

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

## **2026/27 – 2028/29 Service Plan**

**February 2026**



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## Minister's Accountability Statement



The Ministry of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills 2026/27 – 2028/29 Service Plan was prepared under my direction in accordance with the *Budget Transparency and Accountability Act*. I am accountable for the basis on which the plan has been prepared.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "J. Sunner".

Honourable Jessie Sunner  
Minister of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills  
February 6, 2026

## Table of Contents

Minister's Accountability Statement .....	3
Strategic Direction.....	5
Purpose of the Ministry.....	5
Performance Planning .....	7
Financial Summary .....	11
Appendix A: Public Sector Organizations .....	12
Appendix B: Minister Mandate Letter.....	15

## Strategic Direction

In 2026/27, the Government of British Columbia will prioritize support for people by taking action to make life better for everyone.

Despite a challenging fiscal environment due to global uncertainty, trade relationship reordering, and low resource prices, over the past year Government made significant progress on efforts to reduce costs for British Columbians, hire more doctors and nurses, and build more homes, hospitals and schools, faster. Government will continue to advance these key priorities even as tariffs, trade policies, and instability outside of the province's borders continue to put pressure on the province's finances.

Ongoing fiscal pressure means all parts of Government must continue to do their part to maximize efficiencies and make sure every dollar counts.

To respond to these extraordinary times, Government will focus on expanding trade and investment both within Canada and abroad and delivering major projects that offer good paying jobs and opportunities for people and communities. This focus on economic growth and prosperity is critical to delivering the revenue needed to provide services and infrastructure.

Good relationships and mutually beneficial partnerships with First Nations are critical to building a better future for everyone in British Columbia. Government will continue working diligently to implement the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act Action Plan. Through collaboration and open dialogue, we aim to foster trust, stability and certainty for all.

This 2026/27 service plan outlines how the Ministry of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills will support the Government's priorities and selected action items identified in the [Minister's most recent Mandate Letter](#).

## Purpose of the Ministry

The Ministry of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills leads collaboration for our education and skills training partners to contribute towards sector sustainability, growing a skilled workforce that meets future challenges, and a high-quality, relevant and responsive system that ensures British Columbians can get the skills needed for the jobs of tomorrow.

The ministry oversees public and private post-secondary institutions through legislation, funding and accountability frameworks, and protects the interests and well-being of students, both domestic and international. The ministry oversees two Crown corporations: [SkilledTradesBC \(STBC\)](#) and the [British Columbia Council for International Education \(BCCIE\)](#). It also supports learners' financial needs through [StudentAid BC \(SABC\)](#) and works with institutions to provide additional supports, such as mental health services and student safety.

Through federal labour market transfer agreements, the ministry provides targeted skills training opportunities to individuals, communities and employers. The ministry provides

education, labour market and career planning information so British Columbians can plan careers, access education and skills development programs, and connect to jobs.

The ministry delivers immigration programs and services that help newcomers integrate socially and economically into the province, and helps facilitate economic immigration to address BC's labour market needs and to attract international entrepreneurs. This includes responsibility for two pieces of legislation: [Provincial Immigration Programs Act](#), and immigration provisions of the [Ministry of International Business and Immigration Act](#). Immigration services such as the BC Provincial Nominee Program, BC Newcomers Services Program, Safe Haven Program and the Career Paths for Skilled Immigrants Program enable community-driven, inclusive progress in support of social and economic well-being for all who make British Columbia home.

The ministry oversees professional regulatory bodies under the [Professional Governance Act](#) and is responsible for the [Labour Mobility Act](#), which ensures that registered professionals certified in another Canadian jurisdiction can have their credentials recognized without unnecessary barriers. The ministry is also responsible for the [International Credentials Recognition Act](#), working to require professional regulatory bodies to be fairer, faster and more transparent in assessing internationally trained people's applications for licences to practice in their professions.

The ministry is committed to reconciliation with First Nations, Métis, and Inuit peoples by ensuring our institutions and training partners provide welcoming and culturally safe places to learn and work, helping communities get the training they need for economic and social well-being, and through implementation of the [Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act](#).

## Performance Planning

### Goal 1: British Columbians have affordable access to post-secondary education and training to respond to the urgent need for more and new skills

#### Performance Measures

Performance Measure	2024/25 Actual	2026/27 Target	2027/28 Target	2028/29 Target
[1a] Post-Secondary costs are manageable and in line with household incomes				
Undergraduate tuition and fees as a percent of median household income (target is less than the Canadian average)	6.6% (target <7.5%)	TBD <sup>2</sup>	TBD <sup>2</sup>	TBD <sup>2</sup>
Average percent of income recent grads used to repay education-related debt <sup>1</sup>				
Diploma, Associate Degree & Certificate Students	3.7%	<8.0%	<8.0%	<8.0%
Baccalaureate Graduates	6.3%	<8.0%	<8.0%	<8.0%

Data source: Statistics Canada and BC Student Outcomes Surveys, 2024<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Efforts are made each year to contact all eligible former public post-secondary students. For the 2024 BC Student Outcomes surveys, over 20,000 former students were surveyed for a response rate of 34%.

The margin of error for these measures is currently between +/- 0.7% and 1.4% (19 times out of 20). 2025 survey results will be available in the spring of 2026 and will be reported in the 2025/26 Annual Service Plan Report.

<sup>2</sup>Undergraduate tuition and fees as a percent of median household income targets are based on the Canadian average and are determined each reporting year. In accordance with the Ministry's [Accountability Framework](#), targets are calculated based on Statistics Canada data released annually. The data needed to calculate the 2026/27 target were not available for inclusion in this Service Plan.

Performance Measure	2021/22 Baseline	2025/26 Forecast	2026/27 Target	2027/28 Target	2028/29 Target
[1b] The percentage of individuals employed or in further education and training after completing a Ministry skills training program	67%	71% <sup>1</sup>	>70%	>70%	>70%

Data source: Participant Outcomes Surveys, Labour Market Development & Immigration Division, Ministry of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills.

<sup>1</sup>2025/26 forecast is based on 3-month survey results for actual participants who completed training programs aimed at unemployed people or precariously employed in 2024/25.

**Objective 1.1: Provide affordable access to relevant skills training and post-secondary education.**

**Objective 1.2: Build an inclusive and mobile workforce by bringing more people into the labour force.**

## **Goal 2: British Columbia has a high-quality post-secondary and training system that is sustainable, relevant, responsive and innovative**

### **Performance Measures**

<b>Performance Measure</b>	<b>2024 Actual</b>	<b>2026/27 Target<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>2027/28 Target</b>	<b>2028/29 Target</b>
[2a] Graduates reporting their knowledge and skills developed through post-secondary education are useful in their employment	86.6%	≥ 90%	≥ 90%	≥ 90%

Data source: BC Student Outcomes Surveys 2024<sup>1</sup>, reported under the 24/25 cycle.

<sup>1</sup>Efforts are made each year to contact all eligible former public post-secondary students. For the 2024 BC Student Outcomes surveys, over 20,000 former students were surveyed for a response rate of 34%.

The margin of error for these measures is currently between +/- 0.3% and 0.5% (19 times out of 20).

<sup>2</sup>Forecast for 2025 is not included because this measure is part of the Accountability Framework, which reports only actual results. 2025 survey results will be available in the spring of 2026 and will be reported in the 2025/26 Service Plan Report.

<b>Performance Measure</b>	<b>2020/21 Baseline</b>	<b>2025/26 Forecast</b>	<b>2026/27 Target</b>	<b>2027/28 Target</b>	<b>2028/29 Target</b>
[2b] Number of online and in-person engagements with ministry-provided labour market, career planning and education information	6.43M	10.0M	Maintain or increase	Maintain or increase	Maintain or increase

Data source: EducationPlannerBC website, WorkBC.ca and other ministry sources.

**Objective 2.1: Support a more responsive and relevant post-secondary and skills training system.**

**Objective 2.2: Ensure BC provides a quality post-secondary education experience for international students and has a fair, transparent process to recognize international credentials.**

**Objective 2.3: Provide British Columbia's workforce with the best information available to make informed decisions about their education, training, and career opportunities.**



## **Goal 3: Advance reconciliation and self-determination with First Nations, Métis and Inuit in BC through post-secondary education and skills training**

### **Performance Measure**

In place of a conventional performance measure, the ministry will rely on the [Declaration Act Annual Report](#) to show progress towards achieving the ministry's actions. The ministry leads four Declaration Act Action Plan actions (1.08, 1.09, 4.05, and 4.41) and collaborates with other lead ministries to advance five joint actions (3.03, 4.02, 4.18, 4.29, and 4.30) recognizing Government's commitment to the [Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act](#) (the Declaration Act). Meaningful reconciliation requires recognizing the rights of First Nations, Metis, and Inuit Peoples to participate in joint decision-making regarding post-secondary education and skills training policies, programs, and services following a distinctions-based approach.

Our priorities for this work are informed by the priorities identified by the First Nations Education Steering Committee (FNESC), the Indigenous Adult and Higher Learning Association (IAHLA), as well as Métis Nation BC, and other Indigenous partners. The action items that the ministry is leading and supporting are to be implemented over five years and, as such, progress is advancing more quickly on some actions than others.

The Province reports annually on progress made to implement the Declaration Act Action Plan through comprehensive and accessible reporting developed in consultation with Indigenous Peoples in BC. This report, published on the Province's [Declaration Act website](#), provides detailed information on each action, highlighting progress, complexity, challenges, and collaboration.

The ministry is applying a distinctions-based approach in its engagement with Indigenous Peoples to advance key legislative, policy and program initiatives in the [Action Plan](#).

### **Objective 3.1: Implement BC's Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act and relevant components of the Action Plan.**

## Goal 4: Contribute to BC's sustainable economy by providing immigration programs and supports for newcomers

### Performance Measure

Performance Measure	2021/22 Baseline	2025/26 Forecast	2026/27 Target	2027/28 Target	2028/29 Target
[4a] Percentage of BC Provincial Nominee Program nominees living and working in regional communities outside Metro Vancouver <sup>1,2</sup>	24%	35%	35%	35%	35%

Data source: Internal tracking Ministry of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills.

**Objective 4.1: International talent helps address BC's skills and economic development needs, and newcomers have the supports they need to thrive in communities throughout the province.**

### Discussion of Changes:

The measure and the objective have been changed to highlight the critical role of the Provincial Nominee Program in attracting top talent to drive economic development and address priority skills needs throughout the province, in alignment with broader government goals such as the [Look West strategy](#) and the [Health Human Resources strategy](#). The measure previously reported on the provincial Career Paths for Skilled Immigrants program and the percentage of Career Paths clients employed in their field upon program completion.

## Financial Summary

(\$000s)	2025/26 Restated Estimates <sup>1</sup>	2026/27 Estimates	2027/28 Plan	2028/29 Plan
<b>Operating Expenses</b>				
Educational Institutions and Organizations	3,225,843	3,240,973	3,240,973	3,240,973
Student Services Programs	73,792	73,792	73,792	73,792
Private Training Institutions	1	1	1	1
Labour Market Development <sup>2</sup>	39,415	43,219	43,219	43,219
Immigration and Strategic Planning	39,423	37,637	37,637	37,637
Transfers to Crown Corporations and Agencies	107,221	161,221	187,221	214,221
Executive and Support Services	24,142	23,718	23,718	23,718
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,509,837</b>	<b>3,580,561</b>	<b>3,606,561</b>	<b>3,633,561</b>
<b>Capital Expenditures</b>				
Executive and Support Services	504	504	504	504
<b>Total</b>	<b>504</b>	<b>504</b>	<b>504</b>	<b>504</b>

<sup>1</sup>For comparative purposes, amounts shown for 2025/26 have been restated to be consistent with the presentation of the 2026/27 Estimates.

\*Further information on program funding and vote recoveries is available in the [Estimates and Supplement to the Estimates](#).

<sup>2</sup>The Labour Market Development sub-vote budget is expressed net of federal funding received under the Workforce Development Agreement (WDA) and Labour Market Development Agreement (LMDA).

## Public Post-Secondary Institutions Financial Summary

(\$millions)	2025/26 Forecast	2026/27 Budget	2027/28 Plan	2028/29 Plan
<b>Combined Operating Statement</b>				
<b>Total Revenue<sup>1</sup></b>	9,149	9,161	9,314	9,517
<b>Total Expense</b>	(9,054)	(9,129)	(9,249)	(9,447)
<b>Operating Surplus</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>70</b>
<b>Gain (Loss) on sale of capital assets</b>	1	1	0	0
<b>Annual Surplus</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>70</b>

<sup>1</sup>Total Revenue include the endowment contributions

## Appendix A: Public Sector Organizations

As of February 2026, the Minister of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills is responsible and accountable for the following organizations:

### **Architectural Institute of BC**

Established in 1920 under the *Architects Act*, the Institute establishes standards for entry into the architectural profession; provides services to support just over 5,100 registrants in maintaining credentials and overall professionalism; and enforces the competency, ethical and professional standards expected of those in a regulated practice. The Institute began operating under the *Professional Governance Act* in 2023.

### **Applied Science Technologists and Technicians of BC**

The Applied Science Technologists & Technicians of BC (ASTTBC) was formed under the *Society Act* in 1958 and incorporated under the *Applied Science Technologists and Technicians Act* in 1985. ASTTBC has just under 6,700 registrants and regulates a large number of different designations, reflecting the broad scope of work of their registrants. ASTTBC began operating under the *Professional Governance Act* in 2021.

### **Association of British Columbia Forest Professionals (Forest Professionals BC)**

Forest Professionals BC (FPBC) is the business name of the Association of BC Forest Professionals. FPBC was originally brought into being with the passage of the 1947 *Foresters Act* and now represents over 5,300 registrants, including foresters and forest technologists. FPBC began operating under the *Professional Governance Act* in 2021.

### **Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of BC (Engineers and Geoscientists BC)**

Engineers and Geoscientists BC (EGBC) is the business name of the Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of the Province of British Columbia. EGBC was first established under the *Engineering Profession Act* of 1920. In 1990 the professional regulator expanded to include geoscientists and now has more than 39,000 registrants. EGBC began operating under the *Professional Governance Act* in 2021.

### **BC Council on Admissions and Transfer**

BC Council on Admissions and Transfer (BCCAT) has a key coordinating role in facilitating communication and co-operation among post-secondary institutions and in ensuring a well-articulated system of academic course equivalency and academic credit transfer between and among institutions in British Columbia.

### **BCcampus**

BCcampus provides teaching, learning, educational technology, and open education resources and supports to British Columbia post-secondary institutions.

### **BC Council for International Education**

BC Council for International Education (BCCIE) is a provincial crown corporation that supports the internationalization efforts of BC's public and independent K-12 schools, public and private colleges and universities and language schools. It promotes international education in and for BC, enhancing BC's international reputation for quality education and supporting the international education activities of the provincial government.

### **BC Electronic Library Network**

BC Electronic Library Network (BC ELN)'s develops and supports system-wide mechanisms that allow post-secondary libraries to meet the expanding information needs of learners, educators, and researchers at the lowest possible cost.

### **BC Institute of Agrologists**

The British Columbia Institute of Agrologists (BCIA) was created in 1947 with the *Agrologists Act*, and currently has over 1,850 registrants. The practice of agrology includes many areas relating to natural resources and agriculture, including resource economics. BCIA began operating under the *Professional Governance Act* in 2021.

### **BC Registered Music Teachers Association**

BC Registered Music Teachers Association (BCRMTA) is a non-profit association. The objects of BCRMTA are to raise the standard of the profession, the promotion of the art of music teaching and the maintenance of the honour and interests of the music teaching profession.

### **BC Society of Landscape Architects**

The British Columbia Society of Landscape Architects Board of Examiners sets and administers the examination necessary for the registration of members in the BC Society of Landscape Architects and reviews all applicants' qualifications to determine acceptability.

### **Chartered Professional Accountants of British Columbia**

Chartered Professional Accountants of BC (CPABC) is the training, governing, and regulatory body for over 36,000 CPA members and 5,000 CPA students and candidates. CPABC carries out its primary mission to protect the public by enforcing the highest professional and ethical standards and contributing to the advancement of public policy.

### **College of Applied Biology (College of Applied Biologists)**

The College of Applied Biologists (CAB) was established in 2002 with the *College of Applied Biology Act*. They regulate professional biologists, and biology-related technologists and technicians. CAB currently has approximately 3,200 registrants. CAB began operating under the *Professional Governance Act* in 2021.

### **Degree Quality Assessment Board**

The Degree Quality Assessment Board is an independent advisory board that ensures legislated quality assurance requirements are met for post-secondary education in BC.

### **EducationPlannerBC**

EducationPlannerBC (EPBC) is mandated to connect students to post-secondary education opportunities and associated career paths by improving post-secondary planning and application services. Additionally, EPBC's mandate includes establishing and maintaining a provincial data exchange hub to support the transition of BC students into post-secondary and between institutions within the BC post-secondary system.

### **SkilledTradesBC**

The *ITA Act* was repealed and replaced with the *Skilled Trades BC Act* (STBC Act) in March 2022, to manage and support an industry training and apprenticeship system in BC and to ensure that the system meets the Province's need for skilled workers.

### **StudentAid BC Appeal Committee**

The Committee reconsiders appeals at the request of StudentAid BC applicants or borrowers. It provides feedback, when requested, to StudentAid BC on proposed changes to key case review processes.

## Appendix B: Minister Mandate Letter



July 17, 2025

Honourable Jessie Sunner  
Minister of Post-Secondary Education  
and Future Skills  
Parliament Buildings  
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4

Dear Minister Sunner:

Congratulations on your appointment as Minister of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills at a critical time for our province. Serving as a member of the executive council is a privilege and responsibility which I am confident you will fulfill with integrity and a commitment to the people of our province.

British Columbians have trusted us with a mandate to deliver for them in ways that make a tangible difference in their daily lives. They expect us to listen and learn from people of different perspectives – and work together to make things better for everyone.

Specifically, we will tackle the challenges people worry about at the kitchen table:

- **Grow the economy by creating good jobs across British Columbia.** We will collaborate with businesses, workers, and communities to attract investments in both new and traditional sectors as well as emerging sectors of the economy. This approach will bring certainty for business, security for workers, and generate the wealth needed to support the essential services British Columbians rely on.
- **Reduce costs for families,** including by helping people access homes they can afford through support for first-time homebuyers, increasing the supply of rental housing stock, and stronger measures to crack down on housing speculation.

.../2



- **Strengthen health care** by expanding access to family doctors and recruiting and training more health professionals, ensuring that every British Columbian can access the care they need, no matter where they live. We will also increase access to addictions treatment and provide help for people whose struggles require intensive supports.
- **Make our neighbourhoods and communities safer** by working with law enforcement and social agencies to address street disorder, crack down on organized crime, and do all we can to ensure repeat offenders stay behind bars.

Our commitment to take action on climate change remains foundational and will be key to a healthy and prosperous BC for future generations.

Underlying all this work is our partnership with Indigenous peoples. Advancing reconciliation, implementing the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* and working in partnership with First Nations rights-holders to advance shared interests is the responsibility of every Minister.

Over this mandate I expect you to prioritize making progress on the following:

- In order to protect key services that British Columbians rely on, work with the Minister of Finance to review all existing Ministry of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills programs and initiatives to ensure our programs remain relevant, are efficient, offer meaningful training opportunities for British Columbians, grow the economy, and help keep costs low. This is important in the context of current Provincial budget constraints, the job opportunities available and projected to be available for British Columbians in the near future, and the threat of American tariffs.
- Work with ministerial colleagues who have identified shortages of key skilled workers and professionals that are constraining economic growth or service delivery to find practical, fast, and efficient ways to address shortages of those workers through training, credential recognition, career laddering and other innovative approaches.
- Work with post-secondary institutions to evaluate and advocate federally in relation to the funding challenges caused by the federal government's changes related to international students. Support schools in identifying structural solutions, new revenue streams and cost reductions to ensure strong, sustainable public post-secondary schools and training providers, who offer British Columbians the training and skills they need to be successful and help grow our provincial economy.
- Continue work with Indigenous partners to ensure that Indigenous learners can achieve their higher educational goals in ways that reflect a diversity of Indigenous cultures and values.

- Support the Minister of Social Development and Poverty Reduction to enhance employment services and skills training for people facing multiple and complex barriers to assist them in exiting a cycle of poverty and build a dignified life.
- Work with the Minister of Housing and Municipal Affairs to ensure that post-secondary institutions that have identified opportunities in relation to using housing as an economic development tool are supported in delivering that housing urgently.
- Work with the Minister of Housing and Municipal Affairs to enable privately owned new purpose-built rental buildings that, if partnered with a public post-secondary institution, receive special provision under the *Residential Tenancy Act* to be exclusively for students registered at that institution.

To assist you in meeting the commitments we have made to British Columbians, you are assigned a Parliamentary Secretary for International Credentials whose focus will be to:

- Engage with people with international professional credentials to ensure that the implementation of our *International Credentials Recognition Act* is relevant, meaningful, and effective for them in transitioning into employment in their area of professional training.
- Work with you to identify any shortcomings in the implementation of the Act and ensure that professional colleges and other credential granting agencies are in compliance with government expectations.
- Support government in formally recognizing and celebrating professional colleges and credential-granting agencies that exceed government expectations.

You will work closely together and ensure your Parliamentary Secretary receives appropriate support to deliver on this work.

As you are aware, we have established an accord with the BC Green Caucus that supports our shared commitment to ensuring stable governance focused on delivering progress and tangible outcomes for British Columbians. The commitments in that accord complement the direction in these mandate letters.

As a Cabinet, we will uphold the highest standards of ethics, collaboration, and good conduct in service of the public, and as a Minister of the Crown, you are expected to review, understand, and act according to the Members' Conflict of Interest Act. You will establish a collaborative working relationship with your Deputy Minister and the public servants under their direction, who provide the professional, non-partisan advice that is fundamental to delivering on our government's priorities. Your Minister's Office must meet the highest standards for integrity and provide a respectful, rewarding environment for all staff.

The work we have ahead takes place in a profoundly challenging geopolitical environment. Close friends and neighbours to our south are contemplating imposing draconian tariffs on our products that would hurt both Americans and Canadians. Our allies internationally face governmental instability. Hate and racism are on the rise around the world. Artificial intelligence breakthroughs with unclear implications and astonishing potential are announced daily. Global inflation, snarled supply chains, and war are threatening global economic growth and prosperity as well as the transition to a low-carbon economy.

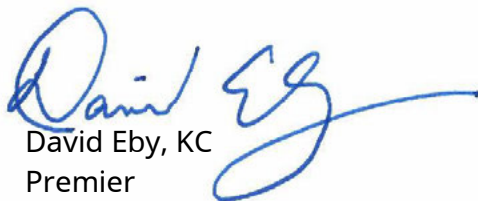
We have an obligation to protect and defend British Columbians, as well as seize opportunities, in these uncertain times.

The good news is that we have everything we need to succeed, and we will succeed. British Columbia's people – our workers, entrepreneurs, business leaders, artists, and innovators – are among the most talented in the world. We are home to world-class educational institutions and public services. Our natural beauty is unmatched, we have internationally envied resources, and we are one of the most diverse places on the planet. Your job is to help us leverage these advantages in perilous times.

Use this mandate letter to guide your work, and do not be afraid to challenge assumptions, or be innovative, bold and aggressive in achieving the goals set out for you and your Ministry by the people of this province.

Thank you for joining me in the work ahead.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "David Eby", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

David Eby, KC  
Premier

cc: Sunita Dhir, MLA  
Parliamentary Secretary for International Credentials