



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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Minister Yap, We Need to Talk

BCIT's Faculty and staff join colleagues from across BC's public post-secondary education system in calling on new Minister to convene a summit to deal with the funding crunch at colleges, universities and institutes

September 10, 2012

The BCIT Faculty and Staff Association is calling on the new Minister of Advanced Education, John Yap, to convene a summit of BC's post-secondary education stakeholders to deal with the on-going funding crunch in our post-secondary education system. The BCIT FSA does not make this call alone, but with the representatives of 30,000 colleagues who work and teach in BC's colleges, universities and institutes and the representatives of more than 150,000 post-secondary students.

"Post-secondary education is critical to this province's success but chronic underfunding is endangering its ability to be an economic engine," said Paul Reniers, the Executive Director of the BCIT Faculty and Staff Association.

The British Columbia Institute of Technology provides job-ready skills to its students in part by hiring its instructors directly from industry -- something that is becoming more difficult. "Our salaries are not keeping pace with the industries we serve, making it harder and harder to attract experienced practitioners to teach the next generation of skilled workers," said Reniers.

Nor are the funding problems restricted to hiring. "The loss of capital spending means we are training tomorrow's skilled workforce on yesterday's equipment in outdated and inadequate facilities," said Reniers.

"It is our students, our communities and businesses -- our province and its economy -- that will be short-changed if we do not address this funding crunch," said Reniers.

The BCIT FSA makes this call for a summit of post-secondary education stakeholders with the representatives of their colleagues in the Federation of Post-Secondary Educators, the BC Government Employees Union, the Canadian Union of Public Employees, and the Confederation of University Faculty of BC, as well as students across BC represented by the Canadian Federation of Students.

-30-

Media can contact:
Paul Reniers
Executive Director
Tel: 604.828.7503