

**Ministry of
Advanced Education and
Skills Training**

**2020/21
Annual Service Plan Report**



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Minister's Accountability Statement



The *Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Training 2020/21 Annual Service Plan Report* compares the Ministry's actual results to the expected results identified in the *2020/21 – 2022/23 Service Plan* created in February 2020. I am accountable for those results as reported.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Anne Kang".

Honourable Anne Kang
Minister of Advanced Education and Skills Training
July 28, 2021

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Letter from the Minister

As Minister of Advanced Education and Skills Training, it is my pleasure to present the 2020/21 Annual Service Plan Report.

We know that education is the great equalizer. As a former elementary school teacher and deeply committed lifelong learner, I believe that post-secondary education and skilled trades training are key to empowering all British Columbians who want to unlock their inner potential and build rewarding futures.

The global COVID-19 pandemic presented unprecedented challenges to everyone in our post-secondary sector. I would like to acknowledge the hard work of students, faculty and staff at institutions across the province who continued to follow the guidance of the public health office and prioritize the health and safety of themselves and each other throughout the pandemic. It has been a daunting time, but there is a light at the end of the tunnel.

My ministry worked closely with health and safety experts, student groups, labour, Indigenous partners and post-secondary institutions and partners to develop the [COVID-19 Go-Forward Guidelines for BC's Post-Secondary Sector](#) that, along with institutional health and safety plans, assisted the sector in reducing the spread of COVID-19 on campuses and that will provide guidance on a safe return to campuses this September.

The pandemic had an unprecedented impact on employment, and we recognised that many British Columbians would need to upskill or reskill to build a better future in the post-COVID economy. We also acknowledged that while the pandemic took a toll on everyone, it impacted vulnerable groups more severely such as former youth in care, Indigenous people, those with disabilities, older workers, women and youth. I am proud of the choices our government made and the work we have done to support people through COVID-19. We have continued to fulfill our commitments to British Columbians by making life more affordable, delivering the services people count on, and rebuilding the economy post-pandemic.

We stand with and continue to foster meaningful and lasting reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples in British Columbia. My ministry continues to engage and collaborate with Indigenous communities and partners to ensure post-secondary education and skills training programs are relevant, responsive and receptive to the needs of Indigenous communities and learners.

I have been impressed by the resolve and the leadership that the post-secondary and skills-training sector has shown during a very challenging and trying time. I look forward to continuing our work together to address issues head-on and help propel B.C.'s economic recovery.



Honourable Anne Kang
Minister of Advanced Education and Skills Training
July 28, 2021

Purpose of the Annual Service Plan Report

The Annual Service Plan Report is designed to meet the requirements of the [Budget Transparency and Accountability Act](#) (BTAA), which sets out the legislative framework for planning, reporting and accountability for Government organizations. Under the BTAA, the Minister is required to report on the actual results of the ministry's performance related to the forecasted targets documented in the previous year's Service Plan.

Purpose of the Ministry

The Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Training provides leadership and direction for post-secondary education and skills training across the province to support British Columbians with opportunities to thrive, succeed and reach their full potential. The ministry plays a key role in promoting a collaborative approach that fosters opportunities for our education and skills training partners to contribute to the prosperity of all British Columbians and the resiliency of our post-secondary education and skills training system.

Underlying our work is the conviction that an inclusive, accessible, responsive and future-focused post-secondary education and skills training system, including the trades, provides pathways for British Columbians into good-paying, high-opportunity jobs and supports the economic recovery of our communities and province.

The ministry remains committed to the development of lasting and meaningful partnerships with Indigenous peoples in B.C. as they move towards self determination in accordance with British Columbia's ongoing reconciliation and recognition commitments as reflected in the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (Declaration) Act*.

To support inclusive and affordable access, the ministry provides targeted supports for vulnerable and underrepresented groups, such as former youth in care, Indigenous people, those with disabilities, older workers, youth, and women in the trades. The ministry reduces financial barriers with a suite of needs-based student financial assistance programs available through [StudentAid BC](#). The ministry is also making it easier for students to navigate British Columbia's post-secondary system through [EducationPlannerBC](#).

The ministry makes capital investments in education and training facilities and equipment throughout the province, to give learners the modern tools and spaces they need to prepare for 21st century careers.

To prepare British Columbians for current career opportunities and high opportunity jobs, we work with post-secondary partners, employers, industry, social service providers, and Indigenous communities throughout B.C. to align and deliver relevant education and training programs and services. The ministry also provides information and resources, including [WorkBC.ca](#) and the [Labour Market Outlook](#), so British Columbians can make informed decisions about their career planning and skills training opportunities.

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

Strategic Direction

The strategic direction set by Government in 2017, and expanded upon in Minister's [2017 Mandate Letter](#), shaped the goals, objectives, performance measures and financial plan outlined in the [2020/21 Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Training Service Plan](#) and the actual results reported on in this annual report.

The global COVID-19 pandemic resulted in many shifts in priorities, structures, and operations across the public sector. Any changes to Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Training goals, objectives, performance measures, or financial plan to align with the strategic direction established by Government in late 2020 are presented in the [Ministry's 2021/22 Service Plan](#).

Operating Environment

The COVID-19 pandemic further demonstrated the essential role post-secondary education and skills training serves in helping shape people's lives and ensuring the prosperity and success of British Columbia's future.

Deemed an essential service, the post-secondary and skills training sector was required to pivot quickly to provide flexible learning approaches (e.g. remote and in-person learning) to ensure continuity, access and quality education and training while maintaining the safety of students, faculty and staff as a top priority. The ministry worked in partnership with institutions, the BC Centre for Disease Control, WorkSafeBC, the Provincial Health Office and sector experts to produce and continuously update the [Go-Forward Guidelines](#). The Guidelines, along with institutional health and safety plans, helped the sector be very successful in reducing the spread of COVID-19 on campuses.

The pandemic had an unprecedented impact on employment in British Columbia. It became evident that many British Columbians would need opportunities and supports to retrain and upskill in order to find their place in the post-pandemic economy. The ministry invested and launched new programs, supports and resources to help thousands of British Columbians gain new skills, access and afford post-secondary education and training, and make informed decisions about their education and training options.

The pandemic's effects were not felt equally across all industries and demographic groups. The most vulnerable people, including young adults, former youth in care, immigrants, visible minorities, Indigenous people, survivors of abuse or violence, older workers, and women, as well as workers in certain sectors, experienced greater impacts to their employment income, mental health, and career trajectories. As a result, the ministry expanded and enhanced existing programs and supports, and introduced new targeted programs to address the needs of those made most vulnerable by the pandemic.

More than three quarters of forecasted job openings will require some level of post-secondary education or skills training. The ministry plays a critical role in providing the necessary programs, policies and supports to meet the needs of learners, job seekers, workers, communities, industry, and employers in a sustainable and resilient economy.

The Province, First Nations Leadership Council (FNLC) and First Nations Education Steering Committee (FNESC) signed the First Nations Children and Youth in Care Protocol on May 26, 2020, committing to work together to improve the educational outcomes and well-being of First Nations children and youth in care, and former youth in care through legislative, policy and practice reform. The goal is to ease transitions into the school system, from grade to grade, out of the school system and through post-secondary. In the spirit of collaborative partnerships with Indigenous peoples in B.C. as they move towards self determination, the ministry continued to engage and collaborate with Indigenous communities and partners.

Post-pandemic economic recovery will require a future-focused and collaborative approach across the post-secondary education and skills training system. Accessible and inclusive education and skills training provide British Columbians the opportunity to secure good paying jobs and lead to a more inclusive and resilient economy. Our ministry plays a central role in fostering opportunities for our partners to help build the resilience, prosperity, and success of all British Columbians.

Report on Performance: Goals, Objectives, Measures and Targets

Goal 1: Lasting reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples in B.C. through post-secondary education and skills training

This goal reflects Government's commitment through the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* to create opportunities for Indigenous peoples as full partners on a clear and sustainable path toward lasting reconciliation. Meaningful reconciliation requires recognition of the rights of Indigenous Peoples to participate in joint decision-making regarding post-secondary education policies, programs, and services for First Nations, Métis, and Inuit learners. These systemic shifts supporting self-determination will help Indigenous learners have access to a range of culturally responsive and relevant programs.

Objective 1.1: Implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission

Over the past year the ministry has remained committed to working with Indigenous education and training partners to advance systemic and cultural change and improve educational outcomes for Indigenous learners.

Key Highlights

- Continued to collaborate with the Indigenous post-secondary education and training partners to co-develop a comprehensive post-secondary strategy that responds to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.
- Signed the First Nations Children and Youth in Care Protocol on May 26, 2020 signalling the ministry's commitment to work together with our partners on improving the educational outcomes and well-being of First Nations children and youth in care.
- Provided \$6.15 million for post-secondary institutions to develop or enhance respectful and welcoming learning environments, along with partnerships and programs that improve the post-secondary educational experiences and outcomes of Indigenous learners.
- Provided \$2 million under the Workforce Development Agreement (WDA) to the Indigenous Adult and Higher Learning Association to support Indigenous institutes, learners and communities to help manage COVID-19 impacts, including supports and resources like personal protective equipment, and laptops for learners to shift to online learning.

Performance Measure	2019/20 Actuals	2020/21 Target	2020/21 Actuals	2021/22 Target	2022/23 Target
1.1 Overall credentials awarded to Indigenous students in the public post-secondary system ^{1,2}	3,642 (Baseline 2,634 ³)	Progress towards 2020/21 target of 4,609 ⁴	TBC ⁵	TBD ⁶	TBD

Data Source: Student Transition Project.

¹ Actuals and targets align with fiscal year data and include only credentials with evaluative components awarded at a B.C. public post-secondary institution, including: developmental, certificate, diploma, associate degree, bachelor's degree, post-degree certificate, post-degree diploma, first professional degree, graduate certificate, graduate diploma, master's degree, and doctorate credentials. Apprenticeship credentials are awarded separately by the [ITA](#)

² This measure relies on B.C. public post-secondary data collected in accordance with the [Aboriginal Administrative Data Standard](#) – based on individuals' identity as an Aboriginal person (i.e. First Nations, Métis, or Inuit). A subset of the data is also compiled based on Aboriginal identity as reported in the B.C. kindergarten to grade 12 system. The Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills 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” are used interchangeably, and this measure is consistent with past ministry service plans.

³ Baseline is presented as published in the Aboriginal Post-Secondary Education and Training Policy Framework and Action Plan, launched in June 2012, based on the most recent data available at that time (2009/10).

⁴ 2020/21 Target will be progress towards target articulated in the Aboriginal Post-Secondary Education and Training Policy Framework and Action Plan.

⁵ Data for the 2020/21 fiscal year will be available in Spring of 2022 and will be reported in the 2021/22 Service Plan Report.

⁶ 2021/22 Target is TBD pending refresh of the Action Plan to align with the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and TRC's Calls to Action to help determine appropriate measures to assess progress toward this objective.

Discussion of Results

In 2020/21, the ministry continued the co-development of a comprehensive strategy that responds to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action and the United Nation's Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. While a new comprehensive post-secondary strategy for Indigenous education is being co-developed, the ministry continues to track progress towards the goal in the 2012 [Aboriginal Post-Secondary Education and Training Policy Framework and Action Plan](#) of increasing credentials awarded to Indigenous learners by 75%, to 4,609 by 2020/21. The results for each fiscal year are based on the most recent data available. In this case the most recent data is from 2019/20, which shows 3,642 credentials awarded to Indigenous learners, representing a 38% increase over the 2009/10 baseline of 2,634. The ministry collaborated and will continue to work with Indigenous partners on this goal to meet the needs of Indigenous learners with equitable and responsive post-secondary education and training opportunities. A pivotal part of these collaborative efforts includes determining appropriate measures and baselines to assess progress toward this objective.

Objective 1.2: Support accessible and responsive skills training and post-secondary education programs for Indigenous learners and communities

The ministry remained committed to a distinction-based approach to the delivery of community-based skills training and post-secondary programming that leads to improved socioeconomic

outcomes and unlocks the economic potential of lasting, meaningful reconciliation with Indigenous peoples.

Key Highlights

- Delivered the Indigenous Skills Training Development Fund and the Aboriginal Community-Based Training Partnerships program to support the delivery of education and skills training in 153 First Nations communities, 38 Métis Chartered Communities and 17 Aboriginal Friendship Centres.
- Invested \$15 million in additional funding under [StrongerBC](#) to support Indigenous communities' and peoples' economic recovery, including funding to FNEESC and Indigenous training providers to expand access to training and education opportunities during the pandemic.
- Provided \$1.5 million to Coast Mountain College for the initial year of a three-year Contact North BC pilot project, an online learning pilot to increase local access to education and training opportunities in approximately 20 Indigenous and other remote communities across northwest BC.
- Supported the ITA in implementing its Provincial Indigenous Skills Training Plan, including programs to enable Indigenous apprentices to receive training while remaining close to their homes and culture. To date, 16 programs have been established across the province.

Performance Measure	2018/19 Baseline	2019/20 Actuals	2020/21 Target	2020/21 Actuals	2021/22 Target	2022/23 Target
1.2 Number of First Nations communities, Métis Chartered Communities, and Aboriginal Friendship Centres accessing training	129 ¹	190 ²	184	208	184	184

Data Source: Workforce Innovation and Division Responsible for Skills Training, Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Training.

¹ When the 2018/19 baseline measure was first reported, only First Nation communities were reported.

² Over the past year, the approach to Indigenous Skills Training and Education programming was modified to increase access to training and education funding opportunities for all First Nations communities, Métis Chartered Communities, and B.C. Aboriginal Friendship Centres. As a result of this change, the ministry has reassessed the baseline and future targets for this measure, as reflected in the [Ministry's 2021/22 Service Plan](#).

Discussion of Results

The ministry remained committed to engaging and collaborating with Indigenous communities and partners to meet the needs of Indigenous learners with equitable and responsive post-secondary education and training opportunities. Over the past year, the ministry modified its approach to Indigenous skills training and education programming, working directly with First Nations communities from across the province, Métis Nation BC and the BC Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres to increase access to training and education programming, aligned with their priorities and needs. This change resulted in an increase in overall participation in

AEST programming in 2020/21, with more Indigenous people having access to post-secondary education and skills training in their communities and closer to home.

Goal 2: British Columbians have access to inclusive, responsive and relevant post-secondary education to reach their full potential

This goal reflects Government's commitment to making life more affordable and delivering services British Columbians count on. The ministry plays a key role in promoting a collaborative approach that fosters opportunities for our partners in post-secondary education and skills training to contribute to the prosperity and success of all British Columbians. Accessible, high-quality post-secondary education and skills training that leads to good paying jobs provides numerous benefits to individuals and will be critical to our economic recovery.

Objective 2.1: Improve the affordability and accessibility of post-secondary education and skills training for all British Columbians

The ministry continued to make life more affordable by ensuring learners can access, afford, and complete post-secondary education and skills training.

Key Highlights

- Contributed to the [B.C. Provincial Housing Strategy](#) and improved student access to affordable, on campus housing by initiating work on an additional 2,816 student housing beds since the start of the program.
- Launched the new B.C. Access Grant to help low- and middle-income students access and afford post-secondary education and training.
- Continued to support former youth in care by waiving over \$3 million in tuition and fees through the Provincial Tuition Waiver Program, and providing an additional \$250,000 to the Youth Futures Education Fund.
- Supported the ITA in its efforts to improve access to the trades training and apprenticeship system through innovation, efficiency and technology.
- Provided emergency assistance funds for learners, including:
 - \$3.5 million as a one-time investment to supplement existing student emergency financial assistance and support domestic B.C. students experiencing an unexpected financial emergency.
 - \$1.5 million to supplement the Indigenous Emergency Assistance Fund to support Indigenous students experiencing unforeseen financial emergencies.
 - \$1.3 million for the Adult Upgrading Grant in emergency funding to support access to the technology needed by students who had to transition to online learning.

Performance Measure		2019/20 Actual	2020/21 Target	2020/21 Actuals	2021/22 Target	2022/23 Target
2.1 Number of new student housing beds	Government funded	1,975	Progress towards 2028/29 target of 5,000 ¹	2,816	Progress towards 2028/29 target of 5,000	Progress towards 2028/29 target of 5,000
	Institution self-funded / non-government partnerships	2,885	Progress towards 2028/29 target of 3,000 ¹	2,885	Progress towards 2028/29 target of 3,000	Progress towards 2028/29 target of 3,000
	Total	4,860	Progress towards 2028/29 target of 8,000 ¹	5,701	Progress towards 2028/29 target of 8,000	Progress towards 2028/29 target of 8,000

Data Source: Cumulative number of net new student beds initiated as reported to the Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Training. The measure has been broken out to distinguish between government funding (loans and grants) and public post-secondary institution (PSIs) self-funding / non-government partnerships.

¹ Government is targeting approximately 8,000 new beds to be built on public post-secondary campuses by 2028. Government is investing in public PSIs to construct approximately 5,000 new beds across the province, with a portion of cost-sharing from institutions. It is also estimated that public PSIs will build a further 3,000 new beds using a combination of their own resources and non-government partnerships.

Discussion of Results

Through the broader [B.C. Provincial Housing Strategy](#), Government continued to increase student housing stock in regions throughout the province. More on-campus student housing beds contribute to the personal and academic success of students and will increase the availability of rental housing in the wider community, helping to improve the availability of rental housing for everyone. By the end of fiscal year 2020/21, 5,701 new student beds were initiated as part of a multi-year strategy that will see 8,000 added by 2028/29. The ministry continues to collaborate with FNEC on this work to ensure that Indigenous students have access to housing that is safe, inclusive, and enables students to thrive personally, academically and culturally. New student housing meets the highest standards consistent with the Province's long-term climate strategy, [CleanBC](#).

Objective 2.2: Helping British Columbians to reach their full potential through relevant and supportive post-secondary education and skills training

The ministry remained committed to putting people first by strengthening the services people from across British Columbia depend on.

Key Highlights

- Invested targeted funding for high opportunity occupation seat expansions, including:

- over the first three years (2018 - 2021) of the ten-year Childcare BC Plan, invested \$7.38 million to support the creation of 895 new student spaces in early childhood education programming,
- continued implementation of 2,900 new student spaces in technology programming, and
- continued implementation of expansions in priority health expansions including physiotherapy in the North.
- Invested \$10.5 million, as part of [StrongerBC](#), to support delivery of additional health care assistant, early childhood education, and community mental health worker seats at public post-secondary institutions. These programs tend to see high enrolments of women, as well as new immigrants to Canada, two groups which have been disproportionately affected by COVID-19.
- Invested and provided \$4 million (\$2 million provincial + \$2 million under the WDA) to 14 public post-secondary institutions, as part of an initiative to develop and implement 23 micro-credentials in support of reskilling and upskilling in high-demand sectors.
- In partnership with the post-secondary education sector, provided more than \$2.8 million to support more than 30 pilot projects to expand co-op and work-integrated learning opportunities for post-secondary students.
- Invested \$1.5 million annually to launch [Here2Talk](#) and strengthen mental-health supports through this innovative, free, on-demand 24/7 counselling and referral service for all post-secondary students registered at all post-secondary institutions.

Performance Measure	2019/20 Actuals	2020/21 Target	2020/21 Actuals	2021/22 Target	2022/23 Target
2.2 Graduates reporting their knowledge and skills developed through post-secondary education are useful in their employment ¹	87.1%	≥ 90%	88.1%	≥ 90%	≥ 90%

Data Source: BC Student Outcomes Surveys² and Labour Force Survey.

¹ Results are based on an annual survey of public post-secondary students 8-months to two years after they complete their programs and reflect the percent of employed graduates who indicated the knowledge and skills they acquired through their education was *very useful* or *somewhat useful* in performing their job.

² Efforts are made to contact all eligible public post-secondary graduates (over 55,000 each year), and a response rate of ~50% is consistently achieved. The margin of error for these measures is currently between +/- 0.2% and 0.4% (19 times out of 20).

Discussion of Results

Assessment by graduates of how relevant and useful their post-secondary education is to their employment is an indication of how well the programs at public institutions provide learners with the skills and knowledge to be successful in life and their careers. Data results are based on an annual survey of public post-secondary students eight months to two years after they complete their programs. This allows students to reflect on their education in relation to their experience in the workforce and reflects the percent of employed graduates who indicated the knowledge and skills they acquired through their education was *very useful* or *somewhat useful* in performing

their job. Results for this measure have continued to improved year-over-year, remaining high although slightly below the target.

Goal 3: British Columbians have workforce information, connections and supports to prepare for opportunities in B.C.'s economy

This goal reflects Government's commitment to investing in a resilient and sustainable economy that works for everyone. The ministry worked with education and training partners to support the delivery of post-secondary education and skills training programs, services and supports that are relevant to the economy and meet the needs of learners, communities, industry and employers.

Objective 3.1: Provide British Columbians with the best information available to make informed decisions about their education and training leading to career opportunities

The ministry continued to connect British Columbians to post-secondary education, skills training programs, labour market information and career planning resources.

Key Highlights

- Enabled British Columbians to prepare for post-secondary education, find and compare programs in support of their learning and career goals, and complete their application to their chosen institutions through [EducationPlannerBC](#), a centralized online platform delivered in partnership with the post-secondary system.
- Connected British Columbians to labour market and career planning information through innovative tools on [WorkBC.ca](#) and outreach such as virtual career fairs and events.
- Launched several new resources, the [Career Transition Tool](#) and the [Career Search Tool](#) to enable British Columbians find key occupation and labour market information to support selecting a career or transitioning into a new career. As well, launched WorkBC's new [Career Resources for Parents](#), which helps parents guide their youth along the career exploration journey.
- Produced and distributed high quality labour market information tools, such as the [Good Jobs Guide](#) and the [BC Labour Market Outlook](#), so British Columbians have the information they need to adapt in a dynamic labour market.
- Working with the Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction (SDPR), invested \$6.4 million in Canada-BC Labour Market Development Agreement funding to support economic sectors in gathering labour market data and developing solutions to address workforce development challenges through the Sector Labour Market Partnerships program.

Performance Measure	2018/19 Baseline	2019/20 Actuals	2020/21 Target	2020/21 Actuals	2021/22 Target	2022/23 Target
3.1 Number of online and in-person engagements with ministry-provided labour market, career planning and education information ¹	2.82M	3.55M	3.60M	3.7M	Maintain or increase	Maintain or increase

Data Source: Workforce Innovation and Division Responsible for Skills Training, and Post-secondary Policy and Programs Division Responsible for Learner Supports, Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Training.

¹ Number of times labour market information, career planning information and information on education choices are accessed through all available ministry sources, including the [EducationPlannerBC](#) website, the [WorkBC.ca](#) website, downloads of the Labour Market Outlook and other publications, in person at Find Your Fit events and WorkBC booths at career fairs and related events across the Province, and social media.

Discussion of Results

This measure reflects ministry efforts to engage and connect British Columbians in all regions of the province in making informed decisions about their career and education with a variety of relevant and accessible platforms (online, in person, in print and social media), including [EducationPlannerBC.ca](#) and [WorkBC.ca](#). Due to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, in 2020/21, the ministry was required to pivot to online interactions in place of many of our in-person events. The introduction of new online tools and resources on [WorkBC.ca](#), such as the Career Transition Tool and the Career Search Tool, as well as the continued effectiveness of [EducationPlannerBC.ca](#), helped increase overall engagement numbers.

Objective 3.2: Support British Columbians, especially those who are vulnerable or in under-represented groups, with inclusive and equitable access to education, skills training and workforce opportunities

The ministry remained committed to ensuring every British Columbian has the opportunity to reach their full potential through post-secondary education and skills training. Through the delivery of skills training and employment programs that target B.C.'s vulnerable and under-represented populations, the ministry helped empower more British Columbians to participate in the labour force and take advantage of B.C.'s economic recovery opportunities. Programming targeted to employers and sectors increased opportunities for those already working to take advantage of upskilling and reskilling to maintain or improve their employment, and supported sector workforce development plans.

Key Highlights

- Invested \$20 million, as part of [StrongerBC](#), in short-term skills training for nearly 2,500 unemployed or precariously employed British Columbians impacted by COVID-19.
- Invested \$124 million in WDA funding for skills training programs and employment services, including \$35 million provided to SDPR for programming for persons with disabilities, to help British Columbians attach or reattach to the labour market, or upskill for better opportunities.

- In partnership with SDPR, invested almost \$100 million of \$212 million in one-time additional WDA funding (provided in 2020/21 for 2020/21- 2021/22) to support British Columbians looking to re-enter the workforce, particularly those in sectors hardest-hit, and groups experiencing increased vulnerability as a result of the pandemic, including:
 - \$33 million transferred to SDPR for programming for persons with disabilities and expanded employment programming.
 - \$60 million in skills training for employment and pre-apprenticeship training for over 5,100 participants from targeted groups throughout B.C, which included \$15.8 million in programs delivered by the ITA to encourage and support women, Indigenous learners, persons with disabilities, youth and other equity-seeking groups to enter and succeed in trades.
- Continued support for the ITA to deliver training and initiatives that reduce systemic barriers to retaining and advancing women, Indigenous peoples and other equity seeking groups in trades occupations. Eighteen new pre-apprenticeship programs, focussing on persons with disabilities, youth, Indigenous peoples, women and other equity seeking groups including recent immigrants, visible minorities and 2SLGBTQ+ are being provided in 2021/22.

Performance Measure	2018/19 Baseline	2019/20 Actuals	2020/21 Target	2020/21 Actuals	2021/22 Target	2022/23 Target
3.2 The percentage of individuals employed or in further education and training three months after completing a skills training program. ¹	76% ²	67% ³	>80%	70.0%	>80%	>80%

Data Source: Workforce Innovation and Division Responsible for Skills Training, Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Training.

¹ This measure looks at outcomes for participants three months after completing a WDA program by measuring the number of participants that became employed or moved on to further education and training.

² When the 2018/19 baseline was first reported, it used previous programming results including B.C. Employer Training Grant (ETG) outcomes.

³ Over the past year this measure was refined to present a more accurate picture of the impacts of the ministry’s WDA programs on employment outcomes by tracking WDA programs targeted primarily to vulnerable and under-represented British Columbians, as reflected in the [Ministry’s 2021/22 Service Plan](#).

Discussion of Results

This measure tracks the success of the ministry’s skills training and employment programs in moving vulnerable and underrepresented British Columbians along the employment continuum by measuring outcomes three months after completing their program. Vulnerable and underrepresented groups include young adults, former youth in care, immigrants, visible minorities, Indigenous people, survivors of abuse or violence, older workers, and women. Over the past year, this measure was modified to no longer include participants in the B.C. Employer Training Grant (ETG), the majority of whom were employed before and during training. By

excluding these participants, the outcome measure focuses on people who are unemployed or “precariously employed,” the majority of whom are from vulnerable or underrepresented groups. This change presents a more accurate picture of the impacts of WDA programs on employment outcomes. While 2020/21 outcomes are below the 2018/19 baseline, which included B.C. ETG outcomes, the results remain above 2019/20 outcomes representing a more accurate baseline measure of success, as reflected in the [Ministry’s 2021/22 Service Plan](#).

Financial Report

Discussion of Results

The ministry budget is managed carefully to ensure that programs can operate effectively and efficiently, and that internal and expenditure management controls are maintained.

Contingencies funding of \$45.8 million was approved to support government's COVID-19 economic recovery initiatives during 2021/22.

The ministry finished the fiscal year on budget, fully utilizing the ministry's total operating budget allocation of \$2.4 billion (before prior year liability adjustments).

Financial Summary

	Estimated	Other Authorizations¹	Total Estimated	Actual	Variance
Operating Expenses (\$000)					
Educational Institutions and Organizations	2,144,435	12,526	2,156,961	2,157,488	527
Student Services Programs	86,195	0,000	86,195	78,708	(7,487)
Private Training Institutions	1	0,000	1	603	602
Workforce Innovation & Skills Training	16,860	33,272	50,132	49,869	(263)
Transfers to Crown Corporations and Agencies	98,877	0,000	98,877	98,877	0,000
Executive & Support Services	20,130	0,000	20,130	26,752	6,622
Sub-total	2,366,498	45,798	2,412,296	2,412,296	0
Adjustment of Prior Year Accrual	0,000	0,000	0,000	(139)	(139)
Total	2,366,498	45,798	2,412,296	2,412,157	(139)
Ministry Capital Expenditures (\$000)					
Executive and Support Services	504	0,000	504	497	(7)
Total	504	0,000	504	497	(7)
Capital Plan (\$000)					
Educational Institutions and Organizations- Post-Secondary Institutions	468,820	0,000	468,820	275,740	(193,080)
Total	468,820	0,000	468,820	275,740	(193,080)

¹ "Other Authorizations" include Supplementary Estimates, Statutory Appropriations and Contingencies. Amounts in this column are not related to the "estimated amount" under sections 5(1) and 6(1) of the *Balanced Budget and Ministerial Accountability Act* for ministerial accountability for operating expenses under the Act.

² The Adjustment of Prior Year Accrual of [\$0.139] million is a reversal of accruals in the previous year.

Income Statement for Post-Secondary Institutions

Name of Sector	2020/21 Budget	2020/21 Actual	Variance
Combined Income Statement (\$000)			
Total Revenue	7,164,633	6,939,591	(225,042)
Total Expense	6,920,569	6,697,926	(222,643)
Operating Results	244,064	241,665	(2,399)
Gain (Loss) on Sale of Capital Assets (if applicable)	0,000	(589)	(589)
Net Results	244,064	241,076	(2,988)

Capital Expenditures

Major Capital Projects (over \$50 million)	Year of Completion	Project Cost to March 31, 2021 (\$m)	Estimated Cost to Complete (\$m)	Anticipated Total Cost (\$m)
University of British Columbia Undergraduate Life Science Teaching Laboratories	2019	97	0	97
<p>Redevelopment, renovation and refurbishment of 15,467 square metres of the Undergraduate Life Sciences Laboratories at the University of British Columbia Biosciences Complex located on the Point Grey campus. The project also includes renovations to 5,490 square metres within the Copp and Wesbrook Buildings to enable accommodation of students during the major redevelopment.</p> <p>Renovations of Copp/Wesbrook began in Summer 2014 with construction of the Biosciences complex initiated in Summer 2016. The project achieved occupancy in Fall 2019.</p>				
Camosun College Centre for Health Sciences Building	2019	64	0	64
<p>Construction of a four-storey 9,000 square metre (96,840 ft²) building at Camosun College's Interurban Campus adjacent to the Pacific Institute for Sport Excellence. The new building is funded in part through the Federal Government's Strategic Investment Fund program and consolidated 18 health science programs from across both campuses into one building.</p> <p>Construction began in Fall 2017 with the building officially open in Sept 2019.</p>				
Simon Fraser University Sustainable Energy and Environmental Engineering Building	2019	124	2	126
<p>Construction of a five-storey, 15,238 square metre Sustainable Energy Engineering Building at Simon Fraser University's Surrey campus. The project will accommodate the University's new Energy Systems Engineering program and existing graduate Mechatronics students and will allow the University to expand its research in the energy, hydrogen, and electricity sectors.</p> <p>Construction began in summer 2016. The project achieved occupancy in Fall 2019.</p>				

Major Capital Projects (over \$50 million)	Year of Completion	Project Cost to March 31, 2021 (\$m)	Estimated Cost to Complete (\$m)	Anticipated Total Cost (\$m)
British Columbia Institute of Technology Health Sciences Centre for Advanced Simulation	2022	44	44	88
Construction of a four-storey 10,355 square metre simulation lab building at British Columbia Institute of Technology's Burnaby Campus. The project will enable British Columbia Institute of Technology to provide simulation-based training for their nursing, health sciences and technology programs. Construction began in Fall 2019 with completion expected by March 2022.				
Simon Fraser University Student Housing	2022	25	79	104
Construction of a new student housing building (386 student housing beds, 30 short term and 2 residence assistant / faculty-in-residence apartments) and renovation and expand the dining commons (800 seat capacity). Construction began in Summer 2019 and is expected to reach occupancy in Fall 2022.				
Okanagan College Student Housing	2023	0	68	68
Construction of 376 student housing beds across the Kelowna, Salmon Arm and Vernon campuses of Okanagan College. Construction is expected to begin in Fall 2021 with completion expected by Fall 2023.				
University of Victoria Student Housing	2023	60	172	232
Demolition of the existing Emily Carr Hall, Margaret Newton Hall and Cadboro Commons to construct two new buildings that include 782 (621 net new) student housing beds, 600 seat dining hall and multi-purpose space. The project is targeting Passive House certification. Construction began in Early 2020 and is expected to achieve occupancy in Fall 2023.				
British Columbia Institute of Technology Student Housing	2024	0	114	114
Construction of a 469-bed student housing building at British Columbia Institute of Technology's Burnaby Campus. Construction is expected to begin in early 2022 with completion expected by fall 2024.				

Significant IT Projects (over \$20 million in total)	Year of Completion	Project Cost to March 31, 2021 (\$m)	Estimated Cost to Complete (\$m)	Anticipated Total Cost (\$m)
Modernizing StudentAidBC	2024	11.49	5.27	15.9
<p>Modernizing StudentAidBC is a multi-year, multi-phased initiative to improve the digital tools, information systems and internal processes, to enhance the experience of financial aid services to students.</p> <p>The current capital investment in the project is \$15.9 million culminating in fiscal year 2023/24.</p> <p>In 2020/21 the project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partnered with BC Developers Exchange Lab to leverage technical skills and accelerate delivery. • Readied the policy and business rules for the full-time and part-time student financial assistance programs, in addition to supporting other funding programs. • Completed technical architecture, conducted user research and stakeholder consultation, and initiated digitization of full-time and part-time applications. <p>In response to recent legislative changes to the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FOIPPA), the ministry has engaged with the Office of the Chief Information Officer to move the project from an on-premise to a cloud-based solution. It is anticipated that this shift in the project’s deployment will result in a more efficient and cost-effective total cost of ownership and avoid increased costs of on-premise IT infrastructure and future transition costs.</p>				

Appendix A: Agencies, Boards, Commissions and Tribunals

As of August 2021, the Minister of the Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Training is responsible and accountable for the following:

[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](#)

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 B.C., enhancing B.C.'s international reputation for quality education and supporting the international education activities of the provincial government.

[BC Electronic Library Network](#)

BC ELN's purpose is to develop and support 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 Registered Music Teachers Association](#)

BCRMTA is a non-profit association. The objects of the Association 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](#)

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.

[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 B.C.

[EducationPlannerBC](#)

EPBC connects students to post-secondary opportunities and career destinations by improving post-secondary planning and application services, and through a provincial student data exchange hub that supports the transition of students into the BC post-secondary system.

[Industry Training Authority](#)

The ITA is established under the *Industry Training Authority Act*, to oversee implementation of B.C.'s new industry training system and to ensure that it is effective, efficient and meets the needs of employers and trainees.

[StudentAid BC Appeal Committee](#)

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