

# BC AGRICULTURE/HORTICULTURE ARTICULATION COMMITTEE

Friday, May 14, 2021 – 9:00 to 11:00 a.m.  
Virtual Meeting Minutes

## 1. Introductions

9:00

Jessica Gemella acknowledged and thanked the Snuneymuxw, on whose traditional lands we teach, learn, research, live and share knowledge.

In Attendance:		
Name	Institution/Agency	Email Address
Jessica Gemella	Vancouver Island University	jessica.gemella@viu.ca
Christine Quist	Vancouver Island University	christine.quist@viu.ca
Maddy Thomas	Vancouver Island University	maddy.thomas@viu.ca
Vern Weber	Industry Training Authority	vweber@itabc.ca
Lisa Greig	Camosun College	greigl@camsoun.bc.ca
Laura Biggs	Pacific Horticulture College	college@hcp.ca
Bill Hardy	HortEducation BC	bhardy@horteducationbc.com
Peter Isaacson	CNLA	peter@canadanursery.com
Anne Kadwell	CNLA	akadwell@canadanursery.com
Betty Cunnin	Kwantlen Polytechnic University	Betty.cunnin@kpu.ca
Fiona McQuarrie	BCCAT	fmcquarrie@bccat.ca
Maria Valana	Kwantlen Polytechnic University	Maria.valana@kpu.ca
Lindsay Lindholm	HortEducation BC	lindsay@horteducation.ca
Douglas Justice	University of British Columbia	Douglas.justice@ubc.ca
Regrets:		
Name	Institution/Agency	Email Address
Collen Rogan	Industry Training Authority	crogan@itabc.ca
Dale Toronitz	Camosun College	toronitz@camosun.bc.ca
Renee Prasad	University of Fraser Valley	Renee.prasad@ufv.ca
Jeff Dyck	Kwantlen Polytechnic University	Jeff.dyck1@kpu.ca
Karen McComber	North Island College	Karen.mccomber@nic.bc.ca

## 2. Approval of the Agenda

- Jessica shared screen of agenda
- No additions or adjustments from the group
- Maria approved
- Betty seconded
- Agenda passed

### 3. Approval of Minutes from May 15, 2020

- Jessica shared screen of last meeting minutes
- Douglas accepted
- Betty (and her cat) seconded
- Minutes passed

### 4. Business arising from 2020 minutes

- Who is the apprenticeship advisor on the island?
  - ACTION: Jessica will follow up & let group know
- Request to review national plant list for Red Seal coming out of KPU
  - Betty Cunnin says: there were some questions about the development of the list.  
ACTION: Anne Kadwell to send the plant list to the group.
  - Jessica Gemella: need to have different lists to help show students.
  - Linday Lindholm: problem with this is that we can't get the changes into exam bank.
  - Betty Cunnin: additional plants within provincial list, need to be stable to add to national list. There is a review process with the ITA, not sure what the cycle is for that. Question we could ask Vern. Can't change IP exam plant list as that is at the national level, but we can change the provincial level ones.
  - Anne Kadwell: having the provincial list and then certification plant list; that is a large undertaking.
  - Bill Hardy: certification is bigger broader list; IP exam is a narrowed down list. Issue when originally produced in 2018, changes were identified after the list had been published/implemented, and couldn't make changes after the fact. Plant list is updated more often than the test material.
- Item #10 – learning resources and give Lindsay a contact person for each institution. Jessica: could also use Moodle site for this; currently using a Google shared folder. Members can update it as changes come up.
- Item #7: ITA sent out practical competencies. Since province has now said we're going back to F2F, there doesn't need to be a separate competency list as there is no reason that we would need to limit anything.
  - Lisa: has not seen this list, but has created a lot of her own sheets.  
ACTION: Jessica will resend list of competencies.
- BCCAT contact is on shared google sheet
  - There is option to use Moodle to share info to committee. Not much use yet, but is option in the future.

## 5. ITA Standards and Updates (Vern Weber)

9:20

- Provincial government has indicated it would like to move to reinstate compulsory trades in BC; they will be working with ITA to do this. ITA has no additional info at this time. Trades to be covered are yet to be determined. There will be consultation with industry going forward to be rolled out over time. More to come.
  - Landscape horticulture was never considered a compulsory trade.
- Suspension and re-launch of standard level exams: ITA made decision to temporarily waive SLEs. Working with training providers, Sep. 1 target date set to re-implement SLEs.
- Level 4 of Harmonization implements on Sep. 1/21.
- 3-week gap training course will be offered at certain institutions to transition students into harmonized program. Will be a blended course in Victoria in August.
- Thanks to Laura for taking on classes, taking care of many apprentices.
- Apprenticeship numbers:

[Landscape Horticulturist Apprenticeship Numbers](#)

"CJd"/Current program

APPRENTICESHIP (Highest Level Achieved)	0TT	1TT	2TT	3TT	4TT	Total
Reporting:			(22)	16	68	84
Non-reporting:			(65)	19	51	70
<b>Total:</b>			<b>(87)</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>154</b>

Note: Data is as of May 1, 2021.

Harmonized program

APPRENTICESHIP (Highest Level Achieved)	0TT	1TT	2TT	3TT	4TT	Total
Reporting:	91	97	47	16	0	251
Non-reporting:	224	143	3	0	0	370
<b>Total:</b>	<b>315</b>	<b>240</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>621</b>

- A non-reporting apprentice is someone ITA has not heard from in 18 months or more.
- 22 Level 2s need gap training (offered in Victoria), might be difficult in COVID situation.
- Foundation numbers are not included so it is hard to forecast.
- After the summer, start thinking of best way to deal with stranded current level apprentices.
- ITA reaches out to apprentices to ask for updates, what their plan is to continue training etc.
- Lisa: Why foundation programs are not included?  
Vern: Because they don't have sponsors, so they don't get registered with ITA in the same way apprentices do. Mostly a system compatibility issue.
- No harmonized Level 4s yet as that is starting September 2021.

- Old Level 3: with extra intake being added in November, we should be able to pick up most active apprentices for gap training.
- Worst case scenario is student having to re-take level as the gaps are too big. Other scenarios could be a challenge exam or employer sign off, depending on the gap.

#### Landscape Horticulturist Apprenticeship Numbers by Region

Regional numbers are based on apprentice's address, not the school they attend. For a definition of College Regions, see **Appendix A**.

##### "Old"/Current program

	REGION	0TT	1TT	2TT	3TT	4TT	Total
1	North	0	0	0	0	0	0
2	South East Interior	0	0	0	0	7	7
3	Island	0	0	0	14	47	61
4	Lower Mainland	0	0	0	19	61	80
	??	0	0	0	0	2	2
	Other	0	0	0	2	2	4
	<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>154</b>

Note: Data is as of May 1, 2021.

##### Harmonized program

	REGION	0TT	1TT	2TT	3TT	4TT	Total
1	North	12	0	0	1	0	13
2	South East Interior	39	12	1	0	0	52
3	Island	64	75	15	0	0	154
4	Lower Mainland	190	147	33	15	0	385
	??	9	4	0	0	0	13
	Other	1	2	1	0	0	4
	<b>Total</b>	<b>315</b>	<b>240</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>621</b>

- (This sheet goes by addresses of apprentices, not training institutions, but are fairly close.)
- Betty: 190 0TT Lower Mainland numbers, who are they?  
Vern: they have registered, but have not yet started or finished their training; have only registered with ITA.
- Betty: Is there a strategy to reach out to these people?  
Vern: Not really. They will likely work for a while and then start training.  
Bill: After 6 months the apprentice & employer receive a letter.
- No SLE stats to share.
- Jessica: Program (Level 1 and 2) starts in January and finish in December. If the guidelines stay as predicted, are we able to offer the SLE?  
Vern: Shouldn't be an issue, will let exam maintenance team know.
- ITA is looking to pilot Level 3 SLE, looking for volunteers. Reach out to Vern or Jessica to volunteer.
- Lisa: Is Level 1 & 2 SLE ready?  
Vern: Yes. Before suspension of exams, Level 2 had not been finalized, but it is now. It has been needing peer review but has been reviewed now and is ready to go.

**6. BCCAT Update (Fiona McQuarrie)****9:40  
a.m.**

- Fiona is a Special projects coordinator at BCCAT
- New research reports available on website:  
<https://bccat.ca/Media/NEWBCCAT/pubs/Resources/ACUpdate202104.pdf>
  - Report on BOT transfer and degree partnerships is available on this site
  - Report on data governance; looking at issues on who controls data at PSIs, best practices, is available on this site
  - Report on micro credential practices and perspectives within Canada is available on this site
- Annual meeting called JAMS; held online this year. 350 attended this year. JAMS will again be online this year and open to anyone who is interested. Conference will be in first week of November, registration open mid-September.
- Some articulation committees have been using Moodle as a place to archive documents. Kwantlen will no longer be able to support this function, so BCCAT will need to find another institution to support this method.
- Big developments on BC Transfer guide: two weeks ago was expanded to include Canadian and international course equivalencies. UBCV, UBCO, VIU, NIC, and others previously has some transfer courses from outside BC and Canada but held internally. These PSIs have given data to BCCAT and is now listed in transfer guide. Over 60,000 courses now listed in transfer guide. BC is first in Canada to publish these kinds of equivalencies.
- Some disciplines such as ABE have transfer guides on site, but not elsewhere. Ministry of Ed has published this on their website. Has been a challenge for many students that don't know they have credit, as it is in a separate guide, but they do in fact get credit. BCCAT working to update the guide to include these in the official guide.
- BCCAT working with EAL and special education to put their transfer agreements on the website. Hoping this will support student mobility better.
- BCCAT has funding available for articulation committees to do research: Transfer Innovation Fund. It was launched in March 2020 but due to COVID there were no applications. Funding is now available again. Application deadline is Aug. 23. Application/description are on BCCAT website: <https://bccat.ca/articulation/projects>
- Hope to fund projects with this money this year. Please contact BCCAT for guidance.

**7. Learner Resources (Bill Hardy)****9:50  
a.m.****a. Harmonized Red Seal Technical Training (HortEducation)**

- Bill thanks Laura for sending upset students to ITA and not HortEdBC. Had a good year for learning resource sales because PSIs have kept their classes full. Have applied for & received funding from CEBA.
- Lindsay: More gaps than originally identified, quite extensive. Will be reaching out to PSI instructors to narrow down scope of topics, which helps with research.
- Maria: Level 3 is running in the spring 2022.  
Lindsay: Level 3 will be ready for next classes.
- ITA had not identified gaps in areas where the subject headings were the same (describe --> install). Identifying these gaps is a challenge.
- Applied for SIP funding to complete to redo the learning resources on national scope. Will take all four levels sequenced in the national way, take out BC-specific references and make it more generic. Funding is also to develop four new books, not sequences, but based on the 5 line items. Will be good for sales and for people challenging exams. Developing books in the same chronological order will be helpful.
- Making all of learning resources available as electronic documents. Paper copies are still available, but can get discounted digital copy via subscription. This allows capability to include audio/visual aspect to resources.
- Lindsay: large amount of volume in Level 2; will have to go through to reduce redundancies.
- Bill: using a platform called DeCatalogue to host digital copies (allows you to highlight, annotate, read aloud, etc.) Using subscription-based model to reduce link sharing.
  - Will have available for Lisa's upcoming intake.

**8. Skills Canada – Provincial and National 2020 Competitions (Anne Kadwell)**

- Level Up program happened in February. 2,500 visits. People could virtually look at booths etc. Industry & education booths were part of the event.
- 483 visits to Skills booth. Great success stories and awesome video shared.
- 2021 – CLA continues to support Skills program, competition is in June.
- Talk to your students about Skills so we can show everyone what we're all about!
  - <https://growingfuturesri.org>
  - <https://www.skillscompetencescanada.com/en/skills-canada-national-competition/scnc-2021/>

**9. Institutional Program Updates (All Post-Secondary Program Providers)****10:00 a.m.**

- Lisa: Challenging year but it was huge learning gap & opportunity. Program went well; support from RRU and Camosun. Had a really great cohort this year. Lost 2 students to tragedy but are still in touch with the cohort, they looked after each other. All have moved on and have jobs lined up before they completed schooling. Good waitlist for this July, including one international student. Currently doing blended delivery with 3 days practical 2 days online. Many students planning on continuing through apprenticeship.
- Douglas: A couple of good applicants for instructor position. Has had best cohort they've ever seen – maybe people are being kinder to each other during the pandemic? Whole group is employed. Many applicants for upcoming intake. Egan has retired and left them very well set up to continue on in the program.
- Betty: New FLP/new associate Dean. Still has 30 international students in program; interesting to see how that played out over the course of the pandemic. Looking for instructor for diploma programs.
- Maria: great group of students this year, all enjoyed what was provided over pandemic. She is new apprenticeship coordinator at KPU.
- Laura: Finding it is a bit too much to handle, looking for ways to make administrative things easier. Finishing Level 1 part-time program next week, will move into part-time Level 2 in August. Full-time foundation program is running, started in January. There have been hiccups, students don't like the online learning, especially full-time foundation students. Individual levels have been blended; those students seem to be doing well with it. Will ITA allow us to do blended learning in the future? Blended delivery has helped with classroom space issues. Offering 3-week gap training for apprentices who are stuck between old and new curriculums. Last old Level 4 this December. ITA wants gap training to do online to catch people all over the province. Gap is 2 weeks online, 1 weeks in person in August. Timing helps with classroom space & seasonal ability to do tasks. \$450 is the cost. 3 applicants at this time; people are unhappy for several reasons, being directed to ITA. Next Level 3 is in January.
- Jessica: had 22 students start in January, down to 19 now. Was online for month of January, and then blended delivery. Students want to continue with blended delivery; will continue in this way for September 2021. Theory classwork online and a couple Zoom sessions per week. Hands-on time is much more productive because students come ready. One change is that students have to travel from all over the Island as it is only a couple time a week in person. Just wrapped up Tamagawa program as well; they really are wanting F2F as well. A challenge is that Payne Centre & Milner is that students maintain those areas; a lot of juggling to manage the facility. Challenging year with short staffing issues. Lots of support for online learning strategies at VIU. Industry appears to be in high demand.

**10 Other Business****a. Next Meeting Date**

- Could meet potentially in 6 months; easier to meet twice a year if done virtually
- October 29, 2021; same time

**b. Guest Speakers and Specific Topics for future meetings**

- Laura: someone to come talk about student mental health. Healthy Minds, Healthy Campuses email group has resources, maybe someone from there could come. **ACTION: Jessica to work on that.**
- Anne: Feedback in regards to blended learning, will add articulation group to that group, in late June.

**11. Adjournment**

- Jessica thanked everyone for coming today
- Meeting adjourned at 10:50 a.m.