

June 21, 2019

Ms. Shannon Baskerville
Deputy Minister
Ministry of Advanced Education, Skills and Training
PO Box 9884, Stn Prov Govt
Victoria BC V8W 9T6

Dear Ms. Baskerville:

On behalf of the BC Council on Admissions and Transfer (BCCAT), we are pleased to present BCCAT's *2018-19 Annual Review: Growing Together: BCCAT and the BC Transfer System, 30 Years On.*

This year marks the 30th anniversary of BCCAT, and so presents an opportunity to reflect on the development of the BC post-secondary landscape throughout this period as well as key activities that have enabled the BC Transfer System to progress for the benefit of students. The Minister, Hon. Melanie Mark, aptly identified the nature of the BC Transfer System and BCCAT's coordinating role, in recent correspondence:

"The post-secondary education sector constitutes an ecosystem with a shared responsibility for ensuring that British Columbians have a clear pathway to high quality education and training programs needed to fully participate in society. Within this ecosystem, BCCAT is mandated to facilitate admission, articulation, and transfer arrangements among British Columbia post-secondary institutions."

The story of the growth of the BC Transfer System is one of community-building through shared understanding and practice across a diverse range of post-secondary institutions. This year's *Annual Review* takes a look at recent achievements in light of three principles and approaches that have guided the work of BCCAT over the years:

1. Collaboration with multiple stakeholders to move forward collectively as a transfer community for students.
2. Research on admissions, transfer, and mobility to inform evidence-based practice and policy decisions by stakeholders.
3. Sharing resources to deliver cost-effective, efficient services and technologies for students, institutions, and government.

COLLABORATION: Working together for students

The strengths of the system are largely the result of the dedication and collaborative efforts of faculty and staff from across BC's post-secondary institutions. BC's 66 articulation committees are the "grass roots" of the transfer community. BCCAT provides key resources and support for these committees, and also hosts the Joint Annual Meeting (JAM),¹ allowing committee chairs and others involved in the work of transfer and articulation to share practices and learn together.

¹ For further details, see bccat.ca/articulation/jam

BCCAT also collaborates with transfer partners from other jurisdictions in support of inter- and intra-provincial and international student mobility, including the Pan-Canadian Consortium on Admissions and Transfer (PCCAT)², the Association of Registrars of the Universities and Colleges of Canada (ARUCC) and the Groningen Declaration Network. BCCAT supports the “ARUCC Groningen and Student Mobility” initiative³ focused on enhancing student and social mobility across Canada and internationally by improving digital records exchange networks in Canada.

RESEARCH: Learning that supports growth and development

BCCAT research informs our understanding of student access and mobility and the effectiveness of the transfer system. There are clear indications the system is working for students. BCCAT and related research shows that every year:

- **17%** of students move between BC public post-secondary institutions
- **400,000+ credits** move with BC transfer students
- **45% of bachelor graduates** attend more than one BC public post-secondary institution

We have also learned through multiple studies that flexible transfer pathways support access and mobility for students facing a wide range of challenges and changing circumstances throughout their post-secondary journeys.

BCCAT’s comprehensive research agenda⁴ is informed through engagement with BC’s transfer community, and shaped by BCCAT’s standing committees and the Council. Below are a few examples of recent publications:

- *International Transfer Credit Practices*⁵ - an examination of policies and practices of assessing international transfer credit, including a literature review and an exploration of best practices.
- *Admissions of High School Non-Graduates*⁶ – an assessment of related institutional policies and practices.
- *Admissions Policies and Practices for Under-Represented Groups of Students*⁷ – a review of equity and access to post-secondary education by examining how underrepresented student groups in BC are identified.

TECHNOLOGY AND SERVICES: Sharing resources effectively

BCCAT technologies provide efficient accessible information and resources to a wide variety of users. By utilizing the latest standards and data models, BCCAT enables greater collaboration with post-secondary partners and their existing technologies and processes.

This year, we partnered with UBC on a pilot project importing approximately 50,000 of their transfer agreements with institutions across Canada and the world into BCCAT’s Transfer Credit System (TCS) and the BC Transfer Guide database. UBC is now using BCCAT’s web services to make all the transfer agreement information publicly available on their own website. This pilot project is a significant milestone toward the development of a BC Transfer Guide that includes comprehensive information on transfer agreements BC institutions have with partners around the globe, enabling students to more effectively and efficiently plan transfer and study abroad pathways. Building on the UBC pilot, BCCAT is extending the TCS service opportunity to other BC Transfer System institutions with the goal of lessening administrative burden and increasing efficiency in transfer credit decision-making by sharing knowledge more effectively across member institutions.

² www.pccatweb.org

³ See www.arucc.ca/en/projects/task-force-groningen.html and www.groningedeclaration.org/puebla-2019

⁴ bccat.ca/research/plan

⁵ bccat.ca/pubs/Intl_Transfer_Credit.pdf and bccat.ca/pubs/Intl_Transfer_news.pdf

⁶ bccat.ca/pubs/non-grads.pdf and bccat.ca/pubs/Non-Grads_news.pdf

⁷ bccat.ca/pubs/underrepresented_groups.pdf and bccat.ca/pubs/underrepresented_groups_exec_summary.pdf

Meanwhile, BCTransferGuide.ca continues to deliver vital transfer information for student planning. To date, BCTransferGuide.ca offers 275,000+ course and 1,328 block transfer agreements, and 52 degree partnerships. The site draws a high level of traffic and feedback is positive, but ongoing enhancements will continue this year.

This year we also developed a comprehensive viewbook⁸ to help guide domestic and international students navigating the BC post-secondary system. This resource provides information regarding each stage of their educational journeys, from exploration, through to application and transfer.

BC's TRANSFER COMMUNITY: Growing Stronger

Thirty years on, BC's transfer community is growing stronger. Through collaboration, sharing resources, and by undertaking research to inform key decisions and developments, the BC Transfer System continues to become more flexible, robust, and responsive.

The ongoing collaboration and support of institutional partners is key to the successes of the system. The *BCCAT Transfer Awards*⁹ were designed to acknowledge and celebrate individuals who go above and beyond in support of transfer and articulation in BC. (Special congratulations to our four winners in 2018!)¹⁰

To commemorate BCCAT's 30th anniversary, we invited a number of "Friends of BCCAT"¹¹ to share their unique stories about the growth and development of the BC Transfer System. BCCAT's Executive Director Emeritus, Frank Gelin offers a valuable, historical perspective:

"Our collective success has resulted in a system that greatly facilitates access and credential completion opportunities for students across the province. And this has been achieved with the unanimous support of our post-secondary institutions which, although governed autonomously, act as an integrated system facilitating admissions and transfer. From both a national as well as international educational policy perspective this has been and continues to be a remarkable achievement."

We at BCCAT look forward to continuing the important work of facilitating BC's transfer community and advancing access and mobility for the benefit of students. It is our privilege to continue collaboration with system partners and the Ministry as an integrated and ever-growing post-secondary ecosystem.

Yours sincerely,



Dr. Rob Fleming
Co-Chair and Executive Director



Mr. Jim Hamilton
Co-Chair, and President, Okanagan College

cc: Tony Loughran, Executive Lead, Governance, Legislation and Corporate Planning Division
Jamie Edwardson, Executive Director, Corporate Planning, International and Quality Assurance Branch,

⁸ bccat.ca/pubs/BCTS_Viewbook_Find_Your_Path.pdf

⁹ See bccat.ca/system/awards

¹⁰ See bccat.ca/system/awards/2018

¹¹ See the "Friends of BCCAT" stories at bccat.ca/system/history