

**Ministry of
Advanced Education,
Skills and Training**

**2017/18
Annual Service Plan Report**



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Minister Accountability Statement



The last 12 months have been inspiring as government has made post-secondary education and skills training more accessible and affordable. This includes a commitment to the implementation of the United Nations Declaration to the Rights of Indigenous Peoples as well as the 94 Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada – actions include a \$2.2 million investment in the first Indigenous law school in Canada at the University of Victoria and \$30 million investment in Indigenous skills training.

Budget 2018 included historic investments in tech talent, early childhood education and half a billion dollars in new student housing. It confirmed that the doors to adult basic education and English-language learning programs remain open for thousands of students by keeping them tuition free.

The provincial tuition waiver program now supports over 335 former youth in care who are now accessing life-changing education to be social workers, designers, trades people and entrepreneurs.

In the coming months, more students will be able to access thousands of tech seats. A total of 2,900 tech spaces will produce 1,000 additional tech grads annually by 2025. This includes the first full software engineering program in the Interior, and the first full civil and environmental engineering degree in northern B.C.

The ministry successfully negotiated a new workforce development agreement with the Government of Canada. It will allow us to deliver new programming that supports workers and employers. Programs will help vulnerable and underrepresented groups receive skills training and employment support so that they can get good-paying, family-supporting jobs in an economy that works for everyone. We will also be able to better respond to skills training needs of communities and employers with more flexible and timely programming to help position British Columbians for a bright and prosperous future in the 21st century.

As Minister I am committed to investing in people, reducing barriers, and creating opportunities that lead to prosperity by lifting people up through higher education and skills training. I'm proud of all that we have accomplished together in such a short amount of time and I look forward to continuing to work with our partners in post-secondary education and skills training to build the best B.C.

The *Ministry of Advanced Education, Skills and Training 2017/18 Annual Service Plan Report* compares the Ministry's actual results to the expected results identified in the *2017/18 - 2019/20 Service Plan* created in September 2017. I am accountable for those results as reported.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Melanie Mark".

Honourable Melanie Mark
Hli Haykwhl Wii Xsgaak
Minister of Advanced Education, Skills and Training
June 21, 2018

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Purpose of the Ministry

The Ministry of Advanced Education, Skills and Training ensures British Columbians can access affordable, relevant and responsive education and skills training that builds up our province, communities and citizens.

Our Ministry provides leadership and direction for post-secondary education and skills training in British Columbia to ensure citizens from across the province and from every background have opportunities to thrive, succeed and reach their full potential. To make education more affordable and accessible we support learners with a suite of student financial assistance programs and work with post-secondary partners, employers, industry, Indigenous partners, municipalities and communities to ensure labour market development programming meets labour market demand across a range of sectors.

The Ministry also provides oversight for the following Crown corporations: the [British Columbia Council for International Education](#) (BCCIE) and the [Industry Training Authority](#) (ITA).

Strategic Direction

In September 2017, the new government announced its priorities with three key commitments to British Columbians:

- To make life more affordable.
- To deliver the services people count on.
- To build a strong, sustainable, innovative economy that works for everyone.

Integrating with these priorities is government's commitment to true, lasting reconciliation Indigenous peoples in British Columbia, as we move towards fully adopting and implementing the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

In the [2017/18 – 2019/20 Service Plan](#) the Ministry provided a series of objectives and performance targets from [the Minister's Mandate Letter](#) designed to further the key commitments of government.

Operating Environment

Underlying the Ministry's work is the premise that accessible, high-quality education and skills training leading to good paying jobs provides numerous benefits to individuals across B.C. in rural and urban communities and lifts up our society as a whole. A number of factors continued to influence the work of our Ministry, such as economic relevance and labour market conditions, availability of student housing, as well as access to education and skills training.

In 2017/18 the labour market continued to evolve, driven by new technologies, globalization, and demographic changes. This evolution will continue to affect the qualifications needed in the workforce. For example, in the years ahead approximately eight out of 10 jobs will require some post-secondary education or training. Of these, 42 per cent will require a diploma, certificate or

apprenticeship training, while 36 per cent will require a bachelor's, graduate or first professional degree and/or significant work experience. Over the past year, the Ministry continued to work with education and training partners to deliver programs and services that lead to these qualifications. We continued to provide a broad range of programs and services across B.C. that support vulnerable and underrepresented groups, such as current and former youth in government care, Indigenous people, persons with disabilities, as well as youth and women in the trades.

The final report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada contained a number of Calls to Action relevant to post-secondary education and training, highlighting the important role of education in reconciliation. The Ministry made a commitment to actively engage with Indigenous and post-secondary partners to develop a comprehensive post-secondary strategy that responds to the TRC and UNDRIP.

Post-secondary students from across the province report difficulties finding affordable housing on and off-campus. Insufficient housing has far-reaching impacts, including increasing student debt, hindering students' ability to complete their studies, negatively affecting student health and wellness, and even potentially discouraging students from choosing to pursue post-secondary education. The Ministry made a commitment to work with public post-secondary institutions to increase student housing stock and contribute to the Provincial housing strategy.

Changes underway in our Kindergarten to Grade 12 system are also shaping post-secondary education. We continued to work closely with our education and training partners to enhance pathways and opportunities to ensure students can successfully move from high school to post-secondary education and into the workforce.

These and other challenges require a focused, thoughtful and collaborative approach to ensure post-secondary education and training helps position British Columbians from across the province for a bright and prosperous future in the 21st Century.

Report on Performance

The following table reports on the objectives and performance targets provided in the [2017/18 – 2019/20 Service Plan](#) along with the Ministry's achievements.

Objective	Actions Taken Up to March 31, 2018
Provide greater access to adult basic education and English-language learning programs by eliminating fees.	Effective September 1, 2017, the Ministry reinstated the tuition-free policy for domestic students in Adult Basic Education (ABE) and English Language Learners (ELL) at public post-secondary institutions. The Ministry's budget included \$18.5 million to enable post-secondary institutions to provide programming tuition-free.

<p>Reduce the financial burden on students by eliminating interest on B.C. government student loans and establish a \$1,000 completion grant program to provide debt relief to B.C. graduates.</p>	<p>On August 1, 2017 the Province reduced interest on B.C. student loans from Prime +2.5% to Prime. This reduction provides approximately \$15 million dollars in interest relief and benefits approximately 200,000 students as well as future borrowers.</p> <p>The Ministry explored options and policy development to meet the commitment to establish a completion grant, including engaging with students to determine how best to address the financial challenges that come with post-secondary education and training.</p> <p>The Ministry is consulting with our financial assistance partners across Canada to learn about their recent program initiatives to increase access and affordability, as well as studying best practices in other jurisdictions regarding reducing student debt.</p>
<p>Encourage excellence in B.C.'s graduate school programs by introducing a new graduate student scholarship fund.</p>	<p>The Ministry is working with public post-secondary institutions to develop a graduate scholarship program. More information will be available in mid-2018.</p>
<p>Work with the Minister of Education to support co-op, apprenticeship and work-experience programs for high school and undergraduate students.</p>	<p>The Ministry engaged with public post-secondary institutions and other key stakeholders to explore options to implement this commitment.</p> <p>Support Co-ops:</p> <p>The Ministry made a commitment to expand tech-sector co-op programs offered through B.C.'s colleges and universities. Early actions include:</p> <p>In January 2018, the planned technology-programming expansion was announced which will significantly increase the number of new tech graduates by 1,000 annually by 2023.</p> <p>In March 2018, the Ministry provided \$1.875 million in one-time funding to support efforts to increase and enhance co-op and other work-integrated learning opportunities for students at</p>

	<p>all 25 public post-secondary institutions.</p> <p>Support Apprenticeships:</p> <p>The Ministry worked with the ITA to create several new strategies to expand opportunities for youth to gain on-the-job experience. The Ministry directed the ITA to “increase work experience opportunities for youth apprentices while still in high school”.</p>
<p>Work with the Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure to implement effective apprenticeship ratios on government-funded infrastructure projects, and increase participation of equity-seeking groups in the skilled workforce.</p>	<p>The Ministry engaged with stakeholders in the construction trades to gather advice and guidance on options to implement this commitment, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • an approach to requiring specified levels of apprenticeship on public projects, and • identify ways to increase the participation of equity-seeking groups in the skilled trades. <p>On March 8, 2018, up to \$1.8 million over two years was announced for two projects that will help improve diversity and inclusion in the skilled trades, enhance career advancement opportunities for tradeswomen, and improve attraction to trades careers for equity seeking groups.</p>
<p>Work with the Minister of Children and Family Development to improve the education success of former youth in care by expanding the tuition fee waiver program.</p>	<p>Starting in 2017/18, the Provincial Tuition Waiver Program covered tuition and student fees for public post-secondary students between the ages of 19 and 26, who spent a combined total of at least at least 24 months in B.C. care. \$1.18 million was spent in 2017/18.</p>
<p>Expand B.C.’s technology-related post-secondary programs, co-op programs, and work to establish technology and innovation centres in key areas of the economy.</p>	<p>Starting in 2017/18, the Ministry’s budget included \$4.4 million in funding for the expansion of technology-related programming. This funding will create 2,900 new tech-related spaces throughout B.C. that will produce 1,000 additional tech-grads a year by 2023; many of whom will benefit from co-op and other work-integrated learning opportunities.</p>

	<p>Technology and Innovation Centres are being developed to complement and enhance initiatives underway with local governments, post-secondary institutions, industry, and First Nations.</p> <p>The Ministry, along with the Ministry of Agriculture, announced the first of these innovation centres in Budget 2018/19: a Food Innovation Centre.</p>
<p>Develop more degree and certificate programs to increase the number of skilled workers in B.C.'s forestry sector, focusing on growing innovation and the manufactured wood products sector.</p>	<p>The Ministry continued to work with the post-secondary institutions to help increase the number of skilled workers in B.C.'s forestry sector. The Ministry provided over \$1 million to six public post-secondary institutions to support the development of new and enhanced certificate and degree forestry training programs across the province.</p>
<p>Lasting Reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples in British Columbia by fostering access and success in post-secondary education and training.</p>	<p>The Ministry continued to work with Indigenous post-secondary education partners, including the First Nations Education Steering Committee and the Indigenous Adult and Higher Learning Association, to implement the Aboriginal^[1] Post-Secondary Education and Training Policy Framework and Action Plan including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding delivery of post-secondary education and training in Indigenous communities - \$21 million over 3 years (2017/18 – 2019/20) committed under the Aboriginal Community-Based Training Partnership Program , and • Supporting Aboriginal Service Plans at 11 public post-secondary institutions - \$4.4 million annual budget. <p>The 25 public post-secondary institutions were directed through their Mandate letters to actively participate with the Ministry and Indigenous partners to develop a comprehensive post-secondary strategy that responds to the TRC Calls</p>

^[1]The Ministry of Advanced Education, Skills, and Training is moving to using the term “Indigenous” as an inclusive reference for First Nations, Inuit, and Métis peoples. For the purposes of this Service Plan, “Indigenous” and “Aboriginal” have the same meaning.

	<p>to Action and UNDRIP.</p> <p>The ITA was directed through the annual mandate letter to complete a review of ITA policies and programs, and to develop and implement a plan to ensure they align with the UNDRIP articles and the TRC Calls to Action.</p> <p>Starting in 2017/18, \$30 million was committed to the Indigenous Skills Training Development Fund (ISTDF) over the next three years. Transitioning the ISTDF to AEST brings the majority of Indigenous skills training under one ministry, providing an opportunity to increase access to training for Indigenous communities across the province.</p>
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As committed to in the [2017/18 – 2019/20 Service Plan](#) tabled in September 2017, the Ministry released fully developed objectives and performance measures in [the Ministry’s 2018/19 – 2020/21 Service Plan](#), tabled in February 2018.

Financial Report

Discussion of Results

The Ministry budget is managed carefully to ensure the ability of programs to manage their operations smoothly, while still maintaining strict internal and expenditure management controls. Over the course of the fiscal year, financial management procedures and forecasting were followed to ensure the Ministry stays on track, and utilizes existing funds efficiently and effectively. The Ministry finished the fiscal year having fully spent its 2017/2018 budget allocation. This signals responsible and responsive fiscal management.

In 2017/18 operating grants to public post-secondary institutions continue to be aligned with education and training for in-demand occupations, with an additional \$50 million in 2017/18 for approximately 4,300 student spaces.

Financial Report Summary Table

	Estimated	Other Authorizations ¹	Total Estimated	Actual	Variance
Operating Expenses (\$000)					
Educational Institutions and Organizations	1,957,700	1,018	1,958,718	1,961,575	(2,857)
Student Services Programs	72,076	0,000	72,076	65,946	6,130
Private Training Institutions	1	0,000	1	1	0,000
Labour Market and Information	6,600	0,000	6,600	6,586	14
Transfers to Crown Corporations and Agencies	96,974	0,000	96,974	96,974	0,000
Executive and Support Services	20,356	0,000	20,356	23,643	(3,287)
Sub-Total	2,153,707	1,018	2,154,725	2,154,725	0,000
Adjustment of Prior Year Accrual²	0,000	0,000	0,000	(8)	8
Total	2,153,707	1,018	2,154,725	2,154,717	8
Ministry Capital Expenditures (Consolidated Revenue Fund) (\$000)					
Executive and Support Services	2,397	0,000	2,397	2,384	25
Total	2,397	0,000	2,397	2,384	25
Capital Plan (\$000)					
Educational Institutions and Organizations - Post-secondary Institutions	417,849	0,000	417,849	321,354	96,495
Total	417,849	0,000	417,849	321,354	96,495

¹ "Other Authorizations" include access to Contingencies.

² The Adjustment of Prior Year Accrual of \$0.08 million is a reversal of accruals in the previous year.

Income Statement for Universities and Colleges¹

Name of Sector	2017/18 Budget	2017/18 Actual	Variance
Combined Income Statement (\$000)			
Total Revenue	6,068,510	6,255,888	187,378
Total Expense	5,926,225	5,896,984	(29,241)
Operating Results	142,285	358,904	216,619
Gain (Loss) on Sale of Capital Assets (if applicable)	7,053	5,905	(1,148)
Net Results	149,338	364,809	215,471

¹ This income statement includes estimates from all public post-secondary institutions. Reported amounts do not include current year elimination entries required to consolidate these agencies within the government reporting entity.

Major Capital Projects

Major Capital Projects (over \$50 million)	Targeted Completion Date (Year)	Approved Anticipated Total Cost of Project (\$ millions)	Project Cost to March 31, 2018
Emily Carr University of Art & Design (ECUAD) Campus Redevelopment	2017	\$119.15	\$119.15
<p>ECUAD entered into a fixed-price, performance-based partnership agreement with Applied Arts Partners on February 11, 2015 to design, build, finance and maintain the new university campus at Great Northern Way. The \$122.654 million project replaced the outdated Granville Island facilities with a new 26,621 square metre facility. Construction began in summer 2015 and completed in summer 2017, creating approximately 1,000 jobs during construction. The new Emily Carr University of Art & Design Campus was officially opened on September 5, 2017.</p> <p>Following is a link to Partnerships BC ECUAD Project Report: http://www.partnershipsbc.ca/projects/projects-under-construction/ecuad/</p>			
University of British Columbia Undergraduate Life Science Teaching Laboratories	2018	\$88.00	\$44.84
<p>Redevelopment, renovation and refurbishment of the Undergraduate Life Sciences Laboratories at the University of British Columbia Biosciences Complex located on the Point Grey campus. The project will complete the transformation of the Biosciences Complex by renewing 5,213 square metres and adding an additional 10,255 square metres, as well as bringing the complex to LEED® Gold standard.</p> <p>Potential risks include design coordination and constrained site access. Risks due to design coordination between the design team, construction consultants and the project manager have been resolved through regular coordination meetings between the various groups to address any conflicts. The constrained site access risks are being mitigated through detailed coordination with the Construction Manager, Bookstore and impacted academic faculties.</p> <p>Construction began in summer 2016, with completion anticipated in 2018.</p>			

Major Capital Projects (over \$50 million)	Targeted Completion Date (Year)	Approved Anticipated Total Cost of Project (\$ millions)	Project Cost to March 31, 2018
Simon Fraser University Sustainable Energy and Environmental Engineering Building	2019	\$126.00	\$75.80
<p>Construction of a new five-storey 15,000 square metre engineering building at the Simon Fraser University Surrey campus. The project will enable Simon Fraser University to deliver a new energy engineering program and relocate and expand the current mechatronic engineering program.</p> <p>Potential project risks include: delays due to adverse weather and the availability of trades. Delays due to the result of adverse weather are being addressed through accelerated drywall and glazing (window) installation. Risks associated with trades availability are being mitigated through a pre-qualification process that includes schedule confirmation.</p> <p>Construction started in late 2016, with completion anticipated in late 2019.</p>			
British Columbia Institute of Technology Health Sciences Centre for Advanced Simulation	2021	\$78.27	\$0.05
<p>Construction of a four-storey 10,355 square metres simulation lab building at British Columbia Institute of Technology's Burnaby Campus.</p> <p>The project will enable British Columbia Institute of Technology to provide simulation based training for their nursing, health sciences and technology programs.</p> <p>Construction is expected to start in summer 2019, with completion anticipated in spring 2021.</p>			

Significant IT Projects

Significant Projects (over \$20 million)	Targeted Completion Date	Project Cost to March 31, 2018 (\$ millions)	Estimated Cost to Complete (\$ millions)	Approved Anticipated Total Capital Cost of Project
Modernizing StudentAid BC	2020	\$4.8	\$6.1	\$10.9
<p>Modernizing StudentAid BC is a multi-year, multi-phased initiative to improve the digital tools, information systems and Ministry's processes, to enhance the provision of financial aid to students.</p> <p>The total capital cost of the project over four years is \$10.9M. The overall budgeted cost of the project including operating expenses is \$19.8M over the same time period. Up to December 31, 2017, the project has capital costs of approximately \$4.5M.</p> <p>In 2017/18 the project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delivered the plan for transformation work and the preparation phase to support the technology implementation. • Implemented new business intelligence tools and enhanced reporting capability. • Upgraded the public Student Financial Aid website to be accessible via the BC Services Card for qualifying students. 				

Appendix A: Ministry Contact Information and Hyperlinks

General Inquiries

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British Columbia Council for International Education

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Industry Training Authority

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E-mail: customerservice@itabc.ca

Appendix B: List of Crowns, Agencies, Boards and Commissions

Crown Corporations

- B.C. Council for International Education - <http://www.bccie.bc.ca>
- Industry Training Authority - <http://www.itabc.ca/>

Agencies and Boards

- British Columbia Council on Admissions and Transfer - <http://www.bccat.ca>
- Degree Quality Assessment Board - <http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/education-training/post-secondary-education/institution-resources-administration/degree-authorization/degree-quality-assessment-board>
- Boards of colleges, institutes and universities
- BCcampus - <http://bccampus.ca>