

# FRIENDS OF BCCAT

\* ROGER BARNSLEY \*



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## Meet Roger Barnsley

President, Thompson Rivers University (1998-2010),  
and BCCAT Member (1998-2004) and Co-Chair (2011-2017).

As president of the University College of the Cariboo (UCC), Roger Barnsley oversaw the transformation of the institution as it transitioned to "Thompson Rivers University" (TRU) in 2005. Through his leadership and vision, TRU developed and implemented an Aboriginal education plan in consultation with First Nations communities, and addressed the educational and training needs of a wide range of students from BC, other provinces, and beyond. Roger reflects on his own experiences and the unique qualities of the BC Transfer System below.

## Roger's Story

I attended secondary school in Trail, BC and my Bachelors degree at the University of Victoria. (For my first few years there, it was known as Victoria College.) In 1998, when I accepted the position of President of University College of the Cariboo (now "Thompson Rivers University"), the BC post-secondary system was very different from what we see today.

By good fortune, and probably through some thoughtful analysis by Frank Gelin, then Executive Director of BCCAT, I was appointed to the Council. The Council was comprised, as it is now, with representatives from the various post-secondary institutional groups in the Province, and charged with the mandate to facilitate student transfer between BC's post-secondary institutions. My time as both Council member and Co-Chair gave me a great understanding and passion for the work of BCCAT and the effective functioning of the BC Transfer System.

I have lived and worked in seven Provinces of Canada and it has been my experience that post-secondary institutions were often more focused on the perceived value of their own institutions than on creating the best learning opportunities for all students in an integrated and cost-effective manner.

I have always been delighted and proud to have been a part of the Provincial process that creates full credit transfer opportunities for all students. I sincerely believe that as a result of the credit transfer system and the work of BCCAT, the BC post-secondary system stands out as exemplary in Canada.

Unfortunately, a variety of issues continue to impact open and full accessibility to post-secondary education. Challenges continue to exist for the Indigenous peoples, those based in rural areas, and those facing economic or academic obstacles, to name just a few. We must continue to find ways to create more accessibility, and because it is likely that these challenges will be met through providing different forms and types of education, the challenge of admissions, and credit transfer will be paramount. In looking to the future, BCCAT will continue to have a major role to play as we navigate ongoing changes in the post-secondary landscape.

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