



April 19, 2022
Our Ref. 124921

Cathe Wishart, Board Chair
University of Northern British Columbia
3333 University Way
Prince George, BC V2N 4Z9

Email Address: wishartc@unbc.ca

Dear Cathe Wishart:

I would like to extend my thanks to you and your board members for the dedication, expertise and skills with which you serve the people of British Columbia.

As the Minister responsible for the Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Training, I'm providing this letter of direction which builds upon Executive Council's expectations, outlined in the [2021/22 Mandate Letter](#) sent June 1, 2021. I expect that these two letters provide public post-secondary institutions with specific direction on the priorities and expectations for the coming fiscal year and will be incorporated into goals, objectives and performance measures in your upcoming Institutional Accountability Plan and Report for the 2021/22 reporting cycle, and until the end of the Government's current term.

I expect the five foundational principles included in your 2021/22 Mandate Letter (putting people first, lasting and meaningful reconciliation, equity and anti-racism, a better future through fighting climate change and a strong sustainable economy that works for everyone) will continue to inform your institution's policies and programs. I also expect your institution will continue to make substantive progress on the following priorities:

- Continue to work with the Ministry to resume full on-campus learning and services for students, faculty and staff, following the direction and guidance of the Provincial Health Officer and the COVID-19 Go-Forward Guidelines for B.C.'s Post-Secondary Sector, and support your academic communities as you respond to COVID-19 impacts and recovery.
- Work with the Ministry and your communities, employers and industry to implement post-secondary education and skills training for British Columbians, particularly those impacted by COVID-19 and vulnerable and underrepresented groups, to participate fully in economic recovery and growing career opportunities.

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- Fully engage with government in implementing mandate commitments to support a future-ready workforce and post-secondary system, increasing access to post-secondary education and skills training and high opportunity jobs for British Columbians. This includes cross-government, community, sector and stakeholder collaboration to support mandate commitments where education, innovation and equity play a role, and that builds upon government's CleanBC strategy and supports a clean economic future.

Government's recently released [Labour Market Outlook](#) highlights that B.C. will need to fill over 1 million job openings over the next ten years, almost 80 percent of which will require some form of post-secondary credential. Additionally, [Stronger B.C.](#), Government's new Economic Plan, identifies that the skills of our people will be the key driver of our economy, for which our post-secondary system is critical for supporting British Columbians and the overall economic vitality of our province.

As a result, I am providing further detail on the areas where we will be seeking your engagement and prioritization in your planning over the coming year. Please reflect the following additional actions in your upcoming Institutional Accountability Plan and Report:

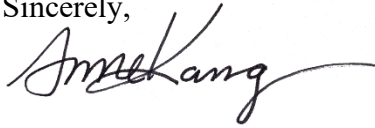
- Demonstrate your commitment to collaborating within your sector on new and priority initiatives, including:
 - Working to align education and skills training to goals of the B.C. Economic Plan; and
 - Supporting the implementation of Skilled Trades Certification
- Contribute to Ministry engagement on upcoming initiatives, including:
 - The *Future Ready: Skills for the Jobs of Tomorrow* plan;
 - The Ministry's sexualized violence policy review;
 - Further tech-relevant seat expansions; and
 - The funding formula review of provincial operating grants

I look forward to holding regular meetings between our executive teams to discuss your institution's progress in implementing the direction and priorities set out in your Mandate Letter. These meetings will be an opportunity to clarify Government expectations and enhance engagement as we collaborate to achieve priority initiatives.

Continuing our best practice to publicly post Crown Agency mandate letters and letters of direction, you are asked to sign this letter upon approval of your board, to acknowledge Government's direction to your institution. The signed letter is to be posted publicly on your institution website.

On behalf of the Province, I would like to recognize the significant efforts post-secondary institutions have made to sustain in-person learning and services, while keeping students, faculty, staff and the broader community safe. I also want to thank you, your board, senior administration, faculty and staff for your continued leadership as we navigate through this challenging time. I look forward to continuing to work with you and your board colleagues as we continue to serve the people of British Columbia.

Sincerely,



Honourable Anne Kang
Minister

For Board Chair signature:

X  _____

Cathe Wishart
Board Chair

Date Signed: May 26, 2022

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