



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

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For Immediate Release

## **BCIT Faculty & Staff Agree with Advanced Education Minister John Yap**

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BURNABY—The BCIT Faculty and Staff Association (FSA) is calling on the provincial government to resume negotiations and join in truly putting skills and education first.

In response to media inquiries about whether the government will consider recent deals reached with university staff as a pattern for colleges, BC Minister of Advanced Education, Innovation, and Technology John Yap said:

“There is no one size fits all, you know, that is applicable to colleges and universities. Each is unique and we look forward to those involved to continue to the hard work, I recognize it is hard work, to negotiate a settlement and we look forward to that happening at the bargaining table and not through the media.”

In response, BCIT FSA President Teresa Place says, “We're pleased to hear Minister Yap reiterating our same concerns about the unique needs of BCIT and we look forward to further negotiations. While we share many of the same challenges as BC's other colleges and institutes, we also face our own distinct issues and need to be treated as such at the bargaining table.”

While fair wage agreements have been reached with the public services and support staff at universities across BC, the ministry has determined that the college and institute sector cannot afford those kinds of increases and will only approve a blanket 1% increase for all wages in the sector – half of what was agreed to for universities.

As a result, BCIT, which competes with major universities for students, faculty, staff, and research funding, has been tied to smaller regional colleges where post-secondary education is relatively expensive.

The union is working to obtain a collective agreement that addresses the needs of its members and prevents a decline in quality at BCIT. It has been without a collective agreement since June 30, 2010.

The BCIT Faculty and Staff Association is the largest bargaining unit in BC's colleges and institutes,

representing over 1,400 employees of BCIT, including technology and part-time studies faculty, assistant instructors, technical staff, researchers, curriculum development professionals, librarians, program advisors and counselors.

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