



## BC Colleges Summary

For more than forty years the mandate of BC's community colleges has been the preparation and education of a well-educated, highly skilled, job-ready workforce to meet the economic and social needs of the province and its citizens. Every community in the province has access to a community college and now more than ever the colleges play an important role in the growth and development of local communities throughout the province.

BC Colleges are at the frontline for people and communities affected by the economic downturn and will be catalysts for economic and social recovery throughout BC. During difficult economic times, the province's labour market needs will change and the colleges will be critical in providing responsive education and training for people in all regions of the province. Investing in BC Colleges is one of the best investments – one that pays dividends by maximizing individual potential and building sustainable communities throughout BC

### Quick Facts

- ❖ 11 colleges serve 250,000 students in 50 communities throughout BC.
- ❖ 96 percent of BC college graduates stay and work in BC.
- ❖ BC colleges and their graduates contribute \$7.7 billion of the income of the provincial economy.
- ❖ BC colleges return \$3.80 to the provincial economy for every dollar of taxpayer financial support.
- ❖ An estimated 42 percent of anticipated skilled shortages are in occupations that require a college education.
- ❖ Colleges are the largest provider of highly skilled, job-ready graduates for employers.
- ❖ 86 percent of former students are employed.

### BC Colleges | We're here for BC.

BC's colleges build sustainable communities and maximize individual potential. Colleges play a leading role in the economic, social, and cultural development in BC.

## Strategic Focus - Colleges prepare BC for the future.

### 1. BC Colleges | Preparing the Workforce

- ❖ Colleges support and strengthen every BC community by providing job-ready graduates and valuable, affordable access to higher education and skills training - close to home.
- ❖ The province's system of community colleges enables the education and training of workers close to their homes and thereby contributes to a vital economy and healthier communities throughout the Province.

### 2. BC Colleges | Agents of Change

- ❖ Colleges adapt to the changing needs of their communities, ensuring that their programs and courses are accessible and affordable.
- ❖ Colleges work with local employers and policy makers to provide appropriate programs and career opportunities needed in their communities now and for the future.
- ❖ The strength of the colleges is the speed with which they can introduce new and relevant programs.

### 3. BC Colleges | Helping BC's Economy

- ❖ Colleges provide communities with a well-educated, highly skilled, job-ready workforce.
- ❖ The graduates of the colleges are an important means of deploying and applying new knowledge in the provincial economy.
- ❖ Colleges are on the frontline of communities throughout the province. They are flexible in adapting programs that best respond to local needs that will stimulate economic recovery.

### 4. BC Colleges | Investing in BC's Future

- ❖ Colleges and their past graduates contribute \$7.7 billion to the provincial economy and provide a 14 percent return on investment.
- ❖ BC Colleges are one of the best investments, one that pays dividends of \$3.80 for every \$1.00 invested.