

POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION ACTIVITIES UPDATE:



Issue Date: November 16, 2009
**Ministry of Advanced Education and Labour
Market Development (ALMD)**

Introducing ALMD's new Minister: Dr. Moira Stilwell was elected MLA for Vancouver-Langara on May 12, 2009.

Minister Stilwell is a radiologist and nuclear medicine physician who has been working at BC Women's Hospital for nearly a decade. Prior to being elected, Dr. Stilwell was head of nuclear medicine at St. Paul's Hospital, Surrey Memorial Hospital, and Abbotsford Regional Hospital and Cancer Clinic. She was also the co-chair of the Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation 2020 Task Force. She previously worked at BC Women's Hospital where she was co-medical director of the Breast Health Program and staff radiologist. She was a clinical assistant professor in the Department of Radiology in the Faculty of Medicine at University of British Columbia.

She is the past chair of the Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation, BC/Yukon Chapter, has served on the Board of the Canadian Breast Cancer Research Alliance, as well as on the BC Women's Hospital Foundation Board.

Introducing ALMD's new Deputy Minister: Lorne Brownsey began acting as ALMD's Deputy Minister on November 2nd, 2009. Lorne was also recently appointed Deputy Minister of Corporate Initiatives and Intergovernmental Relations and maintains his responsibilities there while on this term with ALMD.

Lorne joined the Government of British Columbia in 2001. He was the Deputy Minister of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation from 2003 to January 2009, followed by an appointment as Deputy Minister of

Content

**Introducing ALMD's new Minister:
Dr. Moira Stilwell**

**Introducing ALMD's new Deputy
Minister: Lorne Brownsey**

1. Policy and Legislation

- New Degree Approvals
- Degree Quality Assessment Board (DQAB)
- Institutional Accountability Plans and Reports
- Increasing Efficiency
- Labour Mobility Legislation
- "Wood First" Policy

2. Activities and Initiatives

- Student Outcomes Surveys
- WorldSkills Calgary 2009
- Industry Training Authority
- Federal/Provincial/Territorial Meetings
- Aboriginal Service Plans (ASPs)
- Aboriginal Post-Secondary Institutions
- Aboriginal Data
- Aboriginal Gathering Places
- Knowledge – Aboriginal Programming
- Adult Opportunities Action Plan
- Workplace Essential Skills – SkillsPlus
- Community Adult Literacy Program
- ESL Settlement Assistance Program
- International Education
- StudentAid BC Initiatives
- Student Aid – Federal / Provincial / Territorial Meetings
- Student Transitions Project
- BCcampus
- BCNET Green Data Centre
- Graduate Programs
- Health Program Expansion
- Employment Skills Access (ESA) Program – Pilot for 2009/10
- Transfer System Business Process Review

Tourism, Culture and the Arts. Prior to joining the provincial government, Lorne held a number of senior positions in the federal public service. He is familiar with federal and federal/provincial organizations and processes and in 2005 co-chaired a national committee of deputy ministers established to support a First Minister's Meeting.

For a number of years Lorne directed and managed research at the Institute for Research on Public Policy on governance, free trade, Asia Pacific relations and land claims.

Section 1 – Policy and Legislation

New Degree Approvals: Since November 2008, 24 new undergraduate and graduate degrees have been approved, or given consent by the Minister. These include 21 degrees from 11 public post-secondary institutions and three degrees from private and out-of-province public post-secondary institutions. Some examples are: Bachelor of Recreation Management at Langara College; Bachelor of Early Childhood Care and Education at Capilano University; Master of Public Health at the University of British Columbia; Doctor of Philosophy in Anthropology at the University of Victoria; and a Minor in Gender Studies at Trinity Western University.

Information on new degrees that have received approval or consent and applications that are presently under review can be viewed on the Degree Authorization web site at:

<http://www.aved.gov.bc.ca/degree-authorization/recommendations-decisions.htm>

Degree Quality Assessment Board (DQAB): In April 2009, the following four Board members were re-appointed for terms ending in November 2009: Dr. Roger Blackman (Vice Chair), Mr. Tim McEwan, Dr. Stanley Shapiro and Dr. Harro Van Brummelen.

The process is underway to fill these and two remaining vacancies effective December 1, 2009:

- one representative from the private post-secondary degree-granting sector,
- two representatives from the business community,
- one representative with a background as a public university faculty member or administrator,
- one student representative, and
- one representative from the general public.

For biographies of the current DQAB members visit the Degree Authorization website at:

<http://www.aved.gov.bc.ca/degree-authorization/board/boardmembers.htm>

In addition to its ongoing work conducting quality assessments, the DQAB continues to explore opportunities for cooperation with the Campus Alberta Quality Council.

Institutional Accountability Plans and Reports: The final Institutional Accountability Plans and Reports (IAPR) for the 2008/09 reporting cycle were submitted to the Ministry in July and are now available on the Ministry website:

http://www.aved.gov.bc.ca/instit_accountability_plans/welcome.htm

Increasing Efficiency: Increased efficiency by government and institutions funded by government is critical to meeting the budget targets in the province's 2009/10 Fiscal Plan. The Plan includes a target for public post secondary institutions (PSIs) to collectively achieve \$11 million in annual administrative savings. This direction is closely aligned with the Provincial government's overall plan to manage down expenses in order to mitigate the risks associated with the downturn in the economy and ensure funding is available for health care, education and social services. In April, a request was sent to all institutional Presidents for details regarding savings initiatives planned or underway at their institutions. Initiatives could include, but were not limited to: reduced travel expenditures, increased use of new innovative Information Technology options, collaboration with other institutions to reduce procurement costs, implementation of green initiatives that result in energy cost savings, or restructuring/consolidating administrative services. The Ministry has summarized the responses received from institutions into a report outlining how the post secondary sector will collectively achieve \$11 million in annual savings. This summary has been provided to the Minister of Finance.

Labour Mobility Legislation: As part of the Ministry's expanded mandate in the area of labour market development, work was undertaken to prepare legislation, entitled the *Labour Mobility Act*, to facilitate full interprovincial mobility for workers possessing professional or occupational certifications. The *Labour Mobility Act* was drafted in order to fulfil the British Columbia government's commitment to further the objectives of Chapter Seven of the Agreement on Internal Trade (AIT), which was endorsed by Canada's First Ministers in December 2008. The AIT aims to reduce and eliminate, to the extent possible, barriers to the movement of persons, goods, services and investments within Canada. The *Labour Mobility Act*, Bill 9 was introduced during the 2009 Spring session of the legislature but did not proceed further than second reading prior to the end of the session. British Columbia was the first province to introduce labour mobility legislation. Specifically, the bill imposes the obligation on regulators that confer occupational certifications within British Columbia to operate in a manner consistent with the Province's commitments under the AIT by eliminating barriers for workers already certified to work in other jurisdictions including requirements for them to write additional material examinations, obtain more work experience, or reside locally prior to obtaining certification to work in their occupation in British Columbia. The AIT, particularly Chapter 7 of the agreement, remains a provincial priority and to fulfil the province's commitments under the AIT, the legislation was re-introduced as the *Labour Mobility Act*, Bill 11 on September 23, 2009 and is expected to be passed before the end of the fall session of the legislature.

“Wood First” Policy: The 2009 Throne Speech made a commitment to require the use of wood as the primary building material in all new publicly funded buildings. In response, our Ministry has been invited to work with the team developing the legislation and subsequent regulations to ensure the provisions of the Act work with the Ministry's procurement process.

The new British Columbia building code permits wood construction up to six storeys. Wood manufacturing has now advanced to the point where beams can be engineered and built sufficient to replace steel beams in many applications. The many new applications for wood are astounding! Mechanical, chemical and fermentation processes can convert cellulose from wood chips, lignin from the pulping process, and even effluent sludge into highly evolved products including food sweeteners. Car tires and other rubber products can substantially extend their lifespan and durability through the use of “carbon black”, a wood product substitute.

As the policies currently under development have application in many walks of life, one of which is building, there are many other Wood First applications. New paper products will be able to detect, capture and deactivate pathogens. Protective safety clothing, face masks and air filters made from bio-active paper will help protect us. The provincial government's evolving "Wood First" policy is a major leap forward for the wood manufacturing sector and British Columbia economy of the future

Section 2 – Activities and Initiatives

Student Outcomes Surveys: The Student Outcomes Surveys provide data to the Ministry and institutions for use in program review, institutional accountability, and labour market planning.

Diploma, Associate Degree, and Certificate Student Outcomes

- The 2009 survey data collection is complete with results expected to be released through the Student Outcomes Reporting System (SORS) in November 2009.
- The results of the 2008 survey are available at: <http://outcomes.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/>.

Baccalaureate Graduate Survey

- Formerly managed by the Research Universities Council of BC, the project has migrated to BC Stats where it will be coordinated by the Labour and Social Statistics Branch (which coordinates the other student outcomes surveys).
- The 2009 survey is currently in the field and will survey baccalaureate graduates from both 2004 ("5 year out") and 2007 ("2 year out").
- The results of the 2008 survey of the 2006 graduates are available at: <http://outcomes.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/>.
- The results of the 2007 survey of the 2002 graduates are available at: <http://www.rucbc.ca/content/view/11/13/>.
- The results of the 2006 survey of the 2004 graduates are available at: <http://www.rucbc.ca/content/view/12/13/>.

Developmental Student Outcomes

- A combined survey of upper level students from Adult Basic Education (ABE) and ESL programs was conducted in 2009. Data collection is complete and the 2009 report will be available by the end of the year.
- The final report from the 2007 English as a Second Language (ESL) survey project is available at: http://www.llbc.leg.bc.ca/public/PubDocs/bcdocs/441822/2007_ESL_Survey_Report.pdf

Apprenticeship Student Outcomes

- Data collection for the 2009 survey project is complete and the results are available at: <http://outcomes.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/>. The 2009 Apprenticeship Report is expected in January 2010.
- The 2008 Apprenticeship Survey data and the Summary Report are available at: <http://outcomes.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/APPSO/APPSOPublications.aspx>.

Short Stay & Early Leaver Survey

- Data collection for a special system-wide survey of students who left post-secondary without a credential is complete and results are anticipated to be available in winter 2009/10.

International Student Survey

- This special survey to obtain feedback from current international students about their learning and living experiences in British Columbia was completed in 2009. The final report is available at: http://www.learnlivebc.ca/documents/ISS_Report.pdf.

WorldSkills Calgary 2009: From September 1-7, 2009, Calgary hosted the 40th WorldSkills International Competition, a biennial event that promotes excellence and competency in global skills, trades, and technology. Over 900 competitors from 51 countries, in 45 skill categories came together at Stampede Park for four days of intense competition and over 150,000 visitors attended the event.

ALMD, in partnership with Skills Canada BC, the Ministry of Education (EDUC), the Industry Training Authority (ITA) and the post-secondary education sector, worked on a number of opportunities for British Columbia to take part in WorldSkills Calgary 2009. The BC booth at WorldSkills Calgary, which was co-hosted by the ITA, EDUC and ALMD provided the opportunity to showcase British Columbia's excellent education and training system and the many collaboration and opportunities available in our province. The ITA, along with Propel, presented a workshop to the international delegates on ITA's Multiple Assessment Pathways project, two former BC Skills Canada national medalists in TV/Video Production spent time filming a promotional DVD - WorldSkills from a BC perspective, and a delegation of eight members representing government, industry and the post-secondary system attended the event and had the opportunity to engage with leaders in industry, government and education from around the world.

Three students from British Columbia successfully competed on Team Canada bringing home the medals. Brian Everts, a BCIT student from Maple Ridge, won Silver in aircraft maintenance; Vancouver's Daisy Liang, from Eric Hamber Secondary, won Bronze in fashion technology; and Surrey's Caitlin Mayo, a Vancouver Community College student, competed in confectioner/pastry cooking and received a medallion of excellence and the People's Choice Award.

The next round of skills competitions for British Columbia secondary and post-secondary students will take place in the Spring of 2010. Information on the regional, provincial and national competitions may be found at the Skills Canada BC web site at: <http://www.skillscanada.bc.ca>. The next opportunity for students to excel on the international stage for skills, trades and technology will take place in two years at WorldSkills London 2011: <http://www.worldskillslondon2011.com/>

ITA: Ministry staff continue to work in collaboration with the ITA on several projects to ensure that the delivery of training in the province is responsive to the needs of our students and industry. Some of the projects recently completed or currently underway are:

- **ITA Direct Access:** ITA's new online information management system was launched in February 2009 with access for both public and private post-secondary institutions that provide

industry training. Access for employers and apprentices to updated information and access to their apprenticeship records on-line is anticipated by January 2010.

- **OAG Action Plan:** Ministry staff and ITA worked together to prepare an Action Plan in response to the Office of the Auditor General's (OAG) report on the state of industry training in BC. The Action Plan was submitted in March 2009 and is available on the OAG website. A follow-up report on progress made on the Action Plan will be submitted to the OAG by March 2010.
- **E-PPRENTICE Flexible Learning Initiative:** ITA has a number of initiatives funded under the Labour Market Agreement (LMA), one of which is E-PPRENTICE Initiative for the expansion of flexible learning (e.g. on-line learning) in British Columbia. BCcampus is serving as a host organization for the initiative. Development of two flexible learning programs - cooking and welding - are already underway and request for proposals to develop more programs will be released in November 2009.
- **Foundation Skills Seat Allocation:** 2009/10 is the final year of the three-year plan to target 900 seats from SIP (Strategic Investment Plan) to support pre-apprenticeship skills training. Ministry staff consulted with the ITA to ensure that the Ministry's support of the additional spaces is complementary to the program target levels funded by the ITA.

Federal/Provincial/Territorial Meetings: The Council of Ministers of Education, Canada met in Calgary in September. Their meeting coincided with the World Skills Competition. The Council continues to develop follow-up materials to the 2008 Literacy Forum. Three resource modules on literacy are now available; they are Literacy in Canada, Community-Based Literacy Planning, and Literacy: Looking at the Immigrant Experience. The modules use challenging questions, video clips from forum presenters, and stimulating comments to encourage discussion and active idea-sharing among groups of learners and educators. The modules and other information and materials from the forum can be found at: www.Forum2008.cmec.ca. The Council is also considering next steps following from its Aboriginal Education Summit held in Saskatoon on February 24, 2009.

The Forum of Labour Market Ministers was assigned the task of developing a Pan-Canadian Framework for the Assessment and Recognition of Foreign Qualifications by First Ministers. Work is underway to complete the Framework and supporting Implementation Plan. The objective of this initiative is to establish a shared vision across jurisdictions for improving the assessment and recognition of the education, skills, knowledge, and experience that immigrants bring to Canada.

Aboriginal Service Plans (ASPs): In December 2008, ALMD distributed \$4.4 million to 11 public post-secondary institutions across the province for the implementation of Year 2 of the Aboriginal Service Plans. The participating institutions, which include Nicola Valley Institute of Technology, Vancouver Island University, Camosun College with University of Victoria, College of New Caledonia, University of Northern British Columbia, Capilano University with Vancouver Community College, Northwest Community College, Thompson Rivers University, and North Island College submitted their first year reports in October 2008. In January 2009, the Ministry held an ASP forum that brought together stakeholders from across the post-secondary system to share ideas and best practices for the implementation of ASPs.

Aboriginal Post-Secondary Institutions: In July 2008, the First Nations Education Steering Committee released the *Aboriginal Post-Secondary Education in British Columbia – A Place for Aboriginal Institutes, Policy Background Paper*. This report is being used to inform the development of the Ministry’s Aboriginal Education and Training Policy Framework, a major component of which will address policy issues related to the Aboriginal institutions.

Aboriginal Data: ALMD endorsed and promoted a provincial government-wide standard definition for Aboriginal data collection, which promotes data-tracking methods that track the participation of First Nations, Inuit, and Métis persons as mutually exclusive groups and developed a common Aboriginal identifier that is being implemented across the public system. The Ministry also developed an Aboriginal Post-Secondary Indicator Report as a first step to increasing system-level indicator data on the participation, retention and success of Aboriginal learners. Released on October 29, 2008, the *Charting Our Path* report provides information on the progress of initiatives and activities identified in the Aboriginal Post-Secondary Education Strategy. The report is available at:
http://www.aved.gov.bc.ca/aboriginal/documents/Aboriginal_Indicator_Report-Oct2008.pdf

Aboriginal Gathering Places: As of September 2008, ALMD has provided \$10.9 million to 21 public post-secondary institutions to build culturally welcoming structures and gathering places. These gathering places will help to decrease isolation and increase retention for Aboriginal students by reflecting the character, community and traditions of Aboriginal cultures.

Knowledge Network Corporation (Knowledge)- Aboriginal programming: In September 2009, Knowledge began a year-long focus on those who came First – programs by and about Aboriginal peoples from local, continental and global perspectives. As part of this focus, Knowledge will be working with a team of First Nations directors, who have been commissioned to produce creative documentaries on the preservation and revitalization of First Nations languages in British Columbia. The films will be broadcast on Knowledge and Knowledge.ca in spring 2010.

Adult Opportunities Action Plan: ALMD has developed the Adult Opportunities Action Plan, aligned with ReadNow BC, Workforce 2020 and WelcomeBC. Programs and initiatives aim to reduce barriers, increase participation and support coordinated, quality programs that produce results and improving literacy rates in British Columbia. Current initiatives under the plan are as follows:

- Tuition-free Adult Basic Education (ABE) for all learners at the post-secondary level with annual funding of \$6.9 million.
- Continued funding for Literacy BC and Community Adult Literacy Programs of \$2.4 million.
- \$2 million for the federally funded English settlement language training for small and remote communities.
- Maintaining the current level of funding for the ABE Student Assistance program for students in developmental programs at a public post-secondary institutions who need help to pay for tuition (English as a Second Language and Adult Special Education), books, supplies, transportation and child care.
- A *Crosswalk* project to articulate learning outcomes and benchmarks between literacy service delivery sectors, to support learner pathways.

- A literacy survey targeting key populations (Aboriginal people, immigrants and recent high school graduates) to monitor adult literacy rates in British Columbia between the international assessments held once a decade.

Workplace Essential Skills – SkillsPlus

- The Workplace Essential Skills strategy – SkillsPlus – is based on the vision that British Columbia’s adults will attain and maintain the literacy skills necessary to participate fully in today’s knowledge-based economy. Key components of the initiative include public awareness, development of tools and resources, delivery of training, assessment of program impact, and ensuring quality programs.
- In March 2009, SkillsPlus funded 11 pilot projects in 15 communities to develop curriculum and deliver essential skills training in the workplace. The strategy relies on partnerships between educators business/industry.
- A further SkillsPlus Request for Proposals is under development and will be posted this fall on BCBid under ALMD: <http://www.bcbid.gov.bc.ca/>.

Community Adult Literacy Program

- For 2009/10, \$2.4 million in funding is being provided to fund Literacy BC and 67 community-based literacy programs across the province, focusing on adult, family and Aboriginal literacy.
- Community-based organizations partner with public post-secondary institutions to provide literacy programs and services such as small group instruction and one-to-one tutoring.
- Volunteer tutors are pivotal in delivering literacy programs at the community level.

ESL Settlement Assistance Program (ESLSAP)

- In 2008/09, the Ministry funded 35 ESLSAPs with federal settlement funding to provide tutor-based English language support for new immigrants and refugees in 42 rural or remote communities across British Columbia.
- Submissions to the 2009/10 Call for Proposals are being reviewed. It is anticipated that the number of programs will increase.
- In 2009/10, \$2 million in federal settlement funding will be allocated to ESLSAP for program administration and delivery.
- ESLSAP depends on community partnerships between non-profit organizations and public post-secondary institutions.
- An on-line volunteer recruitment site has been developed and may be found at: <http://www.mytrainingbc.ca/eslsap/recruitment/index.html>
- A new pre-service online training module for tutors is available at: <http://www.mytrainingbc.ca/eslsap/training/index.html>

International Education:

Highlights of ALMD’s international education activities include:

- “Canada Brand” Training for provincial government representatives and institutions: A new brand [Imagine Education au/in Canada](#) was created to clearly establish Canada and its Provinces and Territories as a preferred destination for the growing number of international students looking to travel abroad to pursue their education. This brand will be used during trade missions and whenever Canadian institutions are represented on the international scene.

As part of the upcoming roll-out of the International Education brand [Imagine Education au/in Canada](#) to institutions and the development of co-branding with provinces, the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (DFAIT) in conjunction with the Council of Ministers of Education Canada (CMEC) is organizing a tour of training sessions in cities across Canada. B.C.'s eligible post secondary institutions, as well as provincial government representatives participated in the brand training session on October 5, 2009.

- British Columbia Council for International Education (BCCIE): BCCIE was established in January 2009 as a non-profit society to work with institutions, school boards, and the Province to coordinate and promote international education activities of the K-12 and post-secondary institutions in British Columbia. Specifically, it is mandated to market and promote British Columbia as a study destination, help attract and retain students and skilled workers, and administer BC's Education Quality Assurance (EQA) designation.
- International Education Marketing Initiatives with BCCIE: BCCIE recognizes the importance of working collaboratively and collectively to promote B.C.'s international education interests overseas. In cooperation with Canadian mission staff, BC trade offices, and other overseas partners, BCCIE is organizing a series of 'TEAM BC' missions in the 2009-10 cycle. These missions are open to both K-12 and post-secondary accredited institutions. Contact BCCIE for additional information at (604) 637-6766.
- International Student Survey: In fall 2008, ALMD collaborated with BC Stats to conduct a web-based International Student Survey (ISS). The purpose of the survey was to obtain direct feedback from international students about their learning and living experiences in British Columbia. The response rate was 29 percent from a population of 18,052 international students, from the 23 out of 25 public post-secondary institutions that participated in the survey. The survey demonstrated international students were generally quite receptive to sharing information about their experiences in the province. Individual institutional data was sent to all the Institutional Research Directors for their own analysis. A report of the system-wide survey results was completed and distributed to all public post-secondary institutions in June 2009.
- One World Scholarship Programs Update: The One World Scholarship for Study in British Columbia is one of the international scholarship programs made available by the Irving K. Barber British Columbia Scholarship Society (IKBBCSS). As part of this scholarship program, two international students from the People's Republic of China received scholarships of \$10,000 each to study in British Columbia in the 2009/10 academic year. Winners were notified on May 30, 2009.

In July 2009, one meritorious British Columbia undergraduate student was awarded the prestigious Premier's One World Scholarship, to pursue a portion of their post-secondary academic studies overseas.

- Visit from the Czech Republic Delegation: The Ministries of Education and Advanced Education and Labour Market Development were invited by the Legislative Assembly to provide a presentation to a parliamentary delegation from the Senate of the Czech Republic on September 29, 2009. The delegation consisted of 9 members—5 senators and 4 Consulate General representatives of the Czech Republic. They were interested in learning about how education was organized and governed at K-12 and post-secondary levels in British Columbia.

StudentAid BC Initiatives: The Government of BC has engaged in the following initiatives and activities directed at improving student access to financial assistance:

- BC has increased the automobile exemption from \$5,000 to \$15,000; additionally, leased automobiles will only be assessed as a resource if lease payments exceed \$325 per month. These changes in the needs assessment calculations will result in a greater number of students qualifying for student financial aid.
- The Ministry has launched a new upfront BC Access Grant to replace the BC Permanent Disabilities Benefits Program. The BC Access Grant will reduce the amount of debt students with disabilities have upon graduation.
- Work is underway to develop a transitional DVD and other new communication materials targeted towards disabled students (and their parents) transitioning from the K-12 system into post-secondary studies.

Student Aid – Federal/Provincial/Territorial Meetings:

- Federal/Provincial/Territorial Permanent Disabilities Working Group: The working group last conferred on September 3, 2009, to discuss current policy issues regarding the distribution of federal grant programs targeted to students with disabilities. The exchange of ideas to streamline procedures and create consistent practices will ensure all students are treated equitably across all jurisdictions.
- Federal/Provincial/Territorial Policy Working Group: On June 17, 2009, participants of the FPT Working Group met to discuss the latest research completed by the Canada Millennium Scholarship Foundation on immigrant training, early intervention initiatives and Aboriginal students. The findings of these reports will further assist the group in identifying areas that require further research and analysis.
- Intergovernmental Consultative Committee on Student Financial Assistance (ICCSFA): ICCSFA's goal is to ensure improved services and benefits to students by using all available federal/provincial/territorial resources efficiently and effectively, and to ensure a stable environment for planning and development of services and programs through coordination of federal and provincial/territorial activities in the area of student financial assistance. ICCSFA holds quarterly teleconferences and other *ad hoc* teleconferences as needed. ICCSFA sub-committee working groups are:
 - Permanent Disability
 - Default Prevention
 - Audit and Integrity
 - Client Outreach
 - Service Delivery
 - Operations
- Service Delivery Vision Working Group: This committee was established to create an e-portal that will modernize and simplify student financial assistance and improve the borrowers' experience by providing them with the tools and information to best manage their multiple loans and grants. The intended outcomes are to optimize borrower experience, reduce default rates and deliver student financial assistance programs that recognize

federal/provincial/territorial priorities and policies, while ensuring a level of equality and standardization in the quality of service delivery.

Student Transitions Project (STP): STP studies how students move into and through post-secondary education. The project is a collaboration among British Columbia's public post-secondary institutions, the two education ministries, and the British Columbia Council on Admissions and Transfer (BCCAT).

Recent STP publications include:

- **STP Fast Facts** - http://www.aved.gov.bc.ca/student_transitions/documents/stp_fast_facts.pdf
- **Transitions of BC High School Graduates into Public Post-Secondary Education: 2002/03 – 2007/08**
http://www.aved.gov.bc.ca/student_transitions/documents/stp_highlights_apr2009.pdf
- **Student Transitions into Public Post-Secondary Education by Region** -
http://www.aved.gov.bc.ca/student_transitions/documents/regional-transition-matrices.pdf

For more information, visit the STP website: http://www.aved.gov.bc.ca/student_transitions/

BCcampus: BCcampus has been active on a number of system service and academic fronts in 2009. BCcampus continues to implement a system-wide strategy that has created a connected network among the student information systems of BC's public post-secondary institutions. This network provides secure, real-time student information data transfers and the exchange of data between institutions. BCcampus is also working with a BC Registrars' Association task force to plan and implement a secure *Transcript Exchange Service* that will allow institutions to migrate away from a less-secure EDI system in 2010-2011. Status reports and current work plans can be found at: <http://www.bccampus.ca/BCcampus/services/connector-system.htm>

After consultation on program priorities with ALMD officials, \$1M in funding for Round 7 of the Online Program Development Fund (OPDF) was announced in a call for proposals in April 2009. Proposals for Round 7 of the program were adjudicated in Spring 2009, resulting in 17 collaborative initiatives being selected for funding by the evaluators. These projects included programs, courses, learning objects and professional development resources. OPDF announcements and award information can be found on the BCcampus web site at <http://www.bccampus.ca/Educators/educator-services/apply-for-funding.htm>

BCcampus has also developed and implemented, with BC post-secondary institutions, shared educational services that students and educators need for flexible access to online courses and programs. Sharing services helps save costs for the partnering institutions as well as supporting broader access to online teaching and learning tools. Examples include *Moodle*, *Desire2Learn* and *Adobe Connect*. A new shared service for the *Elluminate* web conferencing system is being implemented in Fall 2009. Information about shared educational services and the institutions participating can be found at: <http://www.bccampus.ca/BCcampus/services/shared-services.htm>. In 2008, the ITA selected BCcampus through a competitive process to lead and coordinate the E-PPRENTICE Flexible Learning (FL) initiative. The selection was made primarily because

BCcampus is seen to be an impartial system service agency, one which is not affiliated with any specific post-secondary institution. Currently, and over the next three years, ITA will release a series of Requests For Proposals (RFPs) to develop a flexible learning format for several trades. BCcampus is promoting partnerships between public and private post-secondary institutions, secondary school districts and new media companies to lead the development of the programs. This project will administer \$6 million in funding to support FL on behalf of ITA between 2008 -2011: <http://www.bccampus.ca/BCcampus/services/e-pprentice.htm>

BCNET Green Data Centre: BCNET is conducting a green data center feasibility study to examine the viability of consolidating campus data storage facilities across the province to reduce green house gas emissions. Project Manager, Dan Gillard is responsible for the feasibility study and has actively participated in weekly UBC university data centre committee meetings and provided progress reports to the Cyberinfrastructure Working Group. Over the last quarter, a shared computing space electrical audit of 47 UBC campus data centres was completed, site selection criteria for the data centre build and buy options has been developed and comparisons evaluated by matrices, and a proposal for funding was submitted to the CANARIE Green IT Pilot Program (for more information see <https://wiki.bc.net/atl-conf/pages/viewpage.action?pageId=20548209>).

Graduate Programs: Government is funding 2,500 new graduate student spaces over four years to increase opportunities for students for advanced studies and to address the need for highly qualified workers. The expansion plan began in 2007/08 and continues through 2010/11, with 625 new spaces per year allocated via a competitive process to the four research-intensive universities: University of British Columbia, Simon Fraser University, University of Victoria and University of Northern British Columbia. Through the first two years of the initiative, these institutions are on track to increase enrolment by the expected 1,250 graduate student spaces.

Health Program Expansion: The 2009/10 Ministry budget includes operating and start-up funding to expand delivery in health programs identified as priorities by the Ministry of Health Services. Funding is planned to be allocated across the province over the next three years to expand these priority programs, including medical radiography technology, medical laboratory technology, Bachelor of Science in Nursing, and physiotherapy. This expansion will help address critical shortages in these health professions.

Employment Skills Access (ESA) Program – Pilot for 2009/10: On March 9, 2009 the Ministry invited all the public post-secondary institutions to apply for funding under the 2009/10 Employment Skills Access (ESA) Program established by the Ministry under the Canada/British Columbia Labour Market Agreement (LMA). Under this Program, \$5.2 million has now been allocated to public post-secondary institutions as one-time funding to support the delivery of short term training programs to assist unemployed individuals acquire the skills needed to transition to the labour force.

Transfer System Business Process Review (BPR): The Ministry is working with representatives from the public post secondary system to carry out a BPR with a goal of working towards a seamless credit transfer system. This review has taken the form of three, one day planning event sessions involving: an ‘open space’ environment for over 60 participants from

public post-secondary institutions to freely discuss issues and opportunities (Day 1, September 10, 2009); a detailed planning session with a smaller working group of the open space participants, involving refining issues identified on the first day and developing actions to address them (Day 2, September 23, 2009); and, a second session with the working group to develop a high-level, renewed business process map and the basis for an implementation/action plan (Day 3, October 5, 2009).

The BPR is focused on the formal transfer agreement process (while also considering informal agreements). It will determine opportunities for efficiencies and/or streamlining, as well as identifying new and innovative ways to increase transfer for courses and programs not currently covered.

A Steering Committee has been formed to guide the BPR and to oversee the implementation of recommendations arising from the process.

Provincial Labour Market Engagement Sessions: The Ministry of Housing and Social Development, ALMD and the Ministry of Community and Rural Development in collaboration with Service Canada, are hosting a series of engagement sessions across the province to provide an opportunity for stakeholders to discuss the provincial labour market.

In particular, representatives from these three government ministries will share information regarding provincial employment and labour market services and development in order to solicit feedback that will inform government planning and program development. Dialogue will focus on the array of programs and services offered by the province and where government is moving to improve these for the public and clients.

These sessions will take place in October and November in 11 different communities. Please visit this website if you would like more information or to register to attend one of the sessions in your area:

http://www.labourmarketservices.gov.bc.ca/2009_plm_engagement_sessions/engagement_session_s.html

BC Labour Market Scenario Model: Development of a labour demand and supply model for British Columbia is underway to help improve labour market decision-making and planning. The *BC Labour Market Scenario Model* provides information on projected labour demand and supply for 140 occupations in British Columbia's seven development regions. Projections will be provided on an annual basis over a 10-year period. The model helps to fill several data gaps: labour supply and demand, regional labour market information, and annual frequency of labour market projections.

The *BC Labour Market Scenario Model* is currently in its first cycle. Results from the second cycle will be made publicly available via a set of reports with outlooks by industry, occupation and region.