	Previously approved projects, Advice/Recommendations; Interests of an Indigenous People	Advice/Recommendations; Government Financial Information	
Student Housing	Expansion of another 4,000 student housing beds for a total of 12,000 student beds		
Routine Capital	Major maintenance, rehabilitation, upgrades, renovations		
Knowledge Development Fund	Support of research infrastructure at public institutions / affiliated research entities. Program administered by JEDI		
Health Professions	Implementation of the Health Human Resources strategy		
Other	Support for technology, IMIT, and Carbon Neutral funding for institutions		
<b>Total</b>		<b>3,379.7</b>	<b>4,283.2</b>

- As part of the annual capital planning cycle, the ministry receives 5-Year Capital Plan submissions from all public post-secondary institutions, which are compiled and evaluated based on a criteria-based scoring system, which includes:
  - Alignment with government priorities and with institution’s strategic direction, including projects that respond to Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action;
  - Ability to address labour market demand, regional considerations, and learning outcomes; and
  - Institution capacity relative to current projects underway, value for money, urgency/risk (if not approved), and recent capital investments.
- The ministry received requests for Advice/Recommendations; Government Financial Information

**Priority Investment Envelope**

- There are 13 Priority Investment projects approved and underway, totaling \$0.98 billion in provincial investment. Examples include UVIC’s National Centre for Indigenous Laws, UBC’s School of Biomedical Engineering, and the Westshore Learning Centre.



Advice/Recommendations; Government Financial Information

- Advice/Recommendations

### Student Housing Envelope (See Infographic)

- From *Budget 2018* to *Budget 2022*, government invested more than \$0.9 billion to develop 8,000 student housing beds in partnership with public post-secondary institutions. To date, this has resulted in 7,766 new beds from 22 projects across all regions in B.C.
- In *Budget 2023*, government committed another \$1.1 billion to deliver an additional 4,000 affordable student housing beds.
- In Summer 2023, institutions were invited to submit proposals for additional student housing projects, describing alignment with government priorities and other criteria. Shortlisted proposals have now been invited to develop a business case for government consideration. A business case is not a guarantee of government funding.

**Title: Student Housing**

**Issue: Update on expanding student housing**

**Key Facts, Data and Background:**

- Between 2001-2017, government funded 130 student housing beds, while public post-secondary institutions self-funded approximately 9,600 student housing beds.
- Since 2018, government has been making historic investments to expand affordable student housing throughout BC. Over \$2 billion has been committed to develop 12,000 student housing beds in partnership with public post-secondary institutions.
- As of March 2024, 7,766 new student housing beds have been announced (see Appendix A):
  - 4,735 beds via provincial government loans/grants
  - 3,031 beds via PSI self-financing and partnerships
- To date, provincial funding has supported projects at 15 PSIs in all regions of BC. This includes bringing student housing to new communities – Courtenay (NIC), New Westminster (DOUG), Salmon Arm (OKAN) and Vernon (OKAN).
- In Summer 2023, institutions were invited to submit proposals for additional student housing projects. Shortlisted proposals have been invited to develop a business case for government consideration. A business case is not a guarantee of government funding.
- Student housing projects are aligning with government’s priorities and including important amenities.
  - Projects are meeting or exceeding Clean BC targets on energy efficiency.
  - Projects are including important community spaces for students including Indigenous cultural spaces, dining facilities and study areas.
  - Many institutions are incorporating mass timber into their designs.
- The Ministry’s student housing initiative has involved extensive consultation with public post-secondary institutions, Indigenous partners and student societies.
  - This includes co-developing guidance to balance student rights with institutional accountabilities and to provide priority access to student housing for Indigenous learners and current/former youth in care.

**Appendix A:** Student Housing Project Summary - March 2024

**Appendix B:** Advice/Recommendations; Government Financial Information

**Appendix A - Student Housing Project Summary**  
 Ministry of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills  
 As of March 2024

**Student Housing Phase 1**

Project Title	Location	Bed Count	Status	Completion / Target Completion
COTR	Cranbrook	100	Completed	Dec '20
CNC	Prince George	12		Oct '20
CMTN	Terrace	108		Oct '21
TRU	East Village Phase 1	533		Oct '19
UVIC	Saanich	621		Aug '23
UBCO	Kelowna	220		Aug '21
SFU	Burnaby	386		May '23
TRU	Kamloops	148		Oct '23
SELK	Nelson	36		Under Construction
SELK	Castlegar	114	Summer 2024	
OKAN	Kelowna	216	Spring 2024	
OKAN	Vernon	100	Summer 2024	
OKAN	Salmon Arm	60	Summer 2024	
CAPU	North Vancouver	362	Summer 2025	
BCIT	Burnaby	470	Spring 2025	
NIC	Courtenay	217	Summer 2025	
UFV	Abbotsford	398	Summer 2025	
DOUG	New Westminster	368	Summer 2027	
VIU	Nanaimo	266	Design/Planning	Summer 2026
<b>Total</b>		<b>4,735</b>		

**Student Housing Phase 2**

Submission Title	Estimated Bed Count	Intake	Anticipated Date for Review/Approval
<b>Intake 1 - Spring 2024</b>			
Advice/Recommendations			
<b>Intake 2 - Spring 2025</b>			
Advice/Recommendations			



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Advice/Recommendations ; Government Financial Information

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**Title:** Fair Credential Recognition Office Implementation

**Issue:** Financial and human resources required to implement the *International Credentials Recognition Act*

**Key Facts, Data and Background:**

- The Fair Credential Recognition Office will be a newly configured work unit in the Ministry of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills, bringing together two teams currently operating separately within the ministry as the Credential Recognition Improvement Branch and the Office of the Superintendent of Professional Governance.
- The combined work unit will have an annual budget of approximately \$3.1 million in 2024/25 and will consist of approximately 15 to 20 FTEs. It will be led by a single individual appointed as Superintendent, under both the *International Credentials Recognition Act* and the *Professional Governance Act*. The work unit will also administer.
- The budget previously assigned to the Credential Recognition Improvement Branch will contribute \$2.1 million in 2024/25 to the operations of the combined work unit. This amount includes:
  - A base budget lift in *Budget 2023* of \$281,000 in 2023/24 and \$373,000 in 2024/25 for FTEs needed to advance the priority initiative of streamlining international credential recognition (including the development and implementation of new legislation).
  - The \$1 million Credential Assessment Improvement Fund, which provides financial support for initiatives to remove unnecessary barriers to credential recognition.
- The budget previously assigned to the Office of the Superintendent of Professional Governance will contribute \$1 million in 2024/25 to the operations of the combined work unit.
  - This amount includes an adjustment of \$400,000 for the Ministry in *Budget 2024* for program expenditures previously funded by the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy.
- There are no plans to request additional funding for the office and its ongoing operations.

**Contact:** Kate Haines

Acting Superintendent

OSPG

250-882-7385

Eben Watt

Acting Executive Director

CRIB

250-886-1379

**Last Updated:** April 12, 2024

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Table 1: Funding sources for combined work unit (\$ millions)

		2023/24	2024/25
<b>Credential Recognition Improvement Branch</b>	Base budget	0.425	0.474
	Credential Assessment Improvement Fund	1.000	1.000
	Budget 2023 lift for <i>International Credentials Recognition Act</i>	0.281	0.654
<b>Office of the Superintendent of Professional Governance</b>	Base Budget	0.624	0.658
	ENV contribution	0.406	
	Budget 2024 adjustment to replace ENV contribution	-	0.400
<b>Total</b>			<b>3.186</b>

**Title:**      **Implementing International Credentials Recognition Act**

**Issue:**      **Mandate letter commitment to implement the International Credentials Recognition Act and strengthen resources for the evaluation of internationally obtained credentials.**

**Key Facts, Data and Background:**

- The International Credentials Recognition Act received Royal Assent on Nov 8, 2023 and is expected to come into force in summer 2024.
- The International Credentials Recognition Act applies to 18 B.C. professional regulatory authorities responsible for 29 occupations as in scope of the Act (Appendix 1).
- This work follows B.C.'s efforts to strengthen the health care workforce through the Health Human Resources Strategy and the Health Professions and Occupations Act, as well as the efforts to improve the skilled trades workforce through the Skilled Trades BC Act. The International Credentials Recognition Act does not apply to the regulatory authorities and professions under the Health Professions and Occupations Act.
- The International Credentials Recognition Act will reduce barriers for internationally trained professionals seeking jobs in regulated occupations by addressing:
  - **Fairness** — Require fair credential assessment processes including:
    - Replacing Canadian work experience requirements with competency-based assessments (with limited exemptions).
    - Honouring valid English language test results supplied by applicants even if they expire before the regulator makes a determination on the application.
    - Charging international applicants comparable fees to those charged to domestic applicants.
  - **Efficiency** — Set expectations for application processing timelines and require regulators to communicate certification decision to applicants within 14 days of making a determination.
  - **Transparency** — Require regulators to publish clear and complete information about international credential recognition processes online.
  - **Accountability** — Establish annual reporting requirements to enhance regulators' accountability both to the government and the public.
- As part of the development of the legislation, the Ministry engaged in substantial public engagement in Spring 2023. These engagements were conducted through meetings, roundtables and an online survey. Over 1,450 people provided input through the engagement process and the results were published online (What We Heard: Public Engagement on International Credential Recognition).
- The Ministry also reviewed similar legislation across Canadian jurisdictions to identify best practices and opportunities for enhanced measures.

- The International Credentials Recognition Act matches or exceeds many elements of similar legislation in other Canadian provinces, particularly with respect to prohibiting Canadian work experience requirements.
- B.C. will build on the expertise of the Office of the Superintendent of Professional Governance – a made in B.C. approach to ensuring modern professional governance and protection of the public’s best interest – to appoint a superintendent responsible for promoting fair credential recognition who will offer guidance to professional regulatory authorities on compliance with the International Credentials Recognition Act.
- B.C. continues to support professional regulatory authorities to make improvements to their credential recognition processes for internationally trained professionals through the Credential Assessment Improvement Fund.
- The Credential Assessment Improvement Fund is allocated \$1 million each fiscal year (FY), which is used to fund 1 FTE and up to \$900,000 in project-based initiatives to improve fairness and efficiency of credential recognition processes and increase access to information for internationally trained professionals.
- In FY 23/24 the Credential Assessment Improvement Fund invested \$590,000 in projects led by professional regulatory authorities (see Appendix 2). A further \$160,000 was spent on the development of the International Credentials Recognition Act.
- Credential recognition is included in Recommendations #31 and #86 of the Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services Report on the Budget 2024 Consultation (pp. 31, 56, 101, 104).
  - 31. “Address labour shortages by working with the federal government to improve immigration processes, including:
    - a. implementing a streamlined foreign employer registry process;
    - b. increasing funding for credential recognition for foreign workers; and
    - c. increasing the resources and support available for immigrant settlement services and credential recognition and upgrading.”
  - 86. “Address staff shortages in the health care sector through:
    - a. recruitment and retention incentives;
    - b. streamlining credential recognition for out-of-BC health care providers;
    - c. providing funding for the completion of minor training variances for internationally trained professionals; and
    - d. increasing post-secondary seats in areas such as nursing, medical radiation technology, midwifery, and speech language pathology and audiology.”
- The Mandate Letter for the Minister of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills (PSFS) included direction to work closely with the Parliamentary Secretary for International Credentials and ensure they receive appropriate support to deliver on the priorities outlined in the mandate letter issued to them.





- The mandate letter of the Parliamentary Secretary for International Credentials includes commitments to:
  - work with the Minister of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills and the Office of the Superintendent for International Credential Recognition to implement the International Credentials Recognition Act,
  - lead the expansion of clear, faster career paths for skilled immigrants, and
  - engage with stakeholders to identify persisting issues and barriers that prevent internationally trained professionals from fully participating in the workforce.

**Appendix 1: Regulatory Authorities and Professions under the *International Credentials Recognition Act***

**Schedule 1**

Regulatory Authority	Regulated Profession
Association of British Columbia Land Surveyors	Land surveyor
British Columbia College of Social Workers	Social worker Registered clinical social worker
British Columbia Registered Music Teachers' Association	Registered music teacher
British Columbia Society of Landscape Architects	Landscape architect
College of Veterinarians of British Columbia	Veterinarian
Organization of Chartered Professional Accountants of British Columbia	Chartered professional accountant

**Schedule 2**

Regulatory Authority	Regulated Profession
Applied Science Technologists and Technicians of British Columbia	Applied science technologist Certified technician
Architectural Institute of British Columbia	Architect
Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of the Province of British Columbia	Professional engineer Professional geoscientist
Association of British Columbia Forest Professionals	Registered professional forester Registered forest technologist
British Columbia Institute of Agrologists	Professional agrologist Technical agrologist
College of Applied Biology	Applied biology technician Professional biologist Registered biology technologist

**Schedule 3**

Regulatory Authority	Regulated Profession
Superintendent of Real Estate under the <i>Real Estate Services Act</i> [BC Financial Services Authority]	Associate broker Managing broker Representative
Director of certification under the <i>Teachers Act</i> [Teacher Regulation Branch]	Professional certificate holder Conditional certificate holder
Director of the early childhood educator registry under the <i>Community Care and Assisted Living Act</i> [Early Childhood Educator Registry]	Early childhood educator Early childhood educator assistant
Emergency Medical Assistants Licensing Board	Emergency medical assistants
Law Society of British Columbia	Lawyer
Society of Notaries Public of British Columbia	Notary public

**Appendix 2: Credential Assessment Improvement Fund (CAIF) Projects funded in 2023/24**

Regulator	Project Title	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
<b>Architectural Institute of British Columbia (AIBC)</b>	Online Delivery of AIBC Courses			\$50,000	
	Mutual Recognition Agreement with the United Kingdom			\$10,000	\$10,000
<b>Association of British Columbia Forest Professionals (ABCFFP)</b>	Omnibus Project: Credential Assessment Challenge Exams, Associate Registrant Category Development, Website Redevelopment Project, and Harmonizing Forest Technology Certification Standards	\$150,000	\$70,000	\$30,000	
	Registration Management System Expansion			\$40,000	\$40,000
	Redesigning Business Processes for Credential Assessment			\$10,000	\$10,000
<b>Applied Science Technologists and Technicians of British Columbia (ASTTBC)</b>	Technology Registrations Canada Data Reporting			\$4,000	\$3,140
	Certified Technician Certification Exam			\$20,000	\$30,000
	Illustrative Material Project			\$0	\$1,500
<b>British Columbia College of Nurses and Midwives (BCCNM)</b>	Enhancing Assessment Fairness for Internationally Trained Nurses Seeking Registration	\$80,000	\$10,000	\$60,000	
<b>British Columbia College of Social Workers (BCCSW)</b>	Improving Assessment Timelines			\$3,000	\$4,500
	Data Management System and Website Enhancement			\$20,000	\$40,000
<b>British Columbia Institute of Agrologists</b>	Updates to Data System and Website			\$10,000	\$10,000
<b>Chartered Professional Accountants</b>	Updates to Database Reporting and Online Application Portal			\$26,625	\$26,625



Regulator	Project Title	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
<b>of British Columbia (CPABC)</b>	Fact Sheets Translation: CPA Profession in BC			\$0	\$22,200
<b>College of Applied Biologists (CAB)</b>	Legal Framework Credentials Training			\$35,000	
	Foreign Jurisdiction Scan			\$16,000	\$16,000
	College Database Improvements for International Credentials Recognition Act Reporting			\$9,680	\$0
<b>College of Dietitians of British Columbia (CDBC)</b>	Knowledge Assessment Review for International Applicants	\$15,000	\$45,000	\$45,000	
<b>College of Opticians of British Columbia (COBC)</b>	Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (PLAR) Improvement Readiness - Improvement Project	\$59,000	\$87,900	\$8,300	
<b>College of Physical Therapists of British Columbia (CPTBC)</b>	Preparing Internationally Educated Physical Therapists for Successful Practice in British Columbia and Canada		\$40,000	\$80,000	
<b>Engineers and Geoscientists British Columbia (EGBC)</b>	Enhancing International Credential Recognition Admissions Comprehension <sup>1</sup>			\$112,500	\$75,000
	<b>TOTAL COMMITMENT</b> (For FY 23/24 New and Continuing Projects)	<b>\$304,000</b>	<b>\$252,900</b>	<b>\$590,105</b>	<b>\$288,965</b>

<sup>1</sup> An additional \$37,500 is committed in 2025/26.

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**Title:** International Education/British Columbia Council for International Educational (BCCIE)

**Issue:** International education and BCCIE

*\*Note – Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) changes and impact covered in “International Education Framework” estimates note Tab 27*

**Key Facts:**

- In 2022, there were 217,410 international students in B.C. – an increase of 115% since 2013. This represents nearly 21% of all international students in Canada, second to Ontario.
- 80% of all international students in B.C. study in the Lower Mainland; 10% in Vancouver Island/Coast; 8% in the Southern Interior; 2% in the North.
- Of the 217,410 international students in B.C. in 2021, 176,160 (81%) were at the post-secondary level: 81,545 at public post-secondary institutions and 94,615 at private post-secondary institutions.
- In 2022,<sup>1</sup> 19% of public post-secondary students were international, up from 8% in 2013. Public post-secondary institutions generated \$1.49 billion in international tuition revenue, which was 19% of total revenue for the institutions.
- International students also support broader economic activity. In 2019, they spent over \$6.6 billion on tuition, accommodation and living expenses, arts, culture, and recreation, supporting an estimated 53,400 jobs in communities throughout the province.<sup>2</sup>

***International Student Tuition***

- International student tuition at public post-secondary institutions is set by the Board of Governors of each institution, independent of government.
- On average, international students pay four times more tuition than domestic students.
- Government’s current guidelines encourage institutions to set international tuition at a level that covers direct costs and overhead, so that taxpayers do not subsidize international students.
- Students, stakeholders, and the Legislature budget consultations have recommended that the ministry provide predictable fees to international students.
- On January 29, 2024, the ministry announced it would implement new enrolment guidelines for public institutions that set expectations that public post-secondary institutions provide international students with transparent tuition fee costs over the standard duration of the student’s study program, including any maximum expected increases in tuition.

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<sup>1</sup> For the public post-secondary data, 2022 represents the 2021/22 academic year.

<sup>2</sup> An Update on the Economic Impact of International Education in British Columbia, Dr. Roslyn Kunin, 2020 (unpublished).

### ***International Student Supports***

- The ministry is implementing new measures that will establish higher standards and greater accountability for educational institutions in B.C. These measures will ensure the delivery of a high-quality education and strengthen the safeguards, supports, and services available to international students throughout their education experience and following graduation.
- Supports are available to international students through public post-secondary institutions such as student housing, information on housing options in the community, financial assistance through bursaries and emergency funding, food bank services, and mental health support to respond to individual needs.
- International students have access to mental health support through Here2Talk – Government’s free 24/7 province-wide mental health resource with translation support.
- B.C. provides settlement and integration services to eligible post-secondary international students, graduates and other newcomers through the BC Settlement and Integration Services Program (funded through Municipal Affairs).
- The Province will continue to work with students, institutions, and newcomer services to ensure international students have access to the supports they need.

### ***The BC Council for International Education (BCCIE)***

- BCCIE works with government, public and private post-secondary institutions, and K-12 school districts to support delivery of quality international education and to help keep B.C. a leader in this sector.
- BCCIE’s 2023 mandate letter is aligned with ministry international education priorities to develop protections for international students that support their fair treatment across the sector and ensure a quality educational experience.
- BCCIE’s recent accomplishments include:
  - Delivered the annual B.C. International Education Week conference, with sessions on intercultural approaches and Indigenization, international education strategic plans, and supports for international students. Included delegations from Thailand, the Philippines, and Mexico.
  - Hosted an online two-day symposium on best practices, priorities, and challenges in supporting international students.
  - Coordinated an education partnership initiative to Mexico to build student and faculty mobility and other academic partnerships between B.C. and Mexico.
  - Hosted in person capacity building event in the Kootenays and continued planning a further capacity building event in northern B.C.
  - Ongoing mentorship support and guidance for capacity building to individual B.C. public post-secondary institutions.



**Title: International Education Framework**

**Issue: B.C.'s International Education Framework and the federal cap on study permit applications.**

**Key Facts, Data and Background:**

***International Education Framework***

- In 2022, there were 217,410 international students in B.C. – an increase of 115% since 2013.
- International education is a valuable tool to help ensure B.C. attracts the talent B.C. needs for a productive and innovative economy.
- However, the rapid, concentrated growth in the number of international students in the province created benefits, tensions, trade-offs, and a need for government direction.
- The ministry engaged with public and private-sector post-secondary institutions, international students, faculty, and other sector stakeholders to establish an International Education Framework.
- On January 29, 2024, the ministry announced new measures to improve quality, raise standards, and ensure greater accountability for institutions in B.C. as a first phase of a broader Framework.
- These actions include:
  - Implementation of a two-year moratorium on new Education Quality Assurance designations, stopping new entrants to the federal Designated Learning Institutions list.
  - New enrolment guidelines for public institutions that set expectations for maximum international enrolment levels, tuition transparency and student supports.
  - Requiring public institutions to develop and implement international education strategic plans that guide the institution's activities, manage enrolment levels within expected maximums, and plan support services to meet student needs.
  - Changes to criteria governing private degree-granting institutions which include a stronger evaluation process for new degree proposals at existing institutions and higher standards for new degree programs.
  - Stronger organizational standards for private degree-granting institutions regarding enrolment plans, governance and administration, facilities, faculty and staff, diversity and anti-racism requirements, and student supports such as housing.
  - Policy changes to strengthen oversight of private training institutions that increase inspections, strengthen and publish compliance and enforcement actions, set minimum language requirements, and set higher standards for distance delivery.

- Other actions planned over the coming months include regulation changes and dedicated compliance capacity in the ministry to support increased inspections and enforcement.

### ***Federal Study Permit Application Cap***

- On January 22, 2024, the federal Department of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada announced changes to the international student program including:
  - An intake cap on study permit applications to stabilize new growth for two years.
  - Revoking Post-Graduate Work Permits for students in programs contracted-out by public institutions to private colleges (principally in Ontario).
  - Spousal open work permits becoming available only to graduate-level students.
- Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada set a national intake cap of 606,250 study permit applications that are expected to result in 360,000 approved study permits in 2024.
- Students in master's and doctoral degree programs, and current study permit holders, will not be affected by study permit application caps.
- The temporary measure will be in place for two years. The number of new study permit applications that will be accepted in 2025 will be reassessed at the end of 2024.
- Each province received an allocation within the federal cap. B.C. has been allocated 83,000 study permit applications, which are expected to result in at least 50,000 approved study permits based on historical approval rates. This compares to approximately 60,000 approved study permits for B.C. in 2023.
- Provinces and territories are required to issue an attestation letter for each student to submit to Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada with their study permit application.
- B.C. acted promptly and launched our attestation system March 4, 2024.
- The distribution for the provincial attestation letters was 53% for public post-secondary institutions and 47% for private institutions. The distribution is based on supporting public post-secondary institutions to maintain their international student programs while managing growth for this year and for future years.
- The allocations allow those public post-secondary institutions with sustainable international enrolment to maintain their international student programs. Private institutions that have pursued unsustainable growth will see the greatest impact of the reduced allocation.
- The ministry will continue to engage with the federal government, post-secondary institutions and other partners to support international students during this process and minimize disruption to their study plans.

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**Title:** Sexualized Violence Policy

**Issue:** Status of mandate commitment to develop and deliver a Sexualized Violence Action Plan and other work relating to Sexualized Violence Policy

**Key Facts, Data and Background:**

*Mandate item: Sexualized Violence Action Plan*

- The ministry is on track to complete a Post-Secondary Sexualized Violence Action Plan (Action Plan) by Summer 2024, as per the Minister’s mandate commitment:
  - *With support from the Parliamentary Secretary for Gender Equity, and in partnership with post-secondary institutions, student leadership, and Indigenous partners across B.C., develop and deliver on an action plan related to preventing and responding to sexualized violence at post-secondary institutions.*
- The Action Plan is also a key deliverable within the Government-wide Gender-Based Violence Action Plan, released in December 2023. PSFS staff are working closely with the Gender Equity Office and the cross-government Gender-Based Violence Action Plan Working Group to ensure alignment.
- The ministry staff received Minister direction to develop a draft Action Plan internally and then engage with the post-secondary sector for validation. This approach minimizes repetitive consultation and acknowledges the recommendations and feedback received from the sector through significant consultation over the last several years.
  - External engagement to validate the draft Action Plan is scheduled to be completed by April 2024, and includes engagement with post-secondary partners, students, and First Nations, Métis, and Inuit.
  - In addition to scheduled engagement sessions, written feedback will be accepted via email or an anonymous online feedback form.

*Awareness and training initiatives*

- The ministry is continuing to support further sexualized violence awareness, prevention, and response resources for post-secondary institutions.
  - In late 2021, the ministry secured \$500K in funding from Women and Gender Equality Canada for a two-year project to develop intersectional training resources to address technology-facilitated sexualized violence and the impacts of sexualized violence on Indigenous, graduate, and international students.
    - Resources are currently being finalized and piloted at B.C. public post-secondary institutions. The anticipated completion is Summer 2024.
  - In January 2024, Women and Gender Equality Canada provided an additional \$77.7K to support translating the international student resource into Chinese (Simplified), Hindi, Portuguese, Punjabi, Spanish, and Vietnamese, to help increase accessibility to this resource for staff, faculty, and students across B.C.

- Since Fall 2018, the B.C. Government has run an information campaign to help prevent sexualized violence on and around post-secondary institutions. Government will continue work to ensure campaigns are attentive to the needs of the sector.

### *Legislation and Policy*

- In 2022, the ministry reviewed all 25 public post-secondary institutions sexualized violence policies to inform potential legislative amendments to the *Sexual Violence and Misconduct Policy Act* (the Act).
  - Advice/Recommendations
- 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 Act to adopt the 11 minimum standards outlined by Students for Consent Culture Canada.
  - Allocate at least \$5 million per year for on-campus sexualized violence support services.
    - To date, there has not been dedicated ongoing funding provided to post-secondary institutions specifically for sexualized violence initiatives.
    - Institutions have discretion to determine funding for sexualized violence initiatives within their budget.
  - These Calls to Action are being considered among other feedback and recommendations in the development and validation of the Action Plan.
- On January 29, 2024, the *Intimate Images Protection Act* came into force. Introduced by the Ministry of Attorney General, the standalone legislation prohibits the sharing of intimate images without consent.
  - The *Intimate Images Protection Act* includes a consequential amendment to the *Sexual Violence and Misconduct Policy Act* to update the definition of non-consensual distribution of intimate images.

### *Select Standing Committee*

- This work aligns with the recommendations from the Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services, including: (3) complete the post-secondary education funding review and implement an updated funding model that (c) expands access to trauma-informed sexual violence support, (133) provide comprehensive supports to people experiencing gender-based violence, and (136) invest in violence prevention, including committing annual funding for sexualized violence prevention offices, programs, and initiatives at post-secondary campuses across B.C.

**Title: Student Mental Health Initiatives**

**Issue: Initiatives to improve post-secondary student mental health and well-being**

**Key Facts, Data and Background:**

- Improving student mental health is an integral part of “A Pathway to Hope,” B.C.’s roadmap for making the system of mental health and addictions care better for all British Columbians.
- Young people between 15 and 24 are more likely to report mental illness and/or substance use disorders than other age groups.
- Mental health supports were referenced in the Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services (SSFGS) recommendations on the Budget 2024 Consultation. The ministry’s position is consistent with Recommendation 3(c) to expand “access to student supports and health services, including...counselling, and other mental health services for all students,”  
Advice/Recommendations; Cabinet Confidences
- The ministry’s Here2Talk program is a 24/7 mental health service. It is available to all students registered at a B.C. post-secondary institution for no fee (approximately 555,000 students at 25 public and more than 320 private institutions). Key facts about the service include:
  - Launched in April 2020 with an annual budget of \$1.5 million, with online, app-based and phone options.
  - Offers confidential and immediate support, vital information, as well as referrals to helpful services available on campus or in communities.
  - Services are available in English and French with additional languages upon request (e.g., Punjabi, Mandarin, Cantonese, Spanish, Arabic). Additional languages may be added based on student demand.
  - Telus Health is Here2Talk’s service delivery provider, with a contract that runs to January 2026.
  - Between April 2020 and December 2023, services have been accessed more than 34,870 times.
  - Students used the chat feature approximately 70% of the time and the phone feature approximately 30% of the time.
  - 73% of students said Here2Talk provided them with the support and tools they needed, while 69% would refer their friend or classmate to the service.

- Through an \$850,000 investment between 2019-2022, the ministry worked with BCcampus to develop open-licensed, free mental health literacy resources for students, as well as training resources for faculty and staff, on how to support student mental wellness, including:
  - *Capacity to Connect: Supporting Students' Mental Health and Wellness - Facilitator's Guide for Use with Faculty and Staff*
  - *Starting a Conversation about Mental Health: Foundational Training for Students - Facilitator's Guide for Use with Students*
  - *Let's Talk about Suicide: Raising Awareness and Supporting Student - Facilitator's Guide for Use with Faculty and Staff*
  - *Starting a Conversation about Suicide: Foundational Training for Students - Facilitator's Guide for Use with Students*
  - *Nanihtsulyaz 'int'en (Do things gently) / ʔes zuminstwáx kt (We take care of one another): The Role of Indigenous Elders in Student Mental Health and Wellness in the B.C. Post-Secondary Education Environment*



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**Title:** Proposed Priority Investment – Medical School at Simon Fraser University in Surrey

**Issue:** Interim and Permanent Space Capital Solutions

**Key Facts, Data and Background:**

- Advice/Recommendations
- 
- The Medical School at Simon Fraser University project was announced in November 2022, and is part of the comprehensive strategy to improve patient care and address the critical shortage of physicians in BC.
- The new medical school is on schedule to open in fall 2026 with 48 seats, growing to 120 seats at full capacity.
- Government has provided a total of \$14.0 million in operational funding to SFU since the 2021/22 fiscal year to support the development of the business case, accreditation, curriculum planning and recruitment of key staff through to March 31, 2025.
- An ongoing operating funding commitment, confirmed through Budget 2024, will allow SFU to continue to develop the curriculum, hire staff and faculty, seek program approvals through its Senate and Board of Governors, and continue to build out its partnership with Fraser Health.
- The Ministry continues to work closely with the Ministry of Health and with SFU to ensure strong project and financial oversight as well as alignment with health system and capital infrastructure needs.

**Capital:**

- Advice/Recommendations
- Advice/Recommendations; Government Financial Information



- Construction of a new permanent medical education facility will not be completed in time for the first student intake in 2026, which creates a need for interim space to run the program temporarily.

- Advice/Recommendations

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**Title:** Skilled Trades Certification Phase 1: Results

**Issue:** Implementation status of first seven Skilled Trades Certification trades

**Key Facts, Data and Background:**

- In June 2021, Cabinet approved skilled trades certification (STC) for 10 trades, which requires workers in these trades to be either a certified journeyperson or registered as an apprentice.
- Cabinet also approved a plan for implementing skilled trades certification (STC) trades in two phases, along with mandating the development of a permanent process for designating future compulsory certification trades.
- The first phase of implementation occurred in December 2022 with a one-year transition period completed on December 1, 2023. This phase included seven mechanical and electrical trades:
  - Gasfitter Class A and B;
  - Steamfitter/pipefitter;
  - Refrigeration and air-conditioning mechanic;
  - Sheet metal worker;
  - Powerline technician;
  - Industrial electrician; and,
  - Electrician (construction).
- SkilledTradesBC has undertaken an evaluation of the implementation of the first seven trades and is preparing a final report for submission to the ministry in spring 2024.
- Preliminary data from SkilledTradesBC indicates skilled trades certification (STC) is successfully meeting government priorities. New apprentice registrations in all 10 skilled trades certification (STC) trades between April to December 2023 is up by 28% or 7,733 new apprentices over the same period last year.
- Success indicators for the first seven Phase 1 trades between April 2023 and March 2024 include:
  - A 20% increase in the number of Certificate of Qualifications (CofQs) issued (for a total of 1,801 CofQs). Details are provided in the chart below.

CofQs Issued in STC Trades to Apprentices and Trade Qualifiers	YTD FY2023/24	YTD % Change (vs 2022/23)
Phase 1 Total	1,801	20%
Electrical Trades	1,308	20%
Mechanical Trades	493	19%

- Of these 1,801 CofQs, 248 were issued to Trade Qualifiers<sup>1</sup>, an increase of 77% from the previous year.
- Additionally, there has been 172% increase in the number of skilled trades workers that have applied to challenge the certification exam (for a total of 1,887). Details provided in the chart below.

Trade Qualifiers Applications	YTD FY2023/24 (Apr-Dec 2023)	YTD % Change (vs Apr-Dec 2022)
Phase 1 Total	1,887	172%
Electrical	1,566	185%
Mechanical	321	120%

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<sup>1</sup> Trade Qualifiers are highly experienced tradespeople who wish to have their skills recognized and certified without completing an apprenticeship.



**Title:** Skilled Trades Certification Phase 2: Automotive Trades

**Issue:** Implementation Status of Skilled Trades Certification for Automotive Trades

**Key Facts, Data and Background:**

- In June 2021, Cabinet approved skilled trades certification (STC) for 10 trades, which requires workers in these trades to be either a certified journeyperson or registered as an apprentice.
- The first phase of implementation occurred in December 2022 with a one-year transition period for the first seven mechanical (see tab 34) completed on December 1, 2023.
- Phase two, includes the remaining three automotive trades: heavy-duty equipment technician, automotive service technician and autobody and collision technician.
- SkilledTradesBC held consultation sessions with industry regarding the introduction of the three automotive trades in February, 2024.
- The Ministry is currently reviewing the implementation schedule for the three automotive trades.
- Even though skilled trades certification (STC) automotive trades have not yet been introduced in regulation, total new apprentice registrations in the three skilled trades certification (STC) automotive trades have increased slightly (1,968 apprenticeship registrations) from 2023/24. Details provided in chart below.

New Apprenticeship Registrations in STC Trades	FY2023/24	% Change from 2022/23
STC Total	7,733	28%
Phase 2 Automotive Trades	1,968	1%

- Another positive indicator is that there has been a 60% increase in the number of Certificates of Qualification issued to skilled trades certification (STC) automotive Trades Qualifiers<sup>1</sup> between April and December 2023 from the previous year (150 CofQs). Details provided in chart below.

Trade Qualifiers - Certificates of Qualification Issued in STC Trades	YTD FY2023/24 (Apr-Dec 2023)	YTD % Change (vs Apr-Dec 2022)
STC Total	538	65%
Phase 2 Automotive Trades	190	47%

<sup>1</sup> Trade Qualifiers are highly experienced tradespeople who wish to have their skills recognized and certified without completing an apprenticeship.

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**Title: Skilled Trades Certification Phase 3: Future Trades**

**Issue: Implementation Status of Current and Future Skilled Trades Certification Trades**

**Key Facts, Data and Background:**

- In June 2021, Cabinet approved a plan for implementing 10 Skilled Trades Certification trades in two phases, along with mandating the development of a permanent process for designating future compulsory certification trades.
- In summer 2023, SkilledTradesBC met this directive by establishing a fair and transparent process which enabled B.C. businesses, labour organizations, industry associations, Indigenous organizations and communities that work or have an interest in the trades to apply to for their trade to be designated as a skilled trades certification (STC) trade.
- Advice/Recommendations

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**Title:** Trades Training Data

**Issue:** SkilledTradesBC and Ministry Trades Training Outcomes

**Key Facts, Data and Background:**

*Highlights:*

- Currently, there is a record 46,400 registered apprentices in the province – the highest ever.
- Over the past 10 years, Indigenous Peoples' representation in the trades training and apprenticeship system has continually increased in B.C. - from 4.6% to 8.8% of all apprenticeships.
- In 2023/24 1,718 Indigenous People entered the skilled trades – a 14% increase over the previous year.
- SkilledTradesBC reported 4,962 women in apprenticeships at the end of fiscal 2023/24, representing 10.7% of all active apprenticeships.
- In 2023/24, there was a 25% increase (1,341) in women entering (new registrations) under-represented skilled trades such as construction electrician, carpenter, automotive services technician, heavy duty equipment technician and cabinetmaker.
  - There has been a 98% increase in women entering under-represented trades since 2017/18.
- Last year, SkilledTradesBC reached the highest participation of youth in the skilled trades ever with over 10,000 youth ages 16-26 participating in the skilled trades.
- The implementation of skilled trades certification formally recognizes the skills of trades workers and attracts more people to trades careers. New apprentice registrations in all 10 skilled trades certification trades 2023/24 is up by 28% or 7,733 new apprentices over 2022/23.
- There were also 2,656 Certifications of Qualifications issued in Skilled Trades Certification trades in 2023/24 – a 12% increase over last year.
- 1,300 employers and 2,534 apprentices participated in SkilledTradesBC's latest annual satisfaction survey and were highly satisfied with the level of support they received when interacting with the SkilledTradesBC staff.

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**Title:** Trades Training Investments and Performance

**Issue:** SkilledTradesBC and Ministry investments into BC's trades training system

**Key Facts, Data and Background:**

*SkilledTradesBC Investments*

- In 2024/25, SkilledTradesBC's budget is \$106.96 million for service delivery and program management as outlined in the 2024/25 – 2026/27 Service Plan.
- In addition, SkilledTradesBC receives funding from the Canada-British Columbia Workforce Development Agreement to deliver pre-apprenticeship training for Indigenous people and those in equity deserving groups.
- In 2023/24, SkilledTradesBC invested \$73.08 million for 28,295 seats of which 12,935 are for Skilled Trades Certification trades. This is about 630 more seats than 2022/23.
- The number of seats delivered can increase or decrease slightly from year to year in response to economic fluctuations.
  - When the economy is strong and people are working - earning good wages, they often choose to stay in the workforce rather than attend technical training.
  - This can result in a lower than anticipated demand for seats.
  - Even though they continue to work, they are still progressing through their apprenticeship by completing the work-based training hours necessary for certification.
  - B.C.'s economy continues to be strong, unemployment is at an all time low, especially in the construction sector.
- Each year, SkilledTradesBC provides over \$5 million to school districts to support pre-apprenticeship programs within the provinces' K-12 education system.
- Beginning in 2022/23, the Ministry of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills provides nearly \$7 million to SkilledTradesBC to implement Skilled Trades Certification.
- Investments in trades training provided by the B.C. government through SkilledTradesBC, builds on investments provided through federal apprenticeship programs, such as the up to \$2,000 cash grant for registered apprentices under the Apprenticeship Completion Grant.



*Ministry of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills investments*

- Operating grants provided by the Government of B.C. for public post-secondary institutions have increased every year since 2017. The total amount of operating grants has increased by \$998 million since 2016/17 to over \$2.8 billion in 2023/24.
- Budget 2023 invested \$480 million over three years to support the StrongerBC: Future Ready Action Plan to break down barriers to post-secondary education so more people can get training for in-demand careers and so employers can access the talent they need.
- As part of the StrongerBC: Future Ready Action Plan, the Workplace Innovation Fund supports innovative approaches and practical solutions to address the current skilled labour gap in the construction sector.
- The Ministry of Finance also provides \$18 million towards the BC Training Tax Credit to employer sponsors and apprentices to improve access to technical trades training, encourage certification completion, and reduce relocation barriers for apprentices.
- In March 2023, the ministry invested \$5 million to support people from under-represented groups entering and completing their apprenticeship, including women, people of colour, newcomers to Canada and at-risk youth.
- From 2017/18 to 2021/22, government invested \$19.4 million into training equipment for public post-secondary trades programs. No new equipment was purchased in 2022/23 or 2023/24.

<b>SkilledTradesBC – Total Seats (2018/19 – 2023/24)</b>						
	<b>2018/19</b>	<b>2019/20</b>	<b>2020/21</b>	<b>2021/22</b>	<b>2022/23</b>	<b>2023/24</b>
<b>Total Funding</b>	\$71.9M	\$70.4M	\$70.9M	\$72.2M	\$72.07M	\$73.08M
<b>Seats Funded</b>	27,954	28,287	28,231	29,336	27,665	28,295

<b>SkilledTradesBC – Public Post-Secondary Training Seats (2018/19 – 2023/24)</b>						
	<b>2018/19</b>	<b>2019/20</b>	<b>2020/21</b>	<b>2021/22</b>	<b>2022/23</b>	<b>2023/24</b>
<b>Total Funding</b>	\$66.2M	\$64.8M	\$64.9M	\$65.8M	\$65.92M	\$66.29M
<b>Seats Funded</b>	24,497	24,898	24,552	25,389	24,119	24,253





<b>SkilledTradesBC – Non-Public Trainer Seats (2018/19 – 2023/24)</b>						
	<b>2018/19</b>	<b>2019/20</b>	<b>2020/21</b>	<b>2021/22</b>	<b>2022/23</b>	<b>2023/24</b>
<b>Total Funding</b>	\$5.7M	\$5.6M	\$6.0M	\$6.4M	\$6.15M	\$6.79M
<b>Seats Funded</b>	3,457	3,389	3,679	3,947	3,546	3,942

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**Title:** TradeUpBC

**Issue:** TradeUpBC connects trades workers with short-term learning opportunities at institutions across B.C.

**Key Facts, Data and Background:**

- On May 2, 2023, as part of the StrongerBC Future Ready Action Plan release, TradeUpBC was launched in partnership with BCIT.
- TradeUpBC provides existing trades workers and apprentices with a one-stop shop to learn about short-term training opportunities available at institutions around the Province, that help them update skills and advance their careers. It also benefits institutions by providing marketing for course offerings to increase enrolment.
- TradeUpBC received \$1 million annually over three years to support short term training delivery and is expected to help approximately 1,150 participants. The \$1M annual allocation funds administration, curriculum development, and promotion of courses through marketing.
- Currently, tuition costs for many TradeUpBC courses can be covered by the StrongerBC: future skills grant.
- The implementation of TradeUpBC was guided by a steering committee which included Deans of Trades from public Post-Secondary institutions, SkilledTradesBC, and staff from the Ministry of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills. There is an ongoing subcommittee, comprised of deans of trades, which reviews course offering submission for inclusion on the TradeUpBC website.
- Approved programs must fit within one or more of the six guiding themes:
  - Adapt to new technologies and digitization;
  - Respond to climate change job and skills impacts;
  - Develop business, managerial, and leaderships skills;
  - Build mentorship skills to more effectively supervise apprentices;
  - Enhance inclusivity and reconciliation in the workplace; and,
  - Identify support pathways to becoming an educator/instructor.
- TradeUpBC currently offers 83 short-term courses from 6 institutions, which includes BCIT, Selkirk College, Thompson Rivers University, University of the Fraser Valley, Vancouver Community College, and Camosun College. More are expected to participate in the coming months.
- Examples of programs include:
  - Introductory Studies In Mass Timber Construction – *British Columbia Institute of Technology*
  - Electronic Vehicle Technology and Service – *British Columbia Institute of Technology* Construction Industry Ethics – *Thompson Rivers University*



- Business Communication and Project Management – *Vancouver Community College*
- Advanced Skills for Clean Energy and Electrified Transportation– *Camosun College*
- Commercial Vehicle Inspection Automotive - *University of the Fraser Valley*
- Courses are delivered through various approaches that allow workers to continue to work such as: on-line learning, virtual/remote delivery, community partnerships, as well as in person at existing trades training facilities or industrial sites across the province (including at night or on the weekends).

**Title:** Under-represented Groups in Trades

**Issue:** Increasing diversity in the trades by reducing barriers to training opportunities.

**Key Facts, Investments and Background:**

- SkilledTradesBC partners with service providers, training providers, and Indigenous organizations throughout B.C. to provide services and supports, hands-on trades exploration, mentorship, and employment placement services to under-represented people in the trades.
- SkilledTradesBC received \$10 million in 2023/24 through the Canada-BC Workforce Development Agreement (WDA), for the delivery of programs that support about 1,000 vulnerable and under-represented people.
- In 2024/25 this level of funding has been reduced by 20% because of the elimination of top-up funding resulting from the Federal Budget 2024. However, despite this reduction, SkilledTrades BC has been able to increase the number of service providers and increase the regions where programs will be delivered (from 8 service providers to 12). Previously unserved areas will now have access to these important programs.
- In addition, despite the reduction in federal funding, the number of participants remains within 10%. Procured services are expected to reach about 800 people in each of the next two years.
- Since 2019, SkilledTradesBC has invested nearly \$20 million to recruit, retain and advance women in the trades.
- In 2023, government provided \$5 million to six B.C. organizations specializing in supporting those in underrepresented groups to enter and be successful in the trades:
  - \$1 million to Aboriginal Community Career Employment Services Society (ACCESS) to expand their Elder Support and Youth Trades Explorer programs.
  - \$1 million to BC Centre for Women in the Trades (BCCWITT) to expand and enhance its inclusivity-based workplace training, such as anti-racism and anti-bullying (e.g. Be More Than a Bystander).
  - \$1 million to Canadian Home Builders Association of B.C. to provide supportive training, and outreach to under-represented people.
  - \$1 million to SkillPlan to enhance resources focused on increasing opportunities for under-represented groups, including women, Indigenous, Black and people of colour, and new Canadians.
  - \$500,000 to Construction Foundation of B.C. to host more workshops for K-12 students and summer camps for at-risk youth to expose them to opportunities in the construction industry with a focus on climate action and social justice.

- \$500,000 to Skills Canada BC to expand its skills competitions and programs, which creates awareness and markets opportunities in the skilled trades and the technology sector to K-12 youth.

#### *Indigenous apprentices*

- Over the past 10 years, Indigenous Peoples' representation in the trades training and apprenticeship system has continually increased in B.C. - from 4.6% to 8.8% of all apprenticeships.
- The number of Indigenous Peoples participating in apprenticeship training has grown by 88%, from just over 2,100 to nearly 4,098 people over the last 10 years.
- Last year, there was a 14% increase (1, 718) Indigenous People entering (new registrations) the skilled trades over 2022/23.
- Indigenous women participating in apprenticeship training has also grown, from just under 280 to nearly 600 (a more than two-fold increase).

#### *Women*

- SkilledTradesBC reported 4,962 women in apprenticeships at the end of fiscal 2023/24, representing 10.7% of all active apprenticeships.
- Last year, there was a 25% increase (1,341) in women entering (new registrations) under-represented skilled trades over 2022/23.

#### *Youth*

- Last year, SkilledTradesBC reached the highest participation of youth in the skilled trades ever.
- Over 10,000 youth ages 16-26 participated in the skilled trades in 2023.

The Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services made 2024 budget recommendations regarding under-represented groups in the trades:

- Encourage careers in the trades by engaging stakeholders to break the stigma around skilled trades careers and promoting these professions; and by
- Providing permanent funding for the BC Centre for Women in the Trades (BCCWITT) to create trades liaisons in the public K-12 education system.

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**Title: StrongerBC: Future Ready Action Plan**

**Issue: Making education and skills training more affordable and accessible, so British Columbians can obtain the skills needed to work and thrive in a rapidly changing economy.**

**Key Facts, Data and Background:**

- The StrongerBC Future Ready Action Plan (the Plan), launched in May 2023, was designed to equip British Columbians with the skills and training needed for a changing economy.
- The Plan responds to shifting demographics, policy transformations and rapid social changes impacting the workforce, including a projected demand for nearly one million job openings over the next ten years, over three-quarters of which will need post-secondary education or training.
- Budget 2023 allocated \$480M to the Plan over three fiscal years (FY 23/24 - FY 25/26).
- The Plan's 24 initiatives (Attachment 1) can be categorized into five groups:
  1. **People seeking post-secondary education:** Making post-secondary education and training more affordable, accessible, and relevant.
  2. **People looking to re-skill for in-demand jobs:** Increasing workers' ability to respond quickly to the changing needs of employers through greater access to short-duration, in-demand training.
  3. **People facing barriers:** Initiatives within the Plan seek to remove barriers to education and employment.
  4. **Indigenous Peoples:** Actions to advance reconciliation by addressing Indigenous Peoples' workforce priorities identified in the Declaration Act Action Plan.
  5. **People new to B.C.:** Making it easier for newcomers to Canada to find a job in the field for which they were trained in and ease the demand for trained workers in critical services and industries.
- Many initiatives exceeded expectations for enrolment and uptake such as the future skills grant, the tuition waiver extension program, and the student loans program.
- Program areas continue to evaluate and monitor initiatives to ensure the Plan is providing British Columbians with access to important training and pathway opportunities to good jobs.

**Attachment 1:**

	<b>Initiative</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>\$M/3YRs</b>	<b>Outcomes</b>
<b>People seeking post-post secondary education</b>				
1	Expanded BC Access Grant	Financial assistance to low- and middle-income students	0 <sup>1</sup>	Threshold increases were implemented August 2023
2	Increasing K-12 Career Life Connections and Dual Credit Programs	Greater opportunities for K-12 students to jump start their careers	6.20	Launched. Full implementation in progress
3	Care Economy Workforce Strategy	Strategy to fill labour shortages for care economy employers	2.90	Workforce Advisory Group established and partnerships identified
4	Expanded Rural and Remote Teacher Spaces	Recruitment/retention strategy for qualified K-12 teachers in rural/remote regions	3.68	Launched. Full implementation in progress
5	Doubling Veterinarian Spaces	Additional post-secondary seats for veterinarian medicine	21.80	Fully implemented
6	More Graduate Scholarships and Internships	Financial supports for students in targeted skills	15.00	Fully implemented
7	3,000 More Tech-Relevant Spaces	Additional post-secondary seats	74.70	Launched. Full implementation in progress
8	Increasing Student Financial Aid	Doubling student loan maximums (\$150.72)	0 <sup>2</sup>	Fully implemented
<b>People looking to re-skill for in-demand jobs</b>				
9	Future Skills Grant (formerly StrongerBC Skill-Up Grant)	Up to \$3,500 per person for short term, in-demand training	39.00	Fully implemented. 400 new programs & 10,000+ learners
10	New Skills for New Building Products – Mass Timber	Deliver programs on mass timber design, construction and digital skills	3.30	Advisory board established. New courses launched. 464 registrants in by early 2024
11	Expanded Manufacturing Workforce Development (formerly Youth in Manufacturing Initiative)	Work-integrated learning in manufacturing sector	3.00	New placements started in September 2023. 60+ employers and 100+ youth registered
12	Transition Training for Forest Sector Workers (formerly Old Growth Strategy)	Career training/reskilling for impacted forestry workers	30.30	Funds disbursed to existing programs
13	Rapid Response Training- Micro Credentials and TradeUpBC	Fast and responsive learning pathways and sector-based professional development	13.80	Launched - First courses underway. 375 students enrolled
14	Digital Skills Bootcamps + Tech Talent Accelerator (formerly Technology and Innovation Workforce Development Initiatives)	Increase digital capacity of workforce and pathways into tech sector	8.10	RFP process complete. Vendor selected. Contract negotiations in progress for two streams: customer relationship management and small and medium-sized businesses

<sup>1</sup> Initiative funding was not included in the StrongerBC: Future Ready Action Plan.

<sup>2</sup> \$150.72M from operational contingencies not in the StrongerBC: Future Ready Action Plan B2023 allocation.

	<b>Initiative</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>\$M/3YRs</b>	<b>Outcomes</b>
15	Workplace Innovation Fund – Supporting Homes for People	Supports key sectors with workforce challenges	30.40	Applications in final approval for funding
16	Expanded Learning Opportunities at Work (formerly Work-Integrated Learning)	Greater opportunities for students to learn on the job	4.50	Launched. 600+ placements
<b>People facing barriers</b>				
17	Tuition Waived for Former Youth in Care for All Ages	Lifetime free tuition for former youth-in-care regardless of age	19.20	Engagement process for K-12 established. January 2024 approx. 1,500 individuals enrolled
18	Expanded Skills Training for People with Multiple Barriers	Support people facing barriers to develop the basic skills needed to become workforce ready	44.50	Launched October 2023. 72 agreements with 60 third-party service providers and 3,600+ participants
19	More Early Childhood Educator Training Spaces	Additional post-secondary seats	12.05	Launched September 2023. 524 new seats
<b>Indigenous Peoples</b>				
20	Actions to Support Indigenous Peoples (formerly Declaration Act Action Plan Workforce Priorities)	Supporting Indigenous-led, culturally relevant education and improving education outcomes and affordability	92.05	Review of racism in post-secondary institutions underway. Expansion of FN and Métis training, language & teacher programs underway
21	Expanded Guardian and Stewardship Training Initiative	Stewardship training, and education and co-management of lands and resources	8.94	Training pilots underway
<b>People new to BC</b>				
22	Find Your Path Tool	One-stop shop for workers to discover career paths and train for entry into the workforce	43.49	Digital Learning Strategy launched May – Find Your Path launched November 2023
23	Streamlined International (Foreign) Credential Recognition	Streamline process to review work credentials for skilled newcomers to Canada		Royal Assent received November 2023
<b>Other</b>				
24	Future Ready Office	Cross-ministry coordination and reporting for the Plan	3.22	Office established, phased recruitment in progress
	<b>Total</b>		<b>\$480.13M</b>	

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**Title:** Micro-Credentials

**Issue:** Expanded micro-credential offerings and framework development

**Key Facts, Data and Background:**

- Micro-credentials recognize short-duration, competency-based learning opportunities that align with labour market or community needs and are assessed and recognized for employment or further learning opportunities.
- To date, the province has invested more than \$16M in the development and delivery of close to 180 micro-credentials in a range of high-demand sectors and to further develop a coordinated and consistent approach to micro-credentials in the province. This includes the development of:
  - The B.C. Micro-Credential Framework and a Micro-Credential Toolkit for B.C.; and
  - Pilot initiatives to establish a process for credit assessment for additional learner pathways and develop a collaboration framework for improved curriculum and resource sharing across institutions.
- Under the StrongerBC: Future Ready Action Plan the ministry is investing \$8.8M in micro-credentials through the Rapid Response Training initiative to support just in-time, short duration training that responds to labour market demands and the evolving economy.

2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	Total
\$3.6M	\$2.6M	\$2.6M	\$8.8M

- In 2023/24, this funding was used to support the development and delivery of more than 30 micro-credentials across 14 public post-secondary institutions, and 5 First Nation led micro-credentials across 5 First Nations.
- Advice/Recommendations

*Related Initiatives*

- As part of the StrongerBC: Future Ready Plan, the ministry has also launched:
  - the Future Skills Grant, which provides British Columbians a grant to cover the costs of tuition for eligible short-duration skills training - including several micro-credentials (see tab 3 - Future Skills Grant estimates note).
  - TradeUpBC, which provides existing trades workers and apprentices with a one-stop shop to learn about short-term training opportunities available at institutions around the Province (including several micro-credentials), that help them update skills and advance their careers (see tab 39 TradeUpBC estimates note).

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**Title: Workplace Innovation Fund**

**Issue: Status Update on the Workplace Innovation Fund**

**Key Facts, Data and Background:**

- The Workplace Innovation Fund was launched on May 2, 2023, as a flagship initiative of the StrongerBC: Future Ready Action Plan.
- The Workplace Innovation Fund is focused on supporting innovative, new projects that address labour shortages, better prepare employers and workers for the changing economy, and attract, hire and retain a diverse workforce.
- The Workplace Innovation Fund has focused on B.C.'s construction sector and seeks to address five priority areas for labour market development in the sector.
- Construction sector priorities were identified through consultation on the StrongerBC: Future Ready Action Plan and Skilled Trades Certification:
  - supporting industry to adopt new technologies and improve productivity;
  - improving workplace culture and human resource practices to attract and retain workers, including under-represented and diverse workers;
  - developing and supporting innovative training practices;
  - elevating the prestige and awareness of the industry and a career in construction; and
  - streamlining career pathways for newcomers.
- The Workplace Innovation Fund launched on October 11, 2023, with a strong response from industry.
- The ministry has awarded 8 contribution agreements totaling \$13.94M over three years through the Workplace Innovation Fund. Projects include new innovations in training for the construction sector. The innovative and diverse training focusses on the following areas:
  - building and using prefabrication components;
  - green energy upskilling;
  - small scale builds;
  - reducing barriers to First Nations trades workers and improving recruitment and retention;
  - improved equity, diversity and inclusion HR practices;
  - substance abuse and harm reduction;
  - supporting older workers to remain in or join the construction sector; and
  - introducing high school graduates to architecture, construction and engineering through job practicums supported with training.



Advice/Recommendations



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**Title:** Traditional Chinese Medicine

**Issue:** Advancing development of a Traditional Chinese Medicine degree program at Kwantlen Polytechnic University

**Key Facts, Data and Background:**

- The Ministry of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills (the Ministry) has been working in partnership with Kwantlen Polytechnic University (KPU) and the Ministry of Health (HLTH) to expand Traditional Chinese Medicine education in B.C. for several years.
- KPU has been offering a diploma program in Traditional Chinese Medicine – Acupuncture since fall 2016.
- Advancing work on a Traditional Chinese Medicine degree program has been a priority of Government since 2017, included in both the Parliamentary Secretary for Seniors' 2017 Mandate Letter and the Minister of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills' 2022 Mandate Letter.
- To date, KPU has received \$1.4M from PSFS to support its Traditional Chinese Medicine programming, including, most recently, \$200,000 in 2021 to support the development of a Traditional Chinese Medicine degree proposal.
- KPU submitted an initial degree proposal to the ministry in December 2022 to offer a Bachelor of Traditional Chinese Medicine. The ministry provided comments on the proposal and returned it to KPU for revision.
- KPU resubmitted its degree proposal and on November 2, 2023, the proposal was posted publicly for a mandatory 30-day peer review period prior to being reviewed by the Degree Quality Assessment Board. The Degree Quality Assessment Board reviews all new degrees in B.C. to ensure quality standards of degrees are maintained.
- KPU's proposal was reviewed and subsequently tabled by the Degree Quality Assessment Board in December 2023, with a request for KPU to work with the regulator, the College of Traditional Chinese Medicine Practitioners and Acupuncturists, to ensure graduates of the KPU degree program will meet the regulator's educational requirements for registration.
- KPU has been working to address the concerns of the Degree Quality Assessment Board and is expected to submit an updated proposal in the spring of 2024.

- KPU had been targeting an inaugural student intake of the new program in September 2024. However, this is likely to be delayed given the required quality reviews, internal KPU processes, and student recruitment activities that would be required before a program starts.
- Pending the results of the Degree Quality Assessment Board review, the Ministry will continue to work with KPU to determine next steps in establishing the Traditional Chinese Medicine degree.
- It is expected that KPU will fund the Traditional Chinese Medicine degree through program tuition at steady state, however, government recognizes that KPU will require initial funding to support the program in attaining financial sustainability.
- The Ministry will continue to work with KPU to determine the appropriate support needed to advance their Traditional Chinese Medicine program. As this work with KPU continues, *Budget 2024* does not include additional funding for Traditional Chinese Medicine.

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**Title:** Contact North BC

**Issue:** Online access to education and skills training opportunities for students in rural and remote communities across Northern BC

**Key Facts, Data and Background:**

- Contact North BC is a program run by Coast Mountain College to deliver online and distance education programs across northern British Columbia communities.
- Established in 2020 as a pilot project and based on an established model in northern Ontario, Contact North BC expands post-secondary access to students living in rural and remote communities, including Indigenous students, and responds to long-standing concerns expressed by First Nations in Northwest BC about the lack of training available in their communities.
- Contact North BC supports local access centres that provide technology, infrastructure and locally employed support staff, to assist students in completing online or hybrid education programs and courses while remaining in their communities.
- Each access centre provides:
  - Academic, career, and education-finance advising.
  - Access to online courses through all BC public post-secondary institutions, plus a wide range of workforce training.
  - Computers and connectivity to engage in online learning.
  - 24/7 online tutoring.
  - Short-duration paid work-experience opportunities.
- Currently, 20 access centres have been established in Northwest BC, including 18 in partnership with local First Nations. See Attachment 1 for a list of Contact North BC communities.
- Previously there were 22 access centres through Contact North BC, however, two recently closed as both communities required the physical space for other programming. Coast Mountain College indicates they are currently exploring options to open two new access centres in other northern communities.
- In 2023/24, Contact North BC supported more than 1,460 students in completing online or hybrid education programs and courses while remaining in their communities.
- During the first three years of the program (2020-2023), the ministry provided a total of \$5.689 million in one-time, year-end funding to support Contact North BC operations.
- Since establishing Contact North BC in 2020, Coast Mountain College has worked closely with Contact North / Contact Nord Ontario, an Ontario-based organization that delivers



similar programming to rural and remote communities in Ontario. Under a Memorandum of Understanding, Contact North / Contact Nord has supported Coast Mountain College in delivering services through the access centres under Contact North BC.

- Cabinet Confidences

- Cabinet Confidences; Government Financial Information

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**Attachment 1 – List of Contact North Communities**

#	Contact North BC Community – 2023	Nation/Organization
1	Giwinksihlkw	Nisga’a
2	Kispiox	Gitxsan
3	Sik-E-Dakh	Gitxsan
4	Gitanmaax	Gitxsan
5	Gitwangak	Gitxsan
6	Gitsegukla	Gitxsan
7	Gitanyow	Gitxsan
8	Witset	Wet’suwet’en
9	Kitselas	Tsimshian
10	Kitsum Kalum	Tsimshian
11	Gitga’at	Tsimshian
12	Lax Kw’alaams	Tsimshian
13	Old Massett	Haida
14	Kitimaat	Haisla
15	Dease lake	Tahltan
16	Iskut	Tahltan
17	Telegraph Creek	Tahltan
18	District of Houston	School District 54
19	City of Terrace	Métis Nation of British Columbia
20	South Hazelton	Gitxsan Development Corporation (Gitxsan)

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**Title:** Early Childhood Education seats

**Issue:** More early childhood educator training to reduce the compounding workforce gap and help more parents fully participate in BC's labour market.

**Key Facts, Data and Background:**

- As of January 2024, there were 27,416 provincially certified early childhood educators in BC, of which more than 14,000 work in licensed care. Since 2018/19, the overall number of early childhood educators has increased by approximately 4,000.
  - Of the total, 5,710 hold special needs early childhood educator certificates and 9,278 hold infant and toddler educator certificates.
- Since the 2018 launch of BC's ten-year Childcare BC Plan, the Ministry of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills (the ministry) has invested \$20.5 million in the expansion of Early Childhood Education programs, creating 2,237 additional student spaces (see Early Childhood Education program expansion Map, Appendix 1) at 17 public post-secondary Institutions, including:
  - Piloting and expanding Work Integrated Learning program delivery at six public post-secondary institutions, enabling 308 students to obtain or upgrade their provincial certification while remaining employed.
  - Designating more than two-thirds of those spaces for rural and remote communities, with part-time, full-time, online, in-person, and Work Integrated Learning program delivery.
- Budget 2023 and StrongerBC's Future Ready Action Plan included \$16 million over three years for more than 1,300 additional student spaces in recognized Early Childhood Education programs at BC's public post-secondary institutions through to 2025/26.
  - In 2024/25, \$5.3 million will create spaces for more than 400 students in Early Childhood Education programs province wide. This is in addition to the annual delivery of approximately 900 base-funded student spaces.
  - For 2023/24, \$4.4 million in funding was provided to twelve public post-secondary institutions, creating 524 new student spaces, exceeding the target by 23 percent. Of the 21 programs funded in 2023/24, 19 are blended/hybrid or fully online delivery and four include Work Integrated Learning program delivery.
- In 2022/23, system-wide enrolment grew by 61 percent, when compared to 2017/18. Enrolment demand for Early Childhood Education programs continues to be strong at public post-secondary institutions, with final 2022/23 seat utilization at 87 percent. More than 1,000 students completed practicums in 2022/23 (up 35 percent from 2021/22).

- The ministry is also providing \$3.1 million in funding between 2018 and 2024 from the Sector Labour Market Partnerships program, partnering with the Early Childhood Educators of BC for a sector-led impact assessment of the Provincial Early Care and Learning Recruitment and Retention Strategy.
- Additionally, to support K-12 transitions to BC's post-secondary system, the Ministry of Education and Child Care invested \$6.3 million over four years (2022-2025) in an Early Childhood Education Dual Credit Project. To date:
  - 44 school districts, one independent school association, 13 public post-secondary institutions, and two continuing education centers are participating, with final delivery expected in 2025.
  - 500 students have completed approximately 900 courses, and 15 post-secondary partners are expected to have delivered 2,400 course enrolments to 1,000 students by 2025.
- The subject of the note is referenced in the Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services recommendations on budget 2024, and the Ministry of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills' position is consistent with the recommendation.
- Twelve BC private training institutions offer recognized Early Childhood Education programs. Of those twelve, nine reported the following student enrolment data<sup>1</sup> for the 2021/22 program year (most recent data available):
  - 3,800 enrolments (up 73 percent since 2017/18).
  - 87 percent of the total enrolments were domestic students.
  - 10 percent of the total enrolments were international students on study permits.
  - 52 percent of enrolments and 32 percent of graduates were at one institution offering online delivery programs.

#### **Ministry of Education and Child Care Student Supports:**

- The Early Childhood Educator Specialized Certification Grant, launched by the Ministry of Education and Child Care in January 2024, provides an annual grant of \$2,000 or \$3,000 to eligible early childhood educators who hold infant and toddler educator and/or special needs early childhood educator certificates.
- The Early Childhood Educator Education Support Fund provides up to \$5,000 in financial support to Early Childhood Education students attending recognized post-secondary institutions in BC. Since 2018, the Province has invested over \$27 million to provide more than 14,100 bursaries to support nearly 7,500 Early Childhood Education students.

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<sup>1</sup> PTI student data is self-reported by institutions and PTIB has not validated. Figures should be considered approximate.



Advice/Recommendations

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**Title:** Find Your Path Digital Services

**Issue:** The StrongerBC: Future Ready Action Plan provides \$43.49M over three years to improve digital services and tools for learners in post-secondary education and skills training, and career-seekers in B.C.

**Key Facts, Data and Background:**

Component	23/24	24/25	25/26	Total
StrongerBC: Find Your Path Initiative	12.22	15.48	15.79	43.49

Cabinet Confidences

- The **StrongerBC Find Your Path Initiative** is making it easier for people in B.C. to plan their career and access relevant post-secondary education and skills training.
- This initiative includes: the **Find Your Path digital service**, implementation of B.C.’s **Post-Secondary Digital Learning Strategy**, and the expansion of support for **Contact North BC**.
- These initiatives will magnify the reach of other StrongerBC: Future Ready Action Plan projects by using digital platforms to improve access to provincial education and career programs and services.

**Find Your Path Digital Services**

The Find Your Path digital service provides people with seamless access to provincial education and career programs and services by:

- Introducing a new digital tool that maps education and career pathways (launched in Fall 2023).
- Making student financial assistance information more accessible and reducing financial barriers to prospective learners.
- Providing people with easily accessible information needed to make informed decisions about their education and career opportunities by making the tools and resources available to people online more responsive, accessible, and relevant.

## **Digital Learning Strategy**

In Spring 2023, the B.C. government released a post-secondary Digital Learning Strategy (DLS) and the ministry is now implementing the recommended actions to:

- Strengthen the post-secondary system’s capacity to deliver high-quality online and blended learning opportunities.
- Improve access to post-secondary education for learners who encounter barriers to accessing in-person learning.
- Foster collaboration in the post-secondary system to reduce costs related to digital technologies required for post-secondary education.

Funding supports the ministry and post-secondary system partners in the implementation of a series of initiatives that will reduce costs for post-secondary institutions and support learners in accessing high quality, flexible post-secondary education, including:

- Developing curriculum accessible to all post-secondary institutions to support learners in building their digital literacy and the skills needed to succeed in post-secondary education and in the workforce.
- Modernizing professional development for post-secondary instructors and staff so that the use of digital technologies in post-secondary classrooms and online learning environments delivers high quality learning experiences.
- Ensuring that all students attending B.C.’s public post-secondary institutions can access student discounts for the technology required for their education.

## **Contact North B.C.**

- Contact North B.C. is a project to establish supported online learning centres in rural/remote communities across Northwest B.C.
- Currently, 22 Access Centres have been established, 19 in partnership with local First Nations, providing technology, infrastructure, and locally employed community staff to support over 1,460 students in completing online or hybrid education programs and courses/programs while remaining in their communities.
- Funding for Contact North B.C. supports program sustainability, scalability, and expansion to meet learner demand.

**Title: Health Education Programs**

**Issue: New and expanded health and medical education opportunities to address health sector workforce needs.**

**Key Facts, Data and Background:**

- Government funds health education programs at public post-secondary institutions based on priorities established by the Ministry of Health. The Ministry of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills works collaboratively with the Ministry of Health to ensure funding for health education seats is aligned with demand in communities across the province.
- Health programs are delivered at 23 post-secondary institutions across B.C. Programs are funded through a combination of targeted funding, institutional base funding, and cost-recovery delivery.
- There are approximately 20,500 Health program full-time equivalent spaces (FTEs) delivered across the public post-secondary system annually.
- Since 2017, Government has invested nearly \$500M in new funding to support priority health program expansions across the province.
- This includes nearly \$96M invested as part of *Budget 2021* and more than \$150M over three years as part of *Budget 2023*.
- These investments will support the creation of 4,575 new ongoing health program training seats and more than 6,300 one-time health program training seats across the province.
- Health program investments since 2017 have significantly increased training in areas of direct patient care. For example:
  - 267% increase in Nurse Practitioner seats
  - 40% increase in Licensed Practical Nursing seats
  - 33% increase in Registered Psychiatric Nursing seats
  - 24% increase in Registered Nursing seats
  - 71% increase in Midwifery seats
  - 22% increase in Speech Language Pathology seats
- Health program expansions are implemented over several years in partnership with the Ministry of Health, Health Authorities, and post-secondary institutions. Nearly 4,250 new ongoing seats (93% of those funded since 2017) have already been implemented, with 175 more on schedule to start in 2024/25.



- Since 2017 government has also allocated nearly \$142M in capital funding to institutions to support these expansions.
- The ministry continues to work with the Ministry of Health to develop options to meet workforce needs with a training component identified through specific strategies, like the Cancer Care Strategy and the Health Human Resources Strategy, as well as overall caseload needs.
- Advice/Recommendations

**Title:** Labour Market Outlook

**Issue:** Labour Market Outlook 2023 Edition, released November 27, 2023

**Key Facts, Data and Background:**

- About one million job openings are forecasted between 2023 and 2033.

<b>Total job openings</b>
65% from replacement (mostly retirement)
35% from expansion of the economy

<b>New job seekers</b>
47% young people starting work
46% immigrants
7% migrants from other provinces

- As a result of an increase in federal immigration levels, immigration is projected to supply close to half of the new workers over the next 10 years, up from about one-quarter five years ago.
- This Labour Market Outlook finds a more balanced future labour market, meaning that the number of job seekers will essentially match the number of job openings.
- Of the one million openings, 75 percent will require some form of post-secondary education or training, or management or supervisory experience.

Education or training, or management or supervisory experience	Share of job openings
Management or supervisory	16%
University degree	22%
College diploma or apprenticeship of two or more years	21%
College diploma or apprenticeship of less than two years	17%
High school diploma	13%
No formal education	12%

- Last year’s Labour Market Outlook showed 78% of job openings (nearly 80%) required some post-secondary education or training. This year’s Outlook is based on better labour market information and allows us to paint a clearer picture of education and training requirements.
- The Labour Market Outlook identifies employment growth and job openings in every region.

Region	Employment 2023	Annual Employment Growth: 2023-33	Job openings
Vancouver Island/Coast	435,000	1.2%	174,700
Mainland/Southwest	1,767,700	1.2%	625,600
Thompson-Okanagan	308,100	1.2%	124,600
Kootenay	79,600	0.5%	25,700
Cariboo	88,100	0.1%	21,100
Northeast	42,000	1.1%	15,300
North Coast/Nechako	37,000	0.4%	10,400
<b>British Columbia</b>	<b>2,757,600</b>	<b>1.2%</b>	<b>997,500</b>

- The Labour Market Outlook identifies job openings in key occupational groups.

Key Occupational Group	Job openings 2023-33
Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) occupations	117,000
All skilled trades occupations	85,000
Trades occupations for Skilled Trade Certification	15,200
Care (Health, Social and Education) Occupations	189,900

- The Labour Market Outlook identifies 125 High Opportunity Occupations some examples are:
  - Registered nurses and registered psychiatric nurses
  - Architects
  - Elementary school and kindergarten teachers
  - Nurse practitioners
  - Cybersecurity specialists
  - Industrial and manufacturing engineers
- The 2024 edition of the Labour Market Outlook is planned for release in early 2025.

**Title:** Labour Market Transfer Agreements

**Issue:** Labour Market Transfer Agreements – Overview

**Key Facts, Data and Background:**

- Labour Market Transfer Agreements provide funding from the Government of Canada to Provinces and Territories for the delivery of employment services, skills training programming, and labour market development initiatives.
- The Labour Market Transfer Agreements currently consist of two agreements:
  - Workforce Development Agreement, \$98.8M in 2024/25<sup>1</sup>, is administered by the Ministry of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills (PSFS).
  - Labour Market Development Agreement, \$296M in 2024/25<sup>2</sup> is administered by the Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction (SDPR).
- The Workforce Development Agreement provides funding to support under-represented groups, Indigenous persons, youth, multi-barriered individuals, persons with disabilities and others, with a variety of employment readiness and skills training programming, regardless of employment status. Programming also supports employers, sectors, and communities to train employed or unemployed people to increase their skills or retrain for new opportunities.
- The Labour Market Development Agreement is more focused on supporting those who are Employment Insurance eligible, due to restrictions around use of funding under the federal *Employment Insurance Act*. Labour Market Development Agreement funding is primarily used for services including: WorkBC Employment Services, WorkBC Apprentice Services, and the Community and Employer Partnerships funding program.
- Through a Memorandum of Understanding between PSFS and the Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction, a portion of funding from each agreement is transferred between Ministries to support efficient program delivery in alignment with the core mandate of each ministry and the intent of the Workforce Development Agreement and Labour Market Development Agreement.
- The Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction uses Workforce Development Agreement funding for programming to support persons with disabilities

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<sup>1</sup> Expected budget pending final confirmation from Employment and Skills Development Canada. This represents a reduction from \$126M in 2023/24 due to top-up funding being cut from the Federal Budget 24.

<sup>2</sup> Expected budget pending final confirmation from Employment and Skills Development Canada. This represents a reduction from \$342M in 2023/24, due to top-up funding being cut from the Federal Budget 24.

and PSFS uses Labour Market Development Agreement funding to support employer training programs and labour market research as well as the WorkBC.ca website and other related outreach programming.

- Workforce Development Agreement and Labour Market Development Agreement programs serve approximately 110,000 British Columbians annually.
- Since 2017/18, a portion of the funding received through the Labour Market Transfer Agreements has been provided as “top-up” funding. “Top-up” was initially implemented as a five-year agreement ending in March 2023. However, in April 2023, the Government of Canada provided a further year of funding through the Federal budget process. *See Appendix 1 for Labour Market Transfer Agreement funding tables.*
- Top-up funding provided approximately \$74 million annually to British Columbia split between the Workforce Development Agreement and Labour Market Development Agreement.
- Federal budget 2024, announced on April 16, 2024, does not include further top-up, which represents a financial impact in 2024/25 to PSFS of \$27 million.
- The Ministry, in collaboration with staff at the Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction, has analyzed the impact and is planning for management of the loss of “top-up” funding for this fiscal. Decisions will be made shortly.
- The Ministry will work to minimize the impact of loss of top-up in 2024/25 for contracted service providers and participants to ensure people continue to have access to services.



## Appendix 1: • Labour Market Transfer Agreements Funding Allocations Since 2017/18

### Workforce Development Agreement

Fiscal	Base Funding	Top-Up Funding	Total Funding
2017/18	\$96,069,514	\$9,475,683	<b>\$105,545,197</b>
2018/19	\$97,709,057	\$9,738,268	<b>\$107,447,325</b>
2019/20	\$98,788,201	\$18,511,929	<b>\$117,300,130</b>
2020/21	\$97,236,731	\$26,935,382	<b>\$124,172,113</b>
2021/22	\$97,885,051	\$27,114,972	<b>\$125,000,023</b>
2022/23	\$98,092,493	\$27,172,436	<b>\$125,264,928</b>
2023/24	\$98,802,785	\$27,369,193	<b>\$126,171,978</b>
2024/25	\$98,802,785	0	<b>\$98,802,785</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$783,386,617</b>	<b>\$146,317,863</b>	<b>\$929,704,480</b>

\*10% of WDA funding is used for administration costs associated with programming.

### Labour Market Development Agreement

Fiscal	Base Program Funding	Top-Up Funding	Targeted Funding*	Total Funding**
2017/18	\$278,354,408	\$13,576,215	\$6,873,508	<b>\$319,339,131</b>
2018/19	\$276,944,000	\$24,437,187	\$7,503,560	<b>\$329,419,747</b>
2019/20	\$275,522,390	\$25,184,810	\$2,548,952	<b>\$323,791,152</b>
2020/21	\$273,893,674	\$34,825,928	N/A	<b>\$329,254,602</b>
2021/22	\$273,505,313	\$44,970,363	N/A	<b>\$339,010,676</b>
2022/23	\$275,211,299	\$49,418,557	N/A	<b>\$345,164,856</b>
2023/24	\$275,380,128	\$46,474,213	N/A	<b>\$342,389,341</b>
2024/25	\$296,141,902	0	N/A	\$296,141,902
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$2,224,953,114</b>	<b>\$238,887,273</b>	<b>\$16,926,020</b>	<b>\$2,480,766,407</b>

**\*Targeted Funding:**

2017/18: Forestry Workers only (Softwood Lumber Action Plan)

2018/19: Forestry Workers \$4,954,608 + Steel and Aluminum impacts \$1,562,541 + Seasonal Workers \$986,411

2019/20: Seasonal Workers \$986,410 + Steel and Aluminum impacts (\$1,562,542)

\*\*Total includes \$20,535,000 LMDA provided annually for administration costs.

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**Title: Skills Training Programs Expansion for People Facing Multiple Barriers**

**Issue: People who face multiple barriers to labour market participation need specialized training and supports to equip them with the necessary skills to enter the workforce, fostering a more inclusive and sustainable economy.**

**Key Facts, Data and Background:**

- The Skills Training for Employment programs for people facing multiple barriers help people to overcome obstacles to labour market participation through skills training, employment services and wraparound supports.
- Participants in these programs self-identify as having experienced challenges to employment, including mental health challenges, addictions recovery, housing instability, limited literacy or numeracy skills, lack of work experience, low income, and/or lack of social networks.
- Skills Training for Employment programs have been funded under the Canada-BC Workforce Development Agreement (WDA) since 2019, serving more than 11,500 vulnerable people in 135 urban and rural communities across the province, to a total investment of \$52M.
- Under the StrongerBC: Future Ready Action Plan (FRAP), the ministry has expanded its programs serving people who face multiple barriers. The expansion includes \$44.5M in the Action Plan funding to serve an additional 5,700 participants over the next three years.
- The programs were reprocured in 2023/24, resulting in 72 new agreements, as of October 1, 2023, that will support more than 12,500 British Columbians across the province over the next three years.
- The programs' flexible and client-centred model supports service providers to work with participants to achieve a positive outcome, including through post-training and post-employment support, for the duration of the contracts. Participants may move in and out of the programs as needed, only exiting once they have achieved employment or moved on to further education or training. As a result, outcome rates are typically positive.
- In 2022/23, 76% of participants who fully completed the program became employed and 19% moved on to further education or training.

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**Title:** Skills Training Supports for Old Growth Deferral Strategy

**Issue:** StrongerBC: Future Ready Action Plan programming to support workers, employers, and communities impacted by old growth logging deferrals.

**Key Facts, Data and Background:**

- In 2020, the New Future for Old Forests strategic review made several recommendations to government, including that government provide transition support to impacted workers and communities that is proactive, substantive, and meaningfully connects to workforce opportunities (Recommendation 14).
- In response, the Ministry of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills was allocated up to \$11.6M of contingencies funding in 2022/23 as part of the suite of Forestry Worker and Community Supports Program.
- In Budget 2023, through the StrongerBC: Future Ready Action Plan, the ministry secured \$30.3M in contingencies funding over three years to support the ongoing design and delivery of specialized skills training programs for workers, employers, and communities impacted by old growth deferrals.
- The ministry works in partnership with other ministries responsible for forests, economic development, labour, and social development to provide coordinated community support, monitor ongoing impacts, assess needs as they arise, and identify gaps.
- The ministry leverages existing programs to deliver targeted support to impacted workers, employers and communities through the Community Workforce Response Grant, BC Employer Training Grant and Skills Training for Employment programs.
- Over 80% of participants that complete these programs find employment or move into further education or training; on average, 20% of participants remain in the industry, and most people move to similar jobs in sectors such as the skilled trades and manufacturing.
- In collaboration with internal and external partners, the ministry is currently working on a potential approach to respond more proactively to skills training needs, especially in remote, rural, and single-resource communities.
- Advice/Recommendations
-

## Appendix 1: Old Growth 2022/23<sup>1</sup> Program Information

### Old Growth 2022/23 Program Overviews

Program	Description	Old Growth-specific Enhancements	Participants served (2022/23)
<b>Community Workforce Response Grant (CWRG)</b>	Provides funding for communities and sectors to respond to labour market needs by providing short-term skills training to unemployed or precariously employed people.	New Community Response Stream launched in mid-September 2022 for impacted communities.	160
<b>Skills Training for Employment (STE)</b>	Provide skills training and employment supports to help unemployed and precariously employed people obtain sustainable employment.	Existing mill closure programs continued into 2022/23 for impacted workers.	111
<b>B.C. Employer Training Grant (ETG)</b>	Provides employers throughout B.C. with skills training funding for their workforces, including prospective new hires.	Expanded eligibility criteria for impacted businesses in October 2022 to address specific needs of owners/operators and workers.	175
<b>Total</b>			<b>446*</b>

*\*446 is the total number of unique participants. Participants may undertake training more than once.*

### Old Growth 2022/23 Communities Served

40 communities across B.C. received services from CWRG, STE and/or ETG in 2022/23			
Baldonnel	Fort St. John	Parksville	Quesnel
Campbell River	Fraser Lake	Parson	Richmond
Chilliwack	Kamloops	Pitt Meadows	Salmon Arm
Coombs	Kelowna	Port Alberni	Savona
Coquitlam	Langley	Port Hardy	Smithers
Courtenay	Maple Ridge	Port McNeill	Surrey
Creston	Midway	Powell River	Vancouver
Crofton	Nanaimo	Prince George	Vernon
Delta	North Vancouver	Princeton	Victoria
Duncan	100 Mile House	Qualicum Beach	Williams Lake

<sup>1</sup> Note: Data for 223/24 programming is not yet finalized.

## Appendix 2: Old Growth 2022/23 Testimonials

### Community Workforce Response Grant

The **Community Futures Development Corporation of Nadina** received funding to implement an Occupational First Aid Level 3 (OFA3) training program in Houston. The primary focus was on individuals directly or indirectly affected by the Canfor shutdown and changes in the forestry sector.

#### Participant testimonial:

- “The opportunity to renew my Level 3 First Aid ticket came at a perfect time. My previous ticket expired in 2019 and then the pandemic happened and I really had no intention to renew. But last year in February I got hired by <sup>Personal Information</sup> Person I had taken a 10-year hiatus from <sup>Personal Information</sup> and was blessed to land this position close to home, so a Level 3 First Aid ticket goes very well with my position in a remote camp environment. I go back to work this week and I have more job security and a potential increase in pay as a result of this opportunity.”

The **British Columbia Trucking Association** delivered Class 01 Mandatory Entry Level Training (MELT) for participants seeking a Class 01 commercial licence. Participants are prepared for Class 1 MELT Certification upon project completion.

#### Participant testimonial:

- “I benefitted from training in many ways. I can now get a job anywhere as a class 1 driver; however, I am even more fortunate to be able to walk onto a job already. I gained many skills from my training that will make me a good professional commercial driver. I gained confidence in myself that I did not have before. I was fortunate to make some good friends along the way also. I also learned that there is help out there for people like me that need a change but need help getting there and I will be spreading the word! Participating in the training has hands-down helped me move forward to achieving many goals that I have. I have already achieved two goals already thanks to the program, I have my class 1 and should be starting my (commercial driving job) in April 2023.”

### Skills Training for Employment

The **DeNovo program** offers computer skills, short-term occupational certificate training, hands-on training, a job club and work experience through the Canadian Vocational Training Centre (CVTC). Wage subsidies, mentorships, direct matching to employers and Indigenous cultural components are available if needed. Living supports to attend one of the training locations may be provided. Training locations: Prince George, Vernon, Kelowna and Langley.

### Participant testimonial:

- “I now own my own company due to having obtained the skills that I needed, specifically Microsoft Office as well as feeling confident in making the right decisions as an owner of a Personal Information For someone who had little confidence, I now have a successful company that allows me still to grow within the Okanagan.”

**The Work Connect Program** offers essential skills training and occupational certificate training in Site Control and Safety, Camp Attendance/Maintenance and Retail and Hospitality. It includes paid work experience, on-the-job coaching and job search skills. Training locations: Prince Rupert, Mackenzie, Prince George, Valemount/McBride, Smithers, Fort St. John and Terrace.

### Participant success story:

- Person was facing employment challenges due to downturns in the forest industry and felt he required support to gain a sustainable career, not dependent on the forestry industry, utilizing his skills as an HSE safety manager and training coordinator. Person built on his existing equipment operation skill set and accessed training and supports to prepare him for a transition into the Oil & Gas sector. Person secured sustainable employment as a Personal Information with LNG Canada.

## B.C. Employer Training Grant

### Participant success stories:

- A mechanical shop in Person closed when work on chip trailers for Canfor dried up. It was no longer feasible for the shop to stay open, and this resulted in a worker becoming unemployed. The worker found employment in Personal but needed to be reskilled. The B.C. Employer Training Grant provided the new employer with \$10,000 for mandatory entry level training, which enabled the worker to take up employment as a full-time truck driver.
- A manufacturer of sawmill equipment was directly impacted by a downturn in the forest sector. As a result of reduced demand for sawmill products and services and to remain competitive, the company needed to become more efficient in operations and adapt to technologies. This required skills training for the workforce to adapt to the changing market. The B.C. Employer Training Grant approved \$14,000 to train nine employees in industrial supervision. This enabled the company’s workforce to move new and emerging supervisors into leadership positions.



**Title:** Teacher Training and Education

**Issue:** Teacher training and education, including Indigenous teachers, French teachers, and teachers in rural and remote communities

**Key Facts, Data and Background:**

- As of June 2023, there were 47,488 teachers working in the public school system. This number includes teachers teaching on call.
- Seven public post-secondary institutions in BC offer teacher education programs that produce approximately 1,750 new teacher candidates eligible for certification by the Ministry of Education and Child Care’s Teacher Regulation Branch annually. (See Appendix 1 for details.)
- The 2023 Edition of BC’s Labour Market Outlook forecasts 19,620 job openings for secondary, elementary and kindergarten teachers in BC from 2023-2033.
- The Ministry of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills is working closely with the Ministry of Education and Child Care to support the development of a K-12 workforce strategy and the recruitment and retention of teachers in BC.
- Since 2018, Government has invested approximately \$5.56 million including:
  - \$2.12 million to support 190 additional student spaces in French teacher education programs.
  - \$3.01 million to support Indigenous teacher education, including \$1.6 million to support 130 additional student spaces for Indigenous students and Indigenous in-community program delivery.
  - \$0.43 million to support 90 additional Special Education, Math, and Physics student spaces.
- Through *Budget 2023* and the StrongerBC: Future Ready Action Plan, the Ministry of Education and Child Care was allocated \$550,000 in funding to create additional seats to train teachers in rural and remote communities.<sup>Advice/Recommendations</sup>
- The subject of this note is referenced in [SSFSG recommendations on budget 2024](#) and the Ministry of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills’ position is consistent with the recommendation.

**Indigenous Teacher Education**

- Indigenous teachers are significantly under-represented in BC’s K-12 teacher workforce. Given the relative younger age and higher growth rate of the Indigenous population in BC, there is a need to diversify the K-12 workforce so that Indigenous students can see themselves better represented in their teachers.

- Indigenous students make up approximately 12 percent<sup>1</sup> of K-12 public school students. Since 2019, only 5.7 percent<sup>2</sup> of teacher education program graduates on average are Indigenous, and only 5.4 percent<sup>3</sup> of teachers self-identify as being Indigenous.
- The Ministry of Education and Child Care has convened a working group with the First Nations Education Steering Committee, the Indigenous Adult and Higher Learning Association and the Ministry of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills to implement *Declaration Act* Action Plan Action 4.2: “Develop and implement an effective recruitment and retention strategy to increase the number of Indigenous teachers in the K-12 public education system”.

### **French Teachers:**

- Since 2018, through a partnership with the Ministry of Education and Child Care, with funding provided by the federal department of Canadian Heritage under the French Teacher Recruitment and Retention Strategy, \$2.1 million has been provided to four of BC’s seven public post-secondary institutions delivering teacher education programs. This has created 190 additional student spaces in French Teacher education programs.

### **Rural and Remote Communities:**

- There are five established rural teacher education programs (see Appendix 1) which provide students with access to teacher training, assist local school districts in teacher recruitment and help address the shortage of teachers in rural regions.
- Through *Budget 2023* and the StrongerBC: Future Ready Action Plan, the Ministry of Education and Child Care was allocated \$400,000 annually for three years to incentivize eligible teacher candidate applicants to become teachers in rural and remote areas of the province.
  - In 2023/24, the Ministry of Education and Child Care and the Ministry of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills partnered on a pilot program to offer awards to teacher candidates who complete their summative practicum<sup>4</sup> in a participating Northern BC school district.

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<sup>1</sup> [B.C. Education System Performance - B.C. Public School Results School District: Contextual Information](#)

<sup>2</sup> Student Transitions Project, Fall 2022 submission (data is not publicly available)

<sup>3</sup> Based on voluntary self-identification of teacher certification applicants since 2019.

<sup>4</sup> A practicum of at least 10 consecutive weeks in which the school Mentor Teacher and university supervisor evaluate a Teacher Candidate’s Practicum performance.

## Appendix 1 - BC teacher education programs, enrolment, and completion data

### BC’s approved teacher education programs

- University of British Columbia (Vancouver and Okanagan)
  - Includes West Kootenay Rural Teacher Education Program located in Nelson and surrounding communities.
- Simon Fraser University
  - Includes Alaska Highway Consortium on Teacher Education, offered in partnership with Northern Lights College’s Fort St. John campus.
- University of Victoria
  - Includes East Kootenay Teacher Education Program located in Cranbrook, in partnership with College of the Rockies.
- University of Northern British Columbia
  - Includes Quesnel regional teacher education program.
  - Includes Terrace regional teacher education program.
- Thompson Rivers University
- University of the Fraser Valley
- Vancouver Island University
- Trinity Western University (private)

Programs are offered in a variety of forms and program lengths, including:

- one or two-year post-baccalaureate Bachelor of Education (B.Ed.) degrees;
  - Approximately 85-90 percent of BC trained teachers complete this degree.
- four or five-year B.Ed. degrees; and,
- one-year post-baccalaureate, non-degree programs.

Table 1. Domestic student FTE enrolment<sup>1</sup> in BC’s public teacher education programs<sup>2</sup>

<i>Fiscal Year<sup>3</sup> 2019/20 to 2022/23</i>				
<b>Institution</b>	<b>2019/20</b>	<b>2020/21</b>	<b>2021/22</b>	<b>2022/23</b>
University of the Fraser Valley	115	81	77	77
Thompson Rivers University	128	169	143	140
Vancouver Island University	591	642	636	635
University of British Columbia Okanagan	233	235	217	230
University of British Columbia Vancouver	1,468	1,501	1,459	1,458
Simon Fraser University	624	665	685	672
University of Northern British Columbia	100	68	82	114
University of Victoria	391	484	496	473
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>3,651</b>	<b>3,846</b>	<b>3,794</b>	<b>3,799</b>

Source: Central Data Warehouse, October 2023 submission; BC HEADset

<sup>1</sup> FTE methodology is based on the principle that each full-time student in a full-time program should generate 1.0 FTE over an academic year.

<sup>2</sup> Intended to identify the FTE enrolment in programs eligible for new teaching certification from the Teacher Regulation Branch at the Ministry of Education and Child Care. Selected New Teacher Certification eligibility FTEs include the following CIP categories: Education, general (13.01), Special education and teaching (13.10), Teacher education and professional development, specific levels and methods (13.12), Teacher education and professional development, specific subject areas (13.13), and Teaching English or French as a second or foreign language (13.14). For more information on the Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP), please see the following website: [Classification of Instructional Programs \(CIP\) 2016](#)

<sup>3</sup> Fiscal Year (FY) is from April 1 to March 31.

**Table 2. Annual number of students receiving a teaching Certificate of Qualification, by BC teacher education program**

*Academic Year<sup>1</sup> 2018/19 to 2022/23*

<b>Institution</b>	<b>2018/19</b>	<b>2019/20</b>	<b>2020/21</b>	<b>2021/22</b>	<b>2022/23</b>
University of the Fraser Valley	64	85	97	63	61
Thompson Rivers University	59	50	71	73	94
Vancouver Island University	128	162	177	148	170
University of British Columbia Okanagan	92	101	119	109	100
University of British Columbia Vancouver	638	693	706	674	691
Simon Fraser University	442	409	413	440	474
University of Northern British Columbia	20	54	41	55	40
University of Victoria	171	222	219	153	194
<b>Public Total</b>	<b>1,614</b>	<b>1,776</b>	<b>1,843</b>	<b>1,715</b>	<b>1,824</b>
Trinity Western University	35	43	39	13	74
<b>System Total</b>	<b>1,649</b>	<b>1,819</b>	<b>1,882</b>	<b>1,728</b>	<b>1,898</b>

Source: Ministry of Education and Child Care: Teacher Regulation Branch – Certification Unit

<sup>1</sup> Academic Year (FY) is from September 1 to August 31.

- Over the 2022/2023 school year, there were 1,824 new teachers receiving a Certificate of Qualification (CoQ) that were trained in approved BC public teacher education programs.
- The highest volume of new CoQs came from University of British Columbia (38 percent), followed by Simon Fraser University (26 percent).

Since 2018, Government has invested approximately **\$5.56 million**, including **\$4.185 million** in targeted one-time funding to create 410 additional student spaces, in approved BC teacher education programs to fill in-demand positions

AMOUNT	PSI								
FOCUS	NVIT	SFU	TRU	UBC	UFV	UNBC	UVIC	VIU	Grand Total
FRENCH		931,500		660,000			530,000		2,121,500
INDIGENOUS	780,000	230,000	390,000	948,000	50,000	380,000	50,000	185,000	3,013,000
SPECIAL		185,000		120,000			126,000		431,000
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>780,000</b>	<b>1,346,500</b>	<b>390,000</b>	<b>1,728,000</b>	<b>50,000</b>	<b>380,000</b>	<b>706,000</b>	<b>185,000</b>	<b>5,565,500</b>

AMOUNT	PSI							
FOCUS	CLIFF	SFU	TRU	UBC	UNBC	UVIC	VIU	Grand Total
<b>FRENCH</b>	112216	125,000		120,000				245,000
	112383	90,000		90,000				180,000
	114078	165,000		100,000				265,000
	119510	161,500						161,500
	122463	220,000						220,000
	127037				350,000			350,000
	131135	170,000					530,000	700,000
<b>INDIGENOUS</b>	112216			168,000				168,000
	114078						65,000	65,000
	115373	180,000	340,000	480,000	330,000		70,000	1,400,000
<b>SPECIAL</b>	112216	80,000		120,000		126,000		326,000
	112686	25,000						25,000
	114078	80,000						80,000
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>1,296,500</b>	<b>340,000</b>	<b>1,428,000</b>	<b>330,000</b>	<b>656,000</b>	<b>135,000</b>	<b>4,185,500</b>

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**Title:** Tech-Relevant Student Spaces

**Issue:** Increased tech-relevant education opportunities.

**Key Facts, Data and Background:**

- As part of the *StrongerBC: Future Ready Action Plan*, *Budget 2023* included funding over three years to begin to implement an expansion of 2,000 student spaces at public post-secondary institutions in tech-relevant programming.
- Through <sup>Advice/Recommendations</sup> in 2023/24 and <sup>Advice/Recommendations</sup> in *Budget 2024*, <sup>Cabinet Confidences</sup> for a further 1,000 spaces, for a total of 3,000 spaces, starting with \$74.7M funding over three years.

Cumulative Funding \$ millions	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	3-Year
Funding for new spaces	\$12.2M	\$26.8M	\$35.7M	\$74.7M

- The 3,000 new spaces will be phased in over five years, with funding for 2026/27 and 2027/28 to be confirmed in subsequent budget processes.
- The ministry’s capital budget also contains \$20 million in capital funding for equipment and renovations to support the expansion.
- “Tech-relevant” is a broad approach to the issue of tech skills, which is not confined to information technology or engineering, and includes a range of programming that reflects the breadth and diversity of the tech sector itself, and how technology is transforming every sector.
- The new tech-relevant student spaces are a Key Action in *StrongerBC: A Plan for Today, a Vision for Tomorrow*, and the expansion was a 2020 mandate letter commitment.
- The *2023 Labour Market Outlook* projects 116,900 tech job openings over the next 10 years, and a supply gap of approximately 1,000 tech graduates a year. The planned expansion will help to address this gap.
- The subject of the note is referenced in the Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services’ recommendations on *Budget 2024* and the ministry’s position is consistent with the recommendation:
  - Increase funding for all regions across the province to expand programming and seats at all levels where needs are greatest given current and projected skill shortages, including trades.
- In 2022/23, the ministry completed a 6-year expansion with \$42 million in annual ongoing funding for 2,900 student spaces in tech programming. The expansion is achieving 100 percent utilization overall, indicating strong student demand for tech programs.



- The current phase of expansion (3,000 new spaces) will see each of the 25 public post-secondary institutions and every region of the province receiving funding, either one-time or ongoing.
- The expansion plan supports education and training in a range of programs to address areas of high demand, industry's current and future growth areas and government priorities such as software engineering, animation, creative technologies, life sciences, clean tech and agritech.
- A range of credentials, from certificates, diplomas to undergraduate and graduate degrees, are included in the expansion to address the tech sector's needs.
- Some examples include a computer systems technician program in the East Kootenay region, launching an Information Technology Systems and Networking in the Northwest, data science in the Okanagan, software engineering in Victoria and biomedical engineering in Vancouver.
- The new student spaces in tech-relevant programs are one example of Government's support for the tech sector and for students wishing to work in the sector. Other initiatives include micro-credentials, graduate student scholarships and internships, and short-term skills training.



**Title: Veterinary Care Training Initiatives**

**Issue: Veterinary Care Workforce Issues**

**Key Facts, Data and Background:**

- Over the past 50 years, British Columbia has been a key partner in the Western College of Veterinary Medicine (Vet College) in Saskatchewan, a world-class institution. This is the only program in Canada where students from British Columbia can obtain a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree which allows them to become vets.
- B.C. has an inter-provincial agreement (Agreement) with Saskatchewan and Manitoba to share the costs and benefits of the Vet College and to secure seats for B.C. students in the four-year veterinary medicine program. The current five-year Agreement expires in 2025 <sup>Advice/Recommendations</sup>
- In April 2022, the ministry publicly announced a doubling of the intake of B.C. students at the Vet College from 20 to 40 for 2022/23. The doubling of the intake became permanent in 2023, with funding of \$21.8 million over three years included in *Budget 2023* and announced in March 2023.
- *Budget 2024* includes \$7.25 million for the new seats, as part of a total investment in vet seats of almost 16 million in 2024/25.
- In addition, 25 B.C. students admitted in 2020 and 2021 under a differential tuition pilot have their additional fees waived through the final years of their program (\$55,000 each annually).
- Also in 2023, the Vet College and the funding provinces increased the number of spaces designated for Indigenous students, including at least one from each funding province, in addition to the two Indigenous students admitted via the existing equity program.
- The ministry also worked with the Vet College and the Ministry of Agriculture and Food to establish an agriculture-focused admissions stream for 15 percent (6) of B.C.'s seats, for students who are more likely to work in large animal/rural mixed animal practice after graduation, addressing an area of high demand.
- About 55 percent of B.C.'s veterinarian labour force needs are filled through alternative sources, such as inter-provincial migration, B.C. students returning after being trained internationally, and immigration.
- Registered Veterinary Technologists are also critical members of the veterinary care team. Douglas College and Thompson Rivers University currently have an intake of over 50 Veterinarian Technologists annually.
- In addition, Thompson Rivers University offers a part-time, online diploma for students already employed in veterinary clinics who wish to upgrade their education and training.



- Government recently added veterinarians and veterinary technologists to the list of priority occupations under the Provincial Nominee Program, helping to ensure vet clinics have the professionals they need to provide animal care.
- The College of Veterinarians of British Columbia and the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association also work to ensure internationally trained veterinarians have the qualifications and training to practice in B.C.
- In addition, the College of Veterinarians of British Columbia is updating bylaws to outline the certification requirements and role of certified technicians in veterinary care.
- The Vet College in Saskatchewan is now at capacity and is undertaking a study to explore expansion options. As part of that process, it has reached out to B.C. institutions to discuss potential new models for veterinary medicine training. These models may involve more local training, in addition to the clinical rotations and summer work semesters in which B.C. students already participate. The ministry is supportive of these early exploratory discussions.
- To address regional distribution challenges, stakeholders such as regional districts and municipalities have a role to play in engaging with the Vet College and other partners such as the Society of BC Veterinarians to find ways to increase access to veterinarian care in their communities, such as through clinical placements for summer students and fourth year student clinical experiences in veterinarian clinics. In fall 2023, Vet College representatives visited several northern B.C. communities to raise awareness of the veterinary medicine program for students and clinics.
- ministry staff have met with representatives of local communities to better understand their local workforce needs and are continuing to work with the Ministry of Agriculture and Food and partners to support a strong veterinary workforce in the province.

**Title:** Workforce Development Programs

**Issue:** Workforce development programs support people in B.C. to participate in the labour market by increasing their skills for sustainable employment.

**Key Facts, Data and Background:**

- The ministry's workforce development programs, together with WorkBC programs delivered by the Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction (SDPR), contribute to B.C.'s overall response to our future skills needs, and are foundational to the StrongerBC: Future Ready Action Plan.
- Most of the ministry's workforce development programs are funded through Labour Market Transfer Agreements with the federal government.
- As the Federal budget 2024 confirmed that B.C. will not receive top-up funding, <sup>Advisory</sup> <sub>Advice/Recommendations</sub> B.C. will work to minimize impacts of loss of top-up in 2024/25 for contracted service providers and participants to ensure people continue to have access to services.
- Programs are also supported with funding provided under the StrongerBC: Future Ready Action Plan for programs for people who face multiple barriers to labour market participation.
- The ministry has invested \$77.2M annually in federal funding in programs to increase access for people to participate and succeed in the labour market through skills training and employment supports. *(See also tab 54 - Minister Note: Labour Market Transfer Agreements)*
- Workforce development programs focus on meeting the labour and skills needs of vulnerable and under-represented groups, employers and sectors, and communities. *(See Appendix 2 for program examples)*

**Programs for Vulnerable and Under-represented People:**

- In 2023/24, the ministry will have invested \$51.2M in federal funding in programs to support people from vulnerable and under-represented groups to gain the skills, connections and supports they need so they can participate in the labour market and find sustainable employment. Programs deliver skills training and wraparound supports, such as childcare and transportation.
- Programs focus on meeting the unique needs of youth, women, Indigenous people, new immigrants, and others who face multiple barriers to participation in the labour market. *(See also tab 55 - Minister Note: Skills Training Programs Expansion for People Facing Multiple Barriers)*

- Programs are delivered in partnership with community service providers, post-secondary institutions, training providers, industry, and employers to ensure they are aligned with B.C.'s labour market needs and job openings.
- Programs for those who face multiple barriers were expanded in 2023/24 and 2024/25, with increased provincial funding through the StrongerBC: Future Ready Action Plan.
- In 2022/23, 91% of participants were employed or in further education or training after completing their program (data for 2023/24 is not yet available).
- Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction also invests \$35M in Labour Market Transfer Agreement funding for programs specifically designed to meet the needs of persons with disabilities. *(See also tab 54 - Minister Note: Labour Market Transfer Agreements)*

#### **Programs for Employers and Sectors:**

- In 2023/24, the ministry will have invested \$16M in federal funding in employer-led skills training and sector partnership-led projects to meet the workforce development needs of employers and sectors. Employers and sectors are required to contribute to the costs of training and workforce development. *(See Appendix 1 for funding tables 2023/24)*
- These programs help employers to invest in skills training of their new or current employees, and sectors to understand and respond to changing labour market conditions so they can adapt to shifts in labour and skills supply and demands.
- In 2022/23, almost 1,200 employers and 6,000 of their employees participated in these programs, and 29 sector-led projects were supported (data for 2023/24 is not yet available).

#### **Programs for Communities:**

- In 2023/24, the ministry will have invested \$10M in the Community Workforce Response Grant program to help communities across the province respond to urgent and emerging labour market needs through skills training projects for unemployed or precariously employed people. Sectors can also apply for funding for projects that respond to community labour and skills needs. *(See Appendix 1 for funding tables 2023/24)*
- Projects address a variety of provincial, regional, and local community labour and skills needs, and require support from employers and community partners.
- In 2022/23, 79% of people who participated in a Community Workforce Response Grant project were employed or moved into further education and training as a result of the program (data for 2023/24 is not yet available).

**Appendix 1: Funding Tables 2023/24**

<b>Programs for Vulnerable and Underrepresented People</b>				
<b>Program</b>	<b>Program Description</b>	<b>2023/24 Budget</b>		
		<b>Federal</b>	<b>Provincial</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
<b>Skills Training for Employment</b>	Delivers skills training, employment services and wraparound supports to help people from vulnerable and under-represented groups to gain sustainable employment.	\$35M	\$9.5M	\$44.5M
<b>SkilledTradesBC Pre-Apprenticeship Training</b>	Delivers skills training, employment services and wraparound supports to prepare Indigenous people and other equity-deserving groups, including women, 2SLGBTQIA+ members, immigrants, racialized people and young adults at risk, for apprenticeships and jobs in the trades.	\$10.0M	\$0M	\$10.0M
<b>BladeRunners</b>	Delivers life skills, job readiness skills, work experience and ongoing supports to young adults at risk (aged 15-30), with over 50% of participants self-identifying as Indigenous.	\$6.2M	\$0M	\$6.2M
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$51.2M</b>	<b>\$9.5M</b>	<b>\$60.7M</b>

<b>Programs for Employers and Sectors</b>		
<b>Program</b>	<b>Program Description</b>	<b>2023/24 Budget</b>
<b>BC Employer Training Grant</b>	Provides skills training funding to employers to support their new or current employees to gain the skills they need for their current job, a new job, or a promotion.	\$10M
<b>Sector Labour Market Partnerships</b>	Provides funding to support sector-led partnerships to better understand and respond to labour market changes and workforce challenges.	\$6M
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$16M</b>

<b>Programs for Communities</b>		
<b>Program</b>	<b>Program Description</b>	<b>2023/24 Budget</b>
<b>Community Workforce Response Grant</b>	Provides funding for skills training projects, with wraparound supports, to respond to urgent and emerging labour market needs and lead to sustainable employment for unemployed or precariously employed people.	\$10M
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$10M</b>

## Appendix 2: Program Examples

### Programs for Vulnerable and Under-represented People

- Open Door Group (\$1.9M over three years (2023/24 to 2025/26) is delivering a Skills Training for Employment program to 360 young adults in Kamloops, Kelowna, Squamish and the Sunshine Coast. This Jobs in Demand program is a hybrid, interactive group-based skills training program run over 6-8 weeks that equips individuals for employment in office administration, social services and skilled trades. It includes group workshops, online modules and employment support.
- BC Construction Association (\$12.3M over four years (2019/20 to 2023/24) delivered a SkilledTradesBC Pre-Apprenticeship program to 1,808 women and others from equity-deserving groups across the province, exceeding original targets. This program supports participants to secure trades-related employment through available job openings in the construction industry, including apprenticeships and advancement to high skilled trades occupations. *Current contract expires March 31, 2024.*

### Programs for Employers

- In 2023/24, Sunningdale Children’s Centre received \$28,000 from the BC Employer Training Grant to train 10 employees in early childhood education (ECE). By increasing the skills of their workforce, the Centre was able to move their childcare assistants into childcare educator positions and meet the high demand for ECE educators.
- In 2023/24, Bailey Helicopters Ltd. received \$55,000 from the BC Employer Training Grant to train 10 employees in aircraft maintenance training. Through this training, the company was able to train its workforce to do more maintenance in-house, instead of contracting out services to a third-party, increasing their efficiency.

### Programs for Communities

- In 2023/24, Daylu Dena Council received \$85,500 from the Community Workforce Response Grant to engage the Interior Heavy Equipment Operator School to deliver Rock and Haul Truck Equipment training to 6 participants in Lower Post, Nechako, for employment in the heavy equipment and construction industry.
- In 2023/24, Community Futures Development Corporation – Cowichan Region received \$214,300 from the Community Workforce Response Grant to engage the Columbia Paramedic Academy to deliver Primary Care Paramedic training to 16 participants in Victoria, preparing them for employment as Primary Care Paramedics in the region.
- In 2023/24, Agrarians Foundation received \$282,000 from the Community Workforce Response Grant to engage North Island College to deliver the Regenerative Farming Program to 22 participants in Courtenay, developing skills for regenerative farming jobs or to start their own businesses. The training promotes techniques that restore ecosystems and grow nutritious food.

**Title:** Work Integrated Learning

**Issue:** Supports for co-op and work-integrated learning for post-secondary students

**Key Facts, Data and Background:**

- As part of the StrongerBC: Future Ready Action Plan, Government provides funding of \$1.5 million per year for three years to further expand and maintain work-integrated learning opportunities at the 13 smallest public post-secondary institutions in British Columbia. Funding years are 2023/24, 2024/25 and 2025/26.
- Funding is expected to support over 600 work-integrated learning placements per year, enhancing delivery at institutions that are mainly located outside the Lower Mainland and where students face additional barriers.
- The ministry previously invested a total of \$14.5 million in one-time funding between 2019 and 2022 under the Co-op Education and Work-Integrated Learning Initiative.
  - This initiative supported these forms of learning in partnership with our public post-secondary education system and created over 6,700 work-integrated learning placements across the province.
- Co-op education is the best-known method of work-integrated learning. Other methods include internships, clinical placements, service learning, and practicums.
- Through these opportunities, students apply classroom learning and gain relevant work experience, while developing connections with employers. At the same time, employers benefit from a firsthand look at new talent for future recruitment after graduation.
- Other examples of work-integrated learning supports include Mitacs and the Innovator Skills Initiative.
- Mitacs is a B.C.-based, national not-for-profit organization that delivers applied research training programs for students.
  - Through a long-term partnership with Mitacs, between 2018 and 2023 the Ministry of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills has provided over \$75 million in funding to support internships for innovation.
  - In April 2023, funding of \$50 million was announced to support 10,000 additional internships over the next five years.
  - Students receive a stipend of \$10,000 for their four-month internship while gaining hands-on work experience and applying their knowledge and skills to real-world problems faced by businesses and organizations in B.C.
  - Note that ministry funding for Mitacs is separate from the support for work-integrated learning through the StrongerBC: Future Ready Action Plan.



- The Innovator Skills Initiative administered by Innovate BC, with funding from the Ministry of Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation.
  - In recent years, the Innovator Skills Initiative has received provincial investments of over \$20.5 million to support more than 3,500 paid placements at businesses in the province for tech or tech-related roles.
  - In 2021 the Innovator Skills Initiative was refocused to encourage inclusive hiring of students and recent graduates from under-represented groups, with employers receiving a grant of up to \$10,000 per eligible employee for salary support.
  - Innovate BC is now partnering with the First Nations Technology Council and Mitacs to deliver Indigenous placements.



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Ministry of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills  
 Estimates Debate Binder  
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# Ministry of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills - *Estimates 2024/25*

## Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE to *Estimates 2024/25*

(in 000's)

**Table 1 – Budget 2024 Resource Summary Table - 2023/24 (Restated) to 2026/27**

For budget documents Reference: see Table 6	Sub-Vote Description * (\$000s)	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27
		Restated Estimates	Estimates	Plan	Plan
Vote 41	Educational Institutions and Organizations	2,517,565	3,119,664	3,162,488	3,162,488
	Student Support Programs	75,901	73,697	73,690	73,690
	Private Training Institutions	1	1	1	1
	Labour Market Development	40,310	39,469	39,469	39,469
	Transfers to Crown Corporations and Agencies	106,285	106,960	106,960	106,960
	Executive and Support Services	28,796	31,252	31,260	31,260
<b>Vote 41</b>	<b>MINISTRY TOTAL</b>	<b>2,768,858</b>	<b>3,371,043</b>	<b>3,413,868</b>	<b>3,413,868</b>

\* Sub-Vote budget amounts are shown net of spending funded by recoveries from other sources.

**Table 2 - Summary of changes by Sub-Vote – 2023/24 to 2024/25**

For budget documents Reference: see Table 6	Sub-Vote Description (\$000s)	2023/24 Estimates	Changes *	2023/24 Restated Estimates	Changes (see Table 4)	2024/25 Estimates
Vote 41	Educational Institutions and Organizations	2,518,465	(900)	2,517,565	602,099	<b>3,119,664</b>
	Student Support Programs	75,901		75,901	(2,204)	<b>73,697</b>
	Private Training Institutions	1		1	0	<b>1</b>
	Labour Market Development	40,310		40,310	(841)	<b>39,469</b>
	Transfers to Crown Corporations and Agencies	106,285		106,285	675	<b>106,960</b>
	Executive and Support Services	29,017	(221)	28,796	2,456	<b>31,252</b>
<b>Vote 41</b>	<b>MINISTRY TOTAL</b>	<b>2,769,979</b>	<b>(1,121)</b>	<b>2,768,858</b>	<b>602,185</b>	<b>3,371,043</b>

\* Prior year Estimates may be restated to reflect re-organizations to ensure year-over-year comparability.

EIO: Net decrease of (\$0.900M): Transfer of funding to Ministry of Finance for the Post-Secondary Employers' Association (PSEA)

ESS: Net decrease of (\$0.221M): Transfer of the Corporate Services Secretariat (CSS) to Emergency Management and Climate Readiness (EMCR)

# Ministry of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills - *Estimates 2024/25*

Table 3 - Summary of Budget 2024 changes to Ministry operating budget (compared to 2023/24 Restated)

Description (\$000s)	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	3-Year Increase/ (Decrease)
Shared Recovery Mandate *	513,522	527,984	527,984	1,569,490
SFU Medical School Operating Funding	27,000	30,960	30,960	88,920
Future Ready Action Plan**	16,350	18,850	18,850	54,050
Office of the Superintendent of Professional Governance (OSPG)	400	400	400	1,200
Minister's Office - Minister of State Rescinded, Parliamentary Secretary for International Credentials Appointed	(137)	(137)	(137)	(411)
<b>Total Budget 2024 decisions</b>	<b>557,135</b>	<b>578,057</b>	<b>578,057</b>	<b>1,713,249</b>
Impacts from previous Service Plan Budget Changes	45,051	21,902		66,953
Restatement adjustment	(1)	1		-
<b>Total Changes from Budget 2023 (2023/24 restated)</b>	<b>602,185</b>	<b>599,960</b>	<b>578,057</b>	<b>1,780,202</b>

\* See Table 3A for SRM breakdown

\*\* See Table 4A for FRAP funding allocation

Table 3A - Summary of Budget 2024 changes for SRM

Description (\$000s)	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	3-Year Increase
Shared Recovery Mandate Allocation (PSIs)	511,800	526,262	526,262	1,564,324
Shared Recovery Mandate Allocation (Ministry)	1,284	1,284	1,284	3,852
Shared Recovery Mandate Allocation (SkilledTradesBC)	438	438	438	1,314
<b>Total Increase to Ministry Base Budget</b>	<b>513,522</b>	<b>527,984</b>	<b>527,984</b>	<b>1,569,490</b>

## Ministry of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills - *Estimates 2024/25*

**Table 4 – Breakdown of changes by Sub-Vote and decision – 2023/24 restated to 2024/25**

Sub-Vote (\$000s)	Prior Budget impacts <sup>1</sup>	Shared Recovery Mandate	SFU Medical School	Future Ready Action Plan	OSPG <sup>2</sup>	Minister's Office Adjustment <sup>3</sup>	Budget Neutral adjustment for CALP <sup>4</sup>	Restatement impact <sup>5</sup>	Total
Educational Institutions and Organizations (EIO)	45,299	511,800	27,000	15,600	-	-	2,400	-	<b>602,099</b>
Student Support Programs (SSP)	44	152	-	-	-	-	(2,400)	-	<b>(2,204)</b>
Private Training Institutions (PTIB)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Labour Market Development (LMD)	(1,085)	244	-	-	-	-	-	-	<b>(841)</b>
Transfers to Crown Corporations and Agencies (TCCA)	237	438	-	-	-	-	-	-	<b>675</b>
Executive & Support Services (ESS)	556	888	-	750	400	(137)	-	(1)	<b>2,456</b>
<b>Total Change</b>	<b>45,051</b>	<b>513,522</b>	<b>27,000</b>	<b>16,350</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>(137)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(1)</b>	<b>602,185</b>

**Notes:**

1. Year-over-year changes to base budget allocation will include impacts from decisions from previous budgets. The following *Budget 2022* and *Budget 2023* decisions resulted in a \$45.051M impact to 2024/25:
  - EIO Net total increase of \$45.299M comprised of increases related to the FRAP Year 2 \$17.65M, HHR Strategy \$15.170M, SRM for PSIs \$11.912M, and Emily Carr P3 inflation pressure \$0.567M.
  - SSP increase of \$0.044M for SRM.
  - LMD net decrease of (\$1.085M) resulting from a decrease of (\$1.520M) for FRAP Year 2 partially offset by increase of \$0.435M for SRM.
  - TCCA increase of \$0.237M for SRM.
  - ESS increase of \$0.556M for International Credential Recognition \$0.373M and SRM \$0.183M.
2. This represents an adjustment for Office of the Superintendent of Professional Governance expenses previously funded by the Ministry of Environment (through internal recoveries).
3. Adjustment for the wind up of the Minister of State office and appointment of the new Parliamentary Secretary for International Credentials.
4. Community Adult Literacy Program (CALP)
5. Amount transferred to EMCR for the Corporate Services Secretariat \$0.001M higher in 2024/25 than for restated 2023/24.

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# Ministry of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills - *Estimates 2024/25*

**Table 4A - Budget 2024 decisions -Future Ready Action Plan**

Initiative (\$000s)	Sub-vote	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	Total
Tech- related Seats (Programming)	EIO	8,300	10,800	10,800	<b>29,900</b>
Find Your Digital Pathways Tool (Programming)	EIO	7,300	7,300	7,300	<b>21,900</b>
Find Your Digital Pathways Tool (Administration)	ESS	750	750	750	<b>2,250</b>
<b>Total Ministry Base Budget Increase</b>		<b>16,350</b>	<b>18,850</b>	<b>18,850</b>	<b>54,050</b>

**Table 5 - Post-Secondary Institutions Capital Plan**

Description (\$000s)	Reference	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	TOTAL
		Estimates	Plan	Plan	
Total PSI Capital spending from all sources	Budget & Fiscal Plan document	2,201,626	1,933,441	1,898,502	<b>6,033,569</b>
Ministry Capital Funding, Vote 49, provincial funding contribution	All year fiscal plan years shown in Ministry Service Plan, page 18; 2024/25 only shown in Estimates, Vote 49, page 203	1,107,256	1,253,968	1,018,506	<b>3,379,730</b>

**Table 6 - Budget Documents Reference**

Vote No.	Vote Name	Blue Book Page
41	Ministry Operations – PSFS	157-160
49	Other Appropriations – Capital Funding (Post-Secondary Institutions)	203

# Ministry of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills - *Estimates 2024/25*

Advice/Recommendations

# Ministry of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills - *Estimates 2024/25*

Advice/Recommendations

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## Ministry Resource Summary

Core Business Area	2023/24 Restated Estimates	2024/25 Estimates	2025/26 Plan	2026/27 Plan
<b>Operating Expenses (\$000)</b>				
<b>Educational Institutions and Organizations</b>	2,517,565	3,119,664	3,162,488	3,162,488
<b>Student Services Programs</b>	75,901	73,697	73,690	73,690
<b>Private Training Institutions</b>	1	1	1	1
<b>Labour Market Development</b>	40,310	39,469	39,469	39,469
<b>Transfers to Crown Corporations and Agencies</b>	106,285	106,960	106,960	106,960
<b>Executive and Support Services</b>	28,796	31,252	31,260	31,260
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>2,768,858</b>	<b>3,371,043</b>	<b>3,413,868</b>	<b>3,413,868</b>

<b>Ministry Capital Expenditures (Consolidated Revenue Fund) (\$000)</b>				
<b>Executive and Support Services</b>	504	504	504	504
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>504</b>	<b>504</b>	<b>504</b>	<b>504</b>

<b>Capital Plan (\$000)</b>				
<b>Educational Institutions and Organizations - Post-secondary Institutions</b>	818,635	1,107,256	1,253,968	1,018,506
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>818,635</b>	<b>1,107,256</b>	<b>1,253,968</b>	<b>1,018,506</b>

## Ministry Resource Summary - continued

Public Post-Secondary Sector	2023/24 Forecast	2024/25 Budget	2025/26 Plan	2026/27 Plan
<b>Combined Income Statement (\$ millions)</b>				
<b>Total Revenue</b>	8,600	8,848	9,106	9,372
<b>Total Expense</b>	(8,386)	(8,722)	(8,979)	(9,233)
<b>Operating Results</b>	214	126	127	139
<b>Gain on Sale of Assets</b>	117	-	-	-
<b>Annual Surplus (Deficit)</b>	331	126	127	139

**MINISTRY OF POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION AND FUTURE SKILLS**  
**Summary of Recoveries and Revenue**  
(\$000s)

<b>Recoveries (Internal and External)</b> in 000's	<b>2023/24 Restated Estimates</b>	<b>2024/25 Estimates</b>
Educational Institutions and Organizations <i>Internal recoveries from the Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction (under the Employment Program of BC) and from the Ministry of Health for health sector training.</i>	(44,431)	(44,431)
Student Services Programs <i>Cost maybe recovered from administration of Federal Loan Program and other Ministries in the province for program administration</i>	(2,939)	(2,939)
Private Training Institutions <i>The Private Training Institutions program is funded by various fees received from private training institutions</i>	(3,565)	(3,565)
Labour Market Development <i>Costs may be recovered from ministries, Crown agencies, boards and commissions, the Federal Government and parties external to government, for activities described within this sub-vote.</i>	(114,945)	(114,945)
Executive and Support Services <i>Internal recoveries from other ministries. External recoveries from application fees paid by both public and private institutions for Degree quality assessments.</i>	(594)	(594)
<b>TOTAL RECOVERIES - Ministry Operations</b>	<b>(166,474)</b>	<b>(166,474)</b>

<b>Revenue</b> in 000's	<b>2023/24 Restated Estimates</b>	<b>2024/25 Estimates</b>	
Student Support Programs	(740)	(740)	1
<i>Recovery of Prior Year Expenditures</i>	(40)	(40)	
<i>Student Loan Administration Fee</i>	(700)	(700)	
Private Training Institutions	(1)	(1)	2
<i>Miscellaneous Licenses and Permits</i>	(1)	(1)	
Executive and Support Services	(38)	(18)	3
<i>Foreign Exchange Gain Loss</i>	(40)	(20)	
<i>Less: Commissions Paid/Withheld</i>	1	1	
<i>Less Doubtful Account - Misc. Revenue</i>	1	1	
<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>	<b>(779)</b>	<b>(759)</b>	

Please refer to notes on page 2

**MINISTRY OF POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION AND FUTURE SKILLS**  
**Summary of Recoveries and Revenue**  
(\$000s)

**Notes:**

**Revenue**

**1 Student Loan Administration Fee**

- Funds paid to the Province for the administration of the Canada Student Loan program. Funds paid to offset costs related to Pacific Leaders for Public Servant Children administration

**2 Miscellaneous Licenses and Permits**

- This revenue is related to fines and penalties charged by the Private Training Institutions Branch.

**3 Foreign Exchange Gain Loss**

- Revenue is recorded for variances between currency exchange rate. \$20K decrease from FY25 to FY24.

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Revenues do not appear in the *Estimates* specific to PSFS, however are listed by source type.  
(e.g. Natural Resources, Taxation, Crown Land Tenures, Miscellaneous)



**Title:** Vote 41 – Ministry Operations

**Issue:** Overview of the Ministry’s 2024/25 operating budget allocation

**Key Facts, Data and Background:**

- **Budget 2024** provides my ministry with a total 2024/25 operating budget of \$3.37 billion via Vote 41 in the Estimates.
- The Ministry budget is \$602.2 million higher than 2023/24 mainly due to funding for compensation costs for public post-secondary institutions and the ministry under the Shared Recovery Mandate (\$513.5 million). (See Table 1 -Summary of 2024/25 Budget Changes from 2023/24 Restated)
- Other investments included \$27.0 million of operating funding for the Simon Fraser University (SFU) Medical School and \$16.4 million for the Future Ready Action Plan (FRAP).
- Increase to the budget also included \$45.1 million in previous service plan budget decisions related to the Shared Recovery Mandate, the Health Human Resources Strategy and the Future Ready Action Plan.

**Table 1 – Summary of 2024/25 Budget Changes from 2023/24 Restated**

(\$000s)	2023/24 (restated)	2024/25	Changes 2023/24 to 2024/25
<b>Ministry Operations- Budget 2023</b>	2,769,979	2,815,030	45,051
Transfer of funding to Ministry of Finance for Post-Secondary Employers' Association (PSEA)	(900)	(900)	-
Corporate Services Secretariat (CSS) Transfer to EMCR	(221)	(222)	(1)
<b>Ministry Operations- Budget 2023 restated</b>	<b>2,768,858</b>	<b>2,813,908</b>	<b>45,050</b>
Shared Recovery Mandate		513,522	513,522
SFU Medical School Operating Funding		27,000	27,000
Future Ready Action Plan		16,350	16,350
Budget Adjustment for Office of the Superintendent of Professional Governance (OSPG) expenditures previously funded by Ministry of Environment		400	400
Minister's Office - Minister of State Rescinded, Parliamentary Secretary for International Credentials Appointed		(137)	(137)
<b>Ministry Operations- Budget 2024</b>	<b>2,768,858</b>	<b>3,371,043</b>	<b>602,185</b>

- **Gross and net spending (after recoveries) by sub-vote, and itemized changes, are provided in the following table and bullets:**

2023/24 Estimates Restated (Net)	2024/25 Estimates			Change from 2023/24 Restated		
	(\$000s)	Gross	Recoveries	Net	\$	%
2,517,565	Educational Institutions and Organizations	3,164,095	-44,431	<b>3,119,664</b>	602,099 <sup>1</sup>	24%
75,901	Student Services Programs	76,636	-2,939	<b>73,697</b>	(2,204) <sup>2</sup>	-3%
1	Private Training Institutions	3,566	-3,565	<b>1</b>	0	0%
40,310	Labour Market Development	154,414	-114,945	<b>39,469</b>	(841) <sup>3</sup>	-2%
106,285	Transfers to Crown Corporations and Agencies	106,960	0	<b>106,960</b>	675 <sup>4</sup>	1%
28,796	Executive and Support Services	31,846	-594	<b>31,252</b>	2,456 <sup>5</sup>	9%
<b>2,768,858</b>	<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	<b>3,537,517</b>	<b>-166,474</b>	<b>3,371,043</b>	<b>602,185</b>	<b>22%</b>

#### 1 **Educational Institutions and Organizations**

Total **net increase of \$602.099 M** is comprised of the following:

- Increase of \$511.800 M for Shared Recovery Mandate (SRM)
- Increase of \$27.000 M for SFU Medical School Funding
- Increase of \$15.600 M for Future Ready Action Plan (FRAP)
- Increase of \$2.400 M for realignment between subvotes for Community Adult Literacy Program (CALP)
- Increase of \$45.229 M from *Budget 2022* and *Budget 2023* approvals for SRM, HHR strategy and FRAP

#### 2 **Student Services Programs**

Total **net decrease of (\$2.204 M)** is comprised of the following:

- Decrease of (\$2.400 M) related to realignment between EIO and SSP subvotes for CALP
- Partially offset by an increase of \$0.152 M for SRM
- Increase of \$0.044 M from adjustments approved in *Budget 2023* for SRM

#### 3 **Labour Market Development**

Total **net decrease of (\$0.841 M)** is comprised of the following:

- Increase of \$0.244 M for SRM
- Net decrease of (\$1.085 M) resulting from *Budget 2023* adjustments related to FRAP and SRM

#### 4 **Transfers to Crown Corporations and Agencies**

Total **net increase of \$0.675M** is comprised of the following:

- Increase of \$0.438 M for SRM
- Increase of \$0.237 M from *Budget 2023* approvals for Skilled Trades Certification

#### 5 **Executive and Support Services**

Total **net increase of \$2.456M** is comprised of the following:

- Increase of \$0.888 M for Shared Recovery Mandate (SRM)
- Increase of \$0.750 M for FRAP
- Adjustment of \$0.400 M for Office of the Superintendent of Professional Governance (OSPG) existing expenses previously funded by the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy
- Net decrease of (\$0.137 M) for rescinded Minister of State and set up of Parliamentary Secretary
- Increase of \$0.556 M from *Budget 2023* approvals for SRM and Foreign Credentials Recognition

**Title:** Vote 41 – Ministry Operations

**Issue:** Budget 2024 Three Year Budget Plan Changes from Budget 2023

Key Facts, Data and Background:

- For *Budget 2024*, the three-year base budget allocation for the Ministry of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills (PSFS) is \$3.371 billion in 2024/25, \$3.414 billion in 2025/26, and \$3.414 billion in 2026/27 (see Table 1).
- This represents an increase of \$1.7 billion over three years from *Budget 2023* (restated) and results from the following adjustments:
  - \$1.57 billion increase to fund compensation costs for public post-secondary institutions and the Ministry under the Shared Recovery Mandate;
  - \$88.9 million increase for the operational costs of the Simon Fraser University medical school;
  - \$54.1 million increase for the StrongerBC: Future Ready Action Plan (FRAP);
  - \$1.2 million adjustment for the Office of the Superintendent of Professional Governance existing expenses previously funded by the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy; and,
  - (\$0.4 million) net decrease due to the wind up of the Minister of State for Workforce Development office and the appointment of the new Parliamentary Secretary for International Credentials.

**Table 1 – Summary of Budget 2024 changes**

(\$000s)	<i>Budget 2024 fiscal plan period</i>				3-Year Increase/ (Decrease)
	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	
<b><i>Budget 2023 track (Last year)</i></b>	2,769,979	2,815,030	2,836,932	2,836,932	
Transfer of funding to Ministry of Finance for Post-Secondary Employers' Association (PSEA)	(900)	(900)	(900)	(900)	(2,700)
Corporate Services Secretariat (CSS) Transfer to EMCR	(221)	(222)	(221)	(221)	(664)
<b><i>Budget 2023 track with 2023/24 restated</i></b>	<b>2,768,858</b>	<b>2,813,908</b>	<b>2,835,811</b>	<b>2,835,811</b>	
<b><i>Budget 2024 decisions:</i></b>					
Shared Recovery Mandate - PSIs		511,800	526,262	526,262	1,564,324
SFU Medical School Operating Funding		27,000	30,960	30,960	88,920
Future Ready Action Plan		16,350	18,850	18,850	54,050
Shared Recovery Mandate - Ministry		1,284	1,284	1,284	3,852
Shared Recovery Mandate - SkilledTradesBC		438	438	438	1,314
Office of the Superintendent of Professional Governance (OSPG)		400	400	400	1,200
Minister's Office - Minister of State Rescinded, Parliamentary Secretary International Credentials Appointed		(137)	(137)	(137)	(411)
<b>Net increase from Budget 2023</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>557,135</b>	<b>578,057</b>	<b>578,057</b>	<b>1,713,249</b>
<b><i>Budget 2024 track with 2023/24 restated</i></b>	<b>2,768,858</b>	<b>3,371,043</b>	<b>3,413,868</b>	<b>3,413,868</b>	

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# EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS AND ORGANIZATIONS

## BUDGET SUMMARY:

	Estimates 2023/24	Estimates 2023/24 (Restated)	Estimates 2024/25	Increase/ (Decrease)	Increase/ (Decrease)
Educational Institutions and Organizations (EIO)	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	%
	2,518,465	2,517,565	3,119,664	602,099	23.92

## HIGHLIGHTS FOR 2024/25:

This sub-vote provides funding to universities, colleges, institutes, educational agencies, and other organizations to support the post-secondary education system and for initiatives that enhance student performance and access. Costs may be recovered from ministries, educational organizations, and the federal government for activities described within this sub-vote.

The most significant component of this sub-vote is \$2.98 billion in operating grants to public post -secondary institutions.

This funding is used by institutions to ensure approximately 207,882<sup>1</sup> full-time equivalent (FTE) students have access to a broad range of programs. It funds the costs associated with serving these students, including faculty, laboratories, and student services (e.g., registrar's office).

## YEAR OVER YEAR CHANGE:

In 2024/25 funding to institutions and organizations will increase by a net **\$602.099 M** consisting of:

- A Ministry budget neutral adjustment to reallocate **\$2.400 M** of funding from the Student Services Programs sub-vote to the EIO sub-vote for Community Adult Literacy Program funding.
- **Net Increase of \$554.400 M** from *Budget 2024* comprised of:
  - Increase of \$ 511.800 M for Shared Recovery Mandate (SRM) – PSIs

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<sup>1</sup> For 2024/25, the student space target is comprised of 188,556 PSFS FTEs plus 19,326 STBC FTEs for a total of 207,882 FTEs.

- Increase of \$ 27.000 M for SFU Medical School Funding
- Increase of \$ 15.600 M for Future Ready Action Plan (Tech Seats and Find Your Path Tool)
- **Net Increase from Prior Year Adjustments (*Budget 2022 and 2023 decisions*) totaling \$45.299 M:**
- Increase of \$ 17.650 M for Future Ready Action Plan
- Increase of \$ 15.170 M for Health Human Resource Strategy (HHR)
- Increase of \$ 11.912 M for SRM- PSIs
- Increase of \$ 0.567 M for Emily Carr University (ECUAD) P3 inflation pressure

**2024/25 EIO BUDGET BREAKDOWN**

**By Standard Object of Expenditure (STOB):**

<b>STOBs</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>2024/25 Budget (\$000)</b>
50	Salaries and Benefits	-
85	Operating Costs	1
77, 79, 80	<b>Government Transfers</b>	<b>3,164,094</b>
88, 89, 90	Recoveries	(44,431)
	<b>Total</b>	<b>3,119,664</b>

# STUDENT SERVICES PROGRAMS

## BUDGET SUMMARY:

	Estimates 2023/24	Increase/ (Decrease)	Estimates Restated 2023/24	Increase/ (Decrease)	Estimates 2024/25
	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000
<b>Student Services Programs</b>	<b>75,901</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>75,901</b>	<b>(2,204)</b>	<b>73,697</b>

## HIGHLIGHTS FOR 2024/25:

- \* This sub-vote provides for the administration, operations, and delivery of student services programs. This sub-vote also provides financial, income, and other assistance to and for students, including scholarships, bursaries, loan forgiveness programs, transfers to students, and transfers for initiatives that enhance student performance and access. Costs may be recovered from educational organizations, the federal government, and parties external to government for activities described within this sub-vote.
- \* Many Student Services programs are need driven. They provide financial assistance where students and their immediate families do not have the resources to meet the costs of post-secondary education, adult basic education, and basic living expenses.
- \* Policy determining eligibility for student financial assistance is the responsibility of Student Services Programs. Decisions to change policy are made in consultation with the Ministry of Finance – Revenue Solutions Branch (FIN – RSB) who manage student loans.
- \* In 2017/18, the B.C. Government introduced the Provincial Tuition Waiver Program to remove barriers and support Former Youth in Care in pursuit of a post-secondary education. The Provincial Tuition Waiver Program had a base budget of \$4M and was expanded in 2023/24 to increase eligibility, create a new Learning for Future Grant, and provide targeted on-campus support for Former Youth in Care. This expansion was supported by an increase of \$6.4M in base budget plus a \$1.4M reinvestment of existing program funding transferred from Ministry of Children and Family Development. Following the expansion, \$0.200M in annual operating funding for implementation has been reallocated to the Learning for Future Grant budget in both 2024/25 and 2025/26.
- \* In 2020/21, the B.C. Government introduced the B.C. Access Grant (BCAG) to support low – middle income learners to access post-secondary education at B.C. public institutions. To date BCAG has supported over 71,000 students with approximately \$129M. The Minister of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills has a mandate commitment to expand the BCAG and increase eligibility. Recommendations for the expansion of BC Access Grant eligibility were developed and put forward to Treasury Board for consideration in Budget 2024.
- \* 2022/23 included an increase in administrative expenditures for SSP of \$2.8M from the Federal Government for the administration of the CSFA (Canada Student Financial Assistance), offset by a corresponding increase to recoveries. The purpose of this change was to better reflect the purpose of the funding and encourage public visibility for the federally contributed amounts. These changes were intended to improve the accuracy of public disclosure of the funding.

## Variance Explanation

- Total **net decrease of \$2.204M** is comprised of the following:
  - Decrease of \$2.400M for Community Adult Literacy Program (CALP) re-alignment to Educational Institutions & Organizations sub-vote
  - Increase of \$0.196M for Shared Recovery Mandate (SRM)

Estimates 2024/25

**Standard Object of Expenditures**

Description	2023/24 Estimates (In Thousands)	Increase/ (Decrease) (In Thousands)	2023/24 Estimates Restated (In Thousands)	Increase/ (Decrease) (In Thousands)	2024/25 Estimates (In Thousands)
Salaries and Benefits	6,361	-	6,361	196	6,557
Operating Costs	1,869	-	1,869	(200)	1,669
Government Transfers	70,595	-	70,595	(2,200)	68,395
Other Expenses	15	-	15	-	15
Recoveries	(2,939)	-	(2,939)	-	(2,939)
<b>Total</b>	<b>75,901</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>75,901</b>	<b>(2,204)</b>	<b>73,697</b>



**Government Transfers by STOB**

**STOB 77 Grants**

(In Thousands)	2024/25 Estimates
BC Disabilities Programs – Governmen	Governme nt Financial Information
- BC Access Grant for Students with Disabilities	
- Severe Permanent Disability Benefit	
- BC Access Grant for Deaf Students	
BC Access Grant	
BC Access Grant – base funding lift	
Suppl. Bursaries for Persons with Disabilities	
BC Loan Forgiveness	
Nurses Education Bursary	
Provincial Tuition Waiver Program Grant	
First Nations Education Steering Committee	
<b>Total - Grants</b>	

**STOB 79 Entitlements**

(In Thousands)	2024/25 Estimates
Adult Upgrading Grants	Government Financial Information
Provincial Tuition Waiver Program	
Wilp Wilxo'oskwhl Nisga'a (WWN)	
<b>Total - Entitlements</b>	

**STOB 80 Transfers Under Arrangements**

(In Thousands)	2024/25 Estimates
Student Society Emergency Aid Fund	Governmen t Financial Information
Assistive Technology BC	
Part Time Student Assistance	
Learning Disability Assessment Bursary	
Provincial Tuition Waiver Program	
Disabled Students Grants (APSD)	
Supports for Students with Disabilities:	
- Cent. for Accessible Post-Sec. Education Resources (CAPER)	
- Academic Communications Equity (formerly PCAS)	
- Program for Institutional Loans of Adaptive Technology (PILAT)	
<b>Total – Shared Cost Arrangements</b>	

<b>Total – Grants and Transfers</b>	<b>68,395</b>
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# Private Training Institutions

## BUDGET SUMMARY:

	Estimates 2023/24	Estimates 2024/25	Increase/ (Decrease)	Increase/ (Decrease)
	\$000	\$000	\$000	%
<b>Private Training Institutions</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

## HIGHLIGHTS FOR 2024/25:

This sub-vote provides for the policy, administration, operations, and compliance related to providing for quality education standards for private post-secondary institutions. This sub-vote also provides for the administration of the Student Tuition Protection Fund. Costs may be recovered from ministries, government organizations and from private post-secondary institutions for services described within this sub-vote.

The Private Training Institutions Branch (PTIB), under the authority of the *Private Training Act*, regulates over 300 private training institutions in BC and provides consumer protection by assisting students affected by institution closures, handling student complaints, enforcing standards, and publishing information about institutions.

## Estimates 204/25

### By Standard Object of Expenditure

Description	2023/24 Estimates (In Thousands)	Increase/ (Decrease)	2024/25 Estimates (In Thousands)
Salaries and Benefits	2,336	-	2,336
Operating Costs	1,210	-	1,210
Other Expenses	20	-	20
Internal Recoveries	(3,565)	-	(3,565)
<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1</b>

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# Labour Market Development

## BUDGET SUMMARY:

	Estimates 2023/24	Increase/ (Decrease)	Estimates 2023/24 Restated	Increase/ (Decrease)	Estimates 2024/25
	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000
<b>Labour Market Development</b>	<b>40,310</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>40,310</b>	<b>(841)</b>	<b>39,469</b>

## HIGHLIGHTS FOR 2024/25

This sub-vote provides for the development and implementation of policy, programs, and legislation to support the development and training of British Columbia's workforce. It includes oversight of SkilledTradesBC and the negotiation and implementation of federal/provincial agreements related to workforce development and training. This sub-vote also provides for the development of labour market information that is disseminated to British Columbians through multiple platforms and methods and development of industry-led workforce development strategies and strategic initiatives. Costs may be recovered from ministries, Crown agencies, boards and commissions, the federal government, and parties external to government for activities described within this sub-vote.

## YEAR OVER YEAR CHANGE

Compared to restated 2023/24, the 2024/25 budget decreased by **\$0.841M**. This is comprised of:

- **Increase of \$0.244M** for Shared Recovery Mandate (SRM) from *Budget 2024* approvals
- Offset by a **net decrease of (\$1.085M)** from Prior Year Adjustments (*Budget 2023* approvals) consisting of:
  - Decrease of (\$1.520M) for Future Ready Action Plan
  - Increase of \$ 0.435 M for SRM

## Standard Object of Expenditures

Description	2023/24 Estimates (\$ 000)	Increase/ (Decrease) (\$ 000)	2023/24 Estimates Restated (\$ 000)	Increase/ (Decrease) (\$ 000)	2024/25 Estimates (\$ 000)
Salaries and Benefits	16,576	-	16,576	829	Government Financial Information
Operating Costs	9,706	-	9,706	(370)	
Other Expenses	2,690	-	2,690	-	
Government Transfers	126,283	-	126,283	(1,300)	
Recoveries	(114,945)	-	(114,945)	-	
<b>Total</b>	<b>40,310</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>40,310</b>	<b>(841)</b>	

**Government Transfers by Program Group**

	2024/25 Estimates (\$ 000)
Workforce Development Agreement Programs <sup>1</sup>	Government
Labour Market Development Agreement Programs	Financial
Provincial Future Ready Action Plan	Information
Provincial Indigenous Skills & Training Development	
<b>Total</b>	<b>124,983</b>

1 - Estimates (notional WDA funding allocation for current year and out years.)

# Transfers to Crown Corporations and Agencies

## BUDGET SUMMARY:

	Estimates 2023/24	Increase/ (Decrease)	Estimates 2023/24 (Restated)	Increase/ (Decrease)	Estimates 2024/25
	<u>(\$000s)</u>	<u>(\$000s)</u>	<u>(\$000s)</u>	<u>(\$000s)</u>	<u>(\$000s)</u>
SkilledTradesBC	106,285	0	106,285	675	106,960

## HIGHLIGHTS FOR 2024/25:

This sub-vote provides for transfers to Crown corporations and agencies including SkilledTradesBC.

Net increase of \$0.675M in 2024/25 is comprised of:

- \$0.675M increase related to the Shared Recovery Mandate Allocations (SRM)
  - Increase of \$0.438M related to lifts from *Budget 2024* approvals
  - Increase of \$0.237M related to lifts from *Budget 2023* approvals

## Estimates 2024/25

### By Standard Object of Expenditure (STOB)

Description (In \$000s)	2023/24 Estimates	Increase/ (Decrease)	2023/24 Estimates Restated	Increase/ (Decrease)	2024/25 Estimates
Government Transfers	106,285	-	106,285	675	106,960
<b>Total</b>	<b>106,285</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>106,285</b>	<b>675</b>	<b>106,960</b>

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# Executive and Support Services

## BUDGET SUMMARY:

	Estimates 2023/24	Increase/ (Decrease)	Estimates Restated 2023/24	Increase/ (Decrease)	Estimates 2024/25
	(\$000s)	(\$000s)	(\$000s)	(\$000s)	(\$000s)
Executive and Support Services	29,017	(221)	28,796	2,456	31,252

## HIGHLIGHTS FOR 2024/25:

This sub-vote provides for ministry leadership and direction, establishment of policy and accountability, and provides program support for the post-secondary system and student services programs. This sub-vote also provides for quality assessment for public and private post-secondary degree-granting institutions, and the *Professional Governance Act*. This sub-vote also provides for the office of the Minister of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills, Parliamentary Secretary for International Credentials, and for corporate services to the ministry. This sub-vote also provides for the development and implementation of policy and programs to increase the ability for qualified, internationally trained professionals to achieve certification in British Columbia to work in regulated occupations. Costs may be recovered from ministries, government organizations, the federal government, and parties external to government for activities described within this sub-vote.

### Variance Explanation: Restatement

- 2023/24 was restated by \$(0.221) M due to the transfer out of the Corporate Services Secretariat from PSFS to Emergency Management and Climate Readiness (EMCR).

### Variance Explanation: Budget Changes from Estimates Restated to Estimates 2024/25

Net increase of **\$2.456 M** consists of:

- \$1.900 M net increase from *Budget 2024* approvals:
  - Increase of \$0.750 M for the Future Ready Action Plan,
  - Adjustment of \$0.400 M for OSPG expenses previously funded by the Ministry of Environment,
  - Increase of \$0.888 M for Shared Recovery Mandate (SRM):
    - \$0.018M increase for MO as the result of current year SRM
    - \$0.870M increase for CS as the result of current year SRM,
  - Restatement adjustment of \$(0.001) M for the Corporate Services Secretariat (CSS)
  - Decrease of \$(0.137) M for wind up of Minister of State for Workforce Development office and appointment of Parliamentary Secretary for International Credentials,
- \$0.556 M net increase from *Budget 2023* approvals:
  - Increase of \$0.373 M for SRM
  - Increase of \$0.183 M related to the funding for Foreign Credentials Recognition expansion

## Estimates 2024/25 by Standard Object of Expenditure (STOB)

### Minister's Office

Description	2023/24 Estimates (In Thousands)	Increase/ (Decrease) (In Thousands)	2023/24 Estimates Restated (In Thousands)	Increase/ (Decrease) (In Thousands)	2024/25 Estimates (In Thousands)
Salaries and Benefits	857	-	857	(119)	738
Operating Costs	107	-	107	-	107
Government Transfers	-	-	-	-	-
Other Expenses	-	-	-	-	-
Recoveries	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>964</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>964</b>	<b>(119)</b>	<b>845</b>

Note: Minister's Office sub-sub vote includes the budget for Parliamentary Secretary for International Credentials

### Corporate Services

Description	2023/24 Estimates (In Thousands)	Increase/ (Decrease) (In Thousands)	2023/24 Estimates Restated (In Thousands)	Increase/ (Decrease) (In Thousands)	2024/25 Estimates (In Thousands)
Salaries and Benefits	21,965	(189)	21,776	2,481	24,257
Operating Costs	5,781	(33)	5,748	94	5,842
Government Transfers	800	0	800	0	800
Other Expenses	102	-	102	-	102
Recoveries <sup>1</sup>	(595)	1	(594)	-	(594)
<b>Total</b>	<b>28,053</b>	<b>(221)</b>	<b>27,832</b>	<b>2,575</b>	<b>30,407</b>

1. Recoveries from application fees paid by both public and private institutions for Degree Quality Assessments.

**Minister's Office  
and  
Parliamentary Secretary for International Credentials  
Budget Breakdown**

**Overview of Budget by STOB**

(\$000s)

	2023/24 Restated Estimates	Increase/ (Decrease)	2024/25 Estimates
50- Base Salaries	569	(65)	504
52- Benefits	212	(53)	159
54- Legislative Salaries	76	(1)	75
<b>Salaries &amp; Benefits <sup>1</sup></b>	<b>857</b>	<b>(119)</b>	<b>738</b>
57- Employee Travel	75	-	75
63- Info Systems- Operating	10	-	10
65- Office & Business Expenses	22	-	22
85- Other Expenditures	-	-	-
<b>Operating Costs</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>107</b>
<b>TOTAL Operating Budget</b>	<b>964</b>	<b>(119)</b>	<b>845</b>

Notes

1. **Budget Changes Summary:**

**Net decrease of (\$119K) comprised is of the following:**

*Decrease of (\$252K) related to the wind up of the Minister of State for Workforce Development office, partially offset by  
Increase of \$115K related to the net new Parliamentary Secretary for International Credentials  
Increase of \$18K related to SRM for the MO office from Budget 2023*

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**Title:** Vote 49 – Capital Funding

**Issue:** Overview of Capital Funding Allocation to Post-Secondary Institutions

**Key Facts, Data and Background:**

- **Our government is investing in education, training facilities and equipment so that students are prepared for 21st century careers.**
  - Capital investments in new and expanded buildings on post-secondary campuses throughout the Province are an investment in all our futures.
  - The Ministry of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills’ Capital Plan prioritizes and manages capital funding to safeguard the Province’s investment in capital assets, deliver core services and support government priorities
  
- **The Public Post-Secondary Institutions are projecting a total investment of almost \$6.0 billion in capital infrastructure over the next 3 fiscal years (2024/25 – 2026/27).**

2024/25 – 2026/27 PSFS Sector Capital Spending by Funding Source

(\$000s)

Category	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	Total 3 years
PSFS Capital Plan Provincial Funding	Advice/Recommendations; Government Financial Information			
Federal Funding				
Post-Secondary Institution Funding				
Third Party Funding <sup>1</sup>				
<b>Total PSFS Sector Capital</b>	<b>2,201,626</b>	<b>1,933,441</b>	<b>1,898,502</b>	<b>6,033,569</b>

<sup>1</sup> Examples of Third-Party Funding include: donations, fundraising campaigns, and grants from other external agencies.

- **As part of that investment, the provincial government is contributing almost \$3.4 billion in funding over the same period.**

2024/25 – 2026/27 Approved Three-Year Capital Plan – Provincial Funding

(\$000s)

Category	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	Total 3 years
Capital Projects <sup>1</sup>	Advice/Recommendations; Government Financial Information			
Routine Capital <sup>2</sup>				
<b>Total PSFS Capital Plan (Budget 2024)</b>	<b>1,107,256</b>	<b>1,253,968</b>	<b>1,018,506</b>	<b>3,379,730</b>

<sup>1</sup> Capital projects includes priority investments, student housing, BCKDF, IMIT, CNCP and health professions expansion funding.

<sup>2</sup> Routine capital funding is provided annually to assist with the maintenance and facility renewals of existing Public PSI infrastructure.



Advice/Recommendations; Government Financial Information

(\$ millions)

Category	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	Total 3 years
Advice/Recommendations; Government Financial Information				
Routine Capital - Maintenance & Facilities Renewals Funding				
SFU - Medical School Interim Space				
SFU - Medical School Permanent Facility (SFUMS)				
BCIT - Trades and Technology				
DOUG - Academic and Student Housing Building				
NIC - Early Childhood Education and Childcare Centre				
NVIT - Urban Indigenous Youth and Education Project				
OKAN - Centre for Food, Wine and Tourism				
VIU - Student Housing				
RRU - West Shore Learning Centre				
UFV - Student Housing				
UFV - Dining Hall				
UVIC National Centre for Indigenous Laws				
VCC - Centre for Clean Energy and Automotive Innovation				
<b>New Capital funding for Budget 2024</b>				

**Title:** Post-Secondary Sector Financial Health

**Issue:** Current State of Post-Secondary Institutions (PSI) Financial Health

**Key Facts, Data and Background:**

- The post-secondary sector continues to be a positive financial contributor to the Government Reporting Entity, with a forecasted cumulative surplus of \$132 million as of the third quarter of the 2023/24 fiscal year.
- However, updated projections include several one-time cost reductions and revenue increases, which cannot be factored into longer-term sector projections, including utility savings from a milder winter, staffing vacancies, an uptick in international enrolment predating recent Federal announcements, and better than expected investment income.
- Further, the \$132 million forecasted sector surplus represents an approximate 47% decrease since 2019/20, and 10 of the 25 public PSIs (or 40%) are forecasting deficits in 2023/24 (consolidated 2023/24 financials will be released with Public Accounts later this year).
- Many PSIs continue to deal with the impacts of sustained inflation and enrolment challenges, which will likely be further impacted in future years by the recent Federal government study permit cap.
- With more stable enrolment figures being reported later in the 2024/25 fiscal year, the Ministry will develop a more informed understanding of how to support PSIs through these challenges moving forward.

**Ministry Actions:**

- PSIs have legislative and governance autonomy and have the responsibility to manage these financial challenges independently.
- The Ministry leverages its strong relationships with PSIs to work collaboratively and does not formally direct any of the PSIs to implement specific financial strategies.
- The Ministry has requested, as part of the upcoming 2023/24 year-end reporting cycle, that PSIs provide a greater level of financial reporting detail, so the Ministry can better understand individual PSI financial contexts in challenging times.
- As PSIs manage these obstacles, the Ministry continues to have confidence that those most impacted by the current financial climate are working closely in partnership with the Ministry and are making prudent financial decisions.

**If Asked:**

**Q:** Are there any Ministry-imposed budget cuts across the BC public post-secondary sector that the public should be aware of?

**A:** The *University Act* and the *College & Institute Act* state that public PSIs are independent entities, tasked with the responsibility of managing their own budgets and forecasted spending plan within the limits of legislation.

The Ministry has not imposed any specific program or other budget cuts for PSIs. The Ministry continues to work closely with each public PSI to support prudent financial decision making to ensure financial sustainability for the institution. Since 2016/17, the Province has increased the total amount of annual grants to British Columbia's public post-secondary institutions by nearly \$1.0 billion.



Post-Secondary Institution 5 Year Net Income (Loss) 2019/20 to 2023/24 \*

Q3

*From Audited Financial Statement - (In Thousands)*

Forecast

	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	Government Financial Information
<b>COLLEGES</b>					
BC Institute of Technology	6,997	4,631	(12,016)	(15,630)	
Camosun College	285	(7,583)	(4,646)	1,141	
Coast Mountain College	2	(318)	192	62	
College of New Caledonia	1,380	1,428	(2,138)	(1,517)	
College of the Rockies	85	677	(1,998)	497	
Douglas College	16,290	15,733	17,157	13,870	
Justice Institute of BC	2	(3,045)	68	799	
Langara College	10,521	4,123	897	1,299	
Nicola Valley Institute of Technology	619	1,112	302	185	
North Island College	(911)	(1,614)	57	(741)	
Northern Lights College	75	484	651	194	
Okanagan College	408	14	(489)	(951)	
Selkirk College	323	(968)	395	3,263	
Vancouver Community College	892	(3,160)	7	1,110	
<b>College Total</b>	<b>36,968</b>	<b>11,514</b>	<b>(1,561)</b>	<b>3,581</b>	
<b>UNIVERSITIES</b>					
Capilano University	12,460	5,927	1,594	2,406	
Emily Carr University of Art & Design	147	1,645	(207)	336	
Kwantlen Polytechnic University	4,672	4,170	622	7,662	
Royal Roads University	113	1,732	536	27	
Simon Fraser University	41,292	41,324	27,111	22,185	
Thompson Rivers University	20,219	12,377	6,474	12,843	
University of BC	89,652	81,716	160,828	82,703	
University of the Fraser Valley	12,920	4,589	1,423	3,523	
University of Northern BC	(1,077)	3,276	1,652	5,344	
University of Victoria	32,497	4,930	2,558	10,506	
Vancouver Island University	(2,288)	(9,037)	(5,753)	(11,686)	
<b>Universities Total</b>	<b>210,607</b>	<b>152,649</b>	<b>196,838</b>	<b>135,849</b>	
<b>SECTOR TOTAL</b>	<b>247,575</b>	<b>164,163</b>	<b>195,277</b>	<b>139,430</b>	

Results exclude new endowment contributions.

\*2023/24 Quarter 3 Forecast includes a pending \$83 million restriction of Operating revenues for KPU.

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