



British Columbia Institute of Technology Faculty and Staff Association

SE16-116, 3700 Willingdon Avenue
Burnaby, British Columbia
Canada V5G 3H2

Ph: 604-432-8695
Fax: 604-432-8348
Email: fsa@bcit.ca

Media Release

Planned zero per cent increase a barrier to staff recruitment, student access and B.C.'s recovery

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Faculty and staff at the BC Institute of Technology are alarmed by the provincial government's plans for a zero per cent increase in public sector wages for 2010. "We can't take zero for an answer," says Amy Fell, president of the BCIT Faculty and Staff Association.

"BCIT already has a very difficult time recruiting faculty and staff in several areas," said Fell. "When the government is encouraging people to return to school and making new investments in education, and when the economy still demands well trained technologists like our grads, we need to be able to offer more than zero per cent to the people we need to come work here."

BCIT has built its reputation for job ready graduates around a strong core of faculty and staff with industry experience. Public sector increases have not kept pace with wages paid in the sectors from which BCIT recruits. "We've had recruitment problems in Nursing, Engineering, Health Diagnostics, Building, Accounting, Liberal Studies, research, and other areas.

"Some areas are facing the prospect of having students lined up to take programs, having employers lined up to hire grads, and nobody to deliver the program. Zero per cent is not an answer to that problem. Zero per cent will create a bottleneck in our economic recovery," said Fell.

The BCIT Faculty and Staff Association is calling for the legislature to remove this provision from the budget and allow for free and fair collective bargaining by public sector employers like BCIT.

The BCIT Faculty and Staff Association is a union representing 850 instructional and professional staff at BCIT as well as 350 Instructors in the Institute's Part-Time Studies programs. Their collective agreement with BCIT expires June 30, 2010.

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For more information contact:

Amy Fell
President, BCIT FSA
604.329.9531
afell@bcit.ca