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***British Columbia Institute of Technology Faculty and Staff Association***

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Faculty and Staff Pay a Heavy Price to Balance BCIT's Budget**

December 10, 2009

Burnaby, BC -- The faculty and staff of the British Columbia Institute of Technology are being told to make sacrifices to pay for the campus development that their hard work made possible over the last several years.

In a preliminary fiscal plan announced on December 9, BCIT President Don Wright outlined efforts to eliminate a projected \$12 million deficit next year. The plan calls for the loss of 82 positions, including more than 30 represented by the BCIT Faculty and Staff Association. Wright acknowledged that institute operations have generated surpluses for several years. The cuts are needed to pay for past capital expenditures funded by the institute.

"It's bitterly ironic that our members have spent years innovating and sacrificing to build BCIT and generate surpluses only to hear now that their jobs are being sacrificed to pay again for what they've already built," said Amy Fell, BCIT Faculty and Staff Association President.

"We have a great track record. We've over-performed in terms of delivering students. We have continued to offer and develop innovative programs that are in demand from students and employers. We've grown an exciting and practical applied research capacity. And we've produced operating surpluses at the same time. To hear that isn't good enough to save these jobs is pretty hard to swallow."

"Our members didn't make this deficit and they shouldn't have to pay for it," said Paul Reniers, BCIT FSA Executive Director. "BCIT's strength has always been offering effective, efficient, and innovative post-secondary education. Eliminating 80 positions will hamper our ability to do that when the province it needs more than ever."

The BCIT FSA supports the consultative process conducted by the BCIT Leadership Team and Don Wright and is encouraging members to participate. “We’ll keep finding ways for BCIT to make an outstanding contribution to this province,” said Reniers. “But it’s time for the provincial government to make an investment here as well.”

BCIT FSA members will meet on January 6 to discuss the proposed cuts.

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