

Ministry of Advanced Education

2002/03 – 2004/05 Service Plan Summary

Mission

- The Ministry of Advanced Education provides leadership and support for a top-notch advanced education and training system that provides all British Columbians with opportunities to develop the skills and knowledge they need to live productive and fulfilling lives, and to contribute to the changing economic, social, and cultural life of the province.

Strategic Shifts

- More choice for students - to ensure the system serves students better and more flexibly, and to allow students to take advantage of the increasing array of choices, which include more on-line learning and part-time learning.
- More accountability to taxpayers - to focus on success by encouraging the acceptance of explicit results-oriented accountability by the post-secondary system.
- Better alignment between costs and benefits - to ensure that the costs of a post-secondary education are aligned with the benefits it provides. This implies determining the appropriate share of costs among government, students, their families, and the private sector.
- Better links to the public interest and the economy - to create closer and more effective links between the post-secondary education system and the economy and the public interest.
- Coherent and integrated public system - to reshape public post-secondary institutions into a more coherent, integrated system with differentiated institutions working together in a complementary manner.

Core Business Areas

The Ministry has five Core Business Areas. Over the next three years the Ministry will focus efforts and financial resources in these key areas:

Grants to Educational Institutions and Organizations: The Ministry provides base funding to four traditional and two specialized universities, five university colleges, eleven community colleges, three provincial institutes, and two Aboriginal institutes.

Student Financial Assistance Programs: Student financial assistance is a comprehensive program of financial aid available to students at the post-secondary level. It combines repayable loans and non-repayable assistance in the form of grants and debt reduction measures awarded on the basis of each student's financial need. Additional assistance is provided through Special Programs (e.g. Loan Forgiveness for Doctors/Nurses, Nurses Education Bursary, and grants to students with disabilities).

Debt Service Contributions and Amortization of Post-Secondary Capital Construction: The Ministry provides funding to finance capital projects, including upgrades, renovations, replacements, expansions and new facilities.

Industry Training and Apprenticeship: The Ministry works to expand training opportunities in industry growth areas, particularly high-tech and other knowledge industries, and to promote awareness of industry training and apprenticeships among young people and employers.

Program Management: The Ministry provides leadership and direction, establishes policy and accountability, and provides the majority of funding to the system.

Major Initiatives

Over the next three years, the Ministry will:

- Create more choice for students by enhancing on-line learning, expanding transferability of credits earned between institutions and exploring the potential for pursuing degrees from a wider variety of institutions, both public and private.
- Build bridges to students by establishing more inclusive and direct communications between government and students, and making the system more relevant to their needs.
- Rationalize student financial assistance programs by combining them into a more coherent, integrated and understandable program, and working towards reducing student loan default rates.
- Review the tuition fee policy and develop an approach that balances the appropriate costs of education among government, students and their families.
- Overhaul the funding formula so that it focuses on results. Colleges, university-colleges and institutes, like universities, will receive block funding that will allow them to become more autonomous while continuing to provide information that will report on the effective use of public funds.
- Clarify the roles and mandates of institutions so that students are provided with the programs and courses they need, in the forms and at the times they want them.
- Forge links between education and the economy by increasing private sector financial support for post-secondary education through private sector investment in research chairs at universities and establishment of a Minister's Advisory Committee. The Ministry will also work to ensure that BC maximizes its share of federal research funds.
- Refocus and reorganize the Ministry to target its efforts towards results-based management.

- Expand capacity for students in health, social work, hi-tech and industry training which should benefit all communities in the province (see complete list of Ministry's New Era commitments, attached). To address shortages, medical training will be expanded and delivered at the University of British Columbia, the University of Victoria and the University of Northern BC in Prince George.
- Initiate new legislation in 2002 to enhance degree-granting opportunities, address tuition fee policy, and other changes pending decisions by the Core Services Review and the budget process.

Over the next three years, the Ministry will make changes in its relationship to some programs, services and agencies:

- Student Summer Works and Youth Community Action, youth programs currently delivered by the Ministry, will be eliminated. The Youth Community Action program was outside the core responsibilities of the Ministry. The Student Summer Works program was a subsidy to business.
- Non-core programs will no longer receive funding from the Ministry. These include: Skills for Employment, Institutional Based Training Support, Graduate Assistantships, Work Study, the Labour Adjustment Envelope, the New Learning Opportunities Envelope, College and Institute Matching Endowment, and Training Assistance Benefits.
- The Commonwealth of Learning, Kootenay School of the Arts, three theological colleges (St. Mark's College, Vancouver School of Theology and Regent College), the Contract Training Marketing Society, and the British Columbia Centre for International Education will no longer receive funding from the Ministry.
- Funding will be reduced to the Centre for Education Information, Standards and Services (CEISS) and the Centre for Curriculum, Transfer and Technology (C2T2).
- The Industry, Training and Apprenticeship Commission (ITAC) will be disbanded. Apprenticeship training programs, a priority of the Ministry, will continue to be funded and delivered with the goal of increasing industry training over the next three years.
- The closure of regional ITAC offices and planned reduction in direct services to employers and apprentices undertaking industry training will affect some communities. The first closures will occur on May 31, 2002, and will include:

Terrace	Kamloops	Dawson Creek	Courtenay	Nelson
Williams Lake	Nanaimo	Coquitlam	Cranbrook	Abbotsford

The other offices (Vancouver, Burnaby, Surrey, Victoria, Kelowna and Prince George) will close later in 2002/early 2003.

- By concentrating on Core Business Areas and focusing on results, overall Ministry FTEs, including ITAC FTEs can be reduced by almost 40% over three years. Current Ministry and ITAC FTEs total 345; by 2004/05, FTEs will be reduced to 208.
- The Ministry will be working actively to adjust the regulatory climate to allow the establishment of private-sector institutions to provide a viable alternative to public sector institutions.
- Decisions are pending on the Open Learning Agency (OLA), Part Time Vocational Training, TechBC, the Private Post Secondary Education Commission, tuition fee policy and policy changes to Student Financial Assistance.

Ministry Resources

	Fiscal Year				Percent Change 2001/02 to 2004/05
	2001/02 (restated Estimates)	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	
Operating Expenses (million \$)	1,892	1,892	1,892	1,892	0.0%
FTEs	345	277	232	208	-39.7%

Attachment

- A list of New Era commitments and major initiatives assigned by the Premier is attached.

Attachment

New Era Commitments¹

- Double the annual number of graduates in computer science, and electrical and computer engineering, within five years.
- Increase investment in technology research and post-secondary skills training.
- Establish a "Leading Edge Endowment Fund" based on cost-sharing partnerships with the private sector, to establish 20 permanent BC Leadership Chairs across the province in the fields of medical, social, environmental and technological research.
- Strengthen our network of colleges, institutes and on-line learning throughout the province.
- Train more social workers to meet the critical skills shortages
- With Finance:
 - Consult with educators, students and administrators on the hidden costs to students and institutes of previous tuition freezes that were not properly funded by government and that have reduced student access and reduced course offerings.
- With Skills Development:
 - Work with employers, and post-secondary institutes to increase training and apprenticeships in trades and technical sectors.
- With Health Planning:
 - Develop a Rural and Remote Training program and provide forgivable student loans to students attending accredited nursing and medical schools provided they practice for five years in underserved communities in BC;
 - Increase the number of medical school graduates over the next five years;
 - Develop a 10 year human resource plan that properly provides for the training, recruitment and retention of physicians, nurses, specialists and other health care providers in every area of the province and that addresses critical skills shortages and staffing levels in under-serviced areas;
 - Increase training spaces and recruitment of foreign trained nurses and physicians.

¹ *A New Era for British Columbia*, 2001.

List of Key Projects

The Minister was assigned two key projects in the Premier's mandate letter:

- Coordinate with the Ministry of Skills Development and Labour to direct funding to areas of critical skills shortages training; and
- Cooperate with the Ministry of Skills Development and Labour and Intergovernmental Relations to ensure we maximize our share of federal research funds.

Advanced Education was also identified as a partner in a key project assigned to the Minister of Competition, Science and Enterprise.

- Consolidate and rationalize scientific activities within the government, working with the Ministry of Advanced Education.