Call for Proposals: Impact of Covid-19 and Online Learning on Students in BC's Rural and Remote Communities

Background

Like students across this country, and in many jurisdictions around the world, BC post-secondary students moved, *en masse*, to online education beginning in March 2020. Across the globe, reports have outlined how the pandemic has highlighted the "digital divides" that differentially impacted students on the basis of geography, socio-economic status, and ethnicity. Governments, including the Province of BC, have responded with targeted infrastructure funding and projects. This project will utilize institutional data, and interviews, to explore how access to technology, and other learning resources, have affected students in rural and remote communities during this period of remote delivery.

Purpose/ Goal

To analyze institutional data, and survey or interviews with students and faculty, to assess the impact of the move to remote, online learning on students from rural and remote communities.

Scope

Approximately four BC public post-secondary institutions, which agree to participate and which serve a significant number of students outside of the province's larger urban centres.

Objectives

The objective(s) of this project are to:

a)   Conduct a multi-jurisdictional literature review on the "digital divide" in post-secondary education, focusing on North America, and particularly on the experiences of rural and remote learners. Additional consideration will be given to proposals that also include analysis of access issues for rural and remote Indigenous learners.

b)   Utilize institutional data to assess impacts on student performance.

c)   Capture the experiences of students learning online in rural and remote communities during the pandemic.

d)   Identify areas for future research.

Timeline

Completion date for this project will be no later than March 2022.

Budget

Maximum budget available for this project is $20,000. This figure is inclusive of all hourly charges, travel and associated costs, and GST.

Proposal Template for Research Projects