

# GROWING TOGETHER

2018-19  
Annual Review



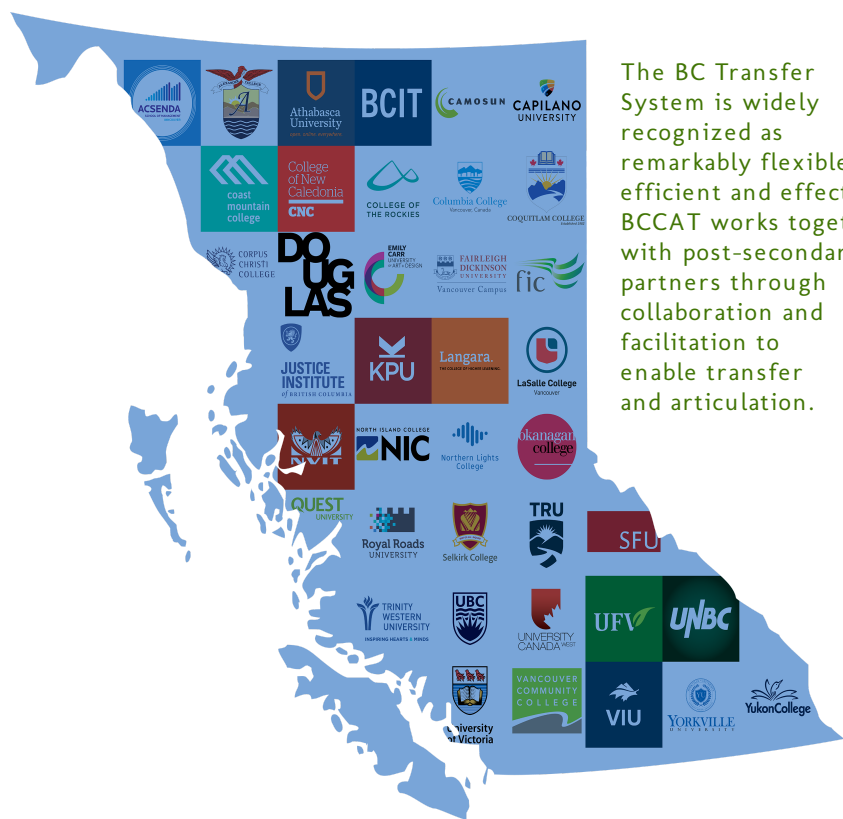
BCCAT and the  
BC Transfer System,  
30 Years On

(A Brief Overview)



## BC's Post-Secondary Eco-System

In 1989, the BC Council on Admissions and Transfer was established to facilitate transfer and articulation, and to undertake a coordinating role for BC's articulation community. Today, 30 years later, the BC Transfer System functions as a highly differentiated post-secondary eco-system supported by a thriving transfer network.



The BC Transfer System is widely recognized as remarkably flexible efficient and effective. BCCAT works together with post-secondary partners through collaboration and facilitation to enable transfer and articulation.

*"The post-secondary education sector constitutes an eco-system 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."*

Hon. Melanie Mark, Minister of Advanced Education, Skills and Training in a letter to BCCAT's Executive Director, Dr. Robert Fleming







## COLLABORATION

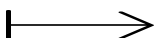
*Collaboration and engagement are vital to the effective functioning of the BC Transfer System and allow us to move forward together as a community for the benefit of students.*

### Transfer Innovation

Since 1999, BCCAT has overseen a funding program for Transfer Innovation (TI) projects undertaken by articulation committees to advance pathway options for students.

Currently, the TI program is being refreshed to help address emergent challenges and opportunities in BC's robust and evolving system.

CHECK OUT THESE  
TI PROJECTS:



### A Growing Community

BC's articulation committees function as the vital "grass roots of the BC Transfer System. Committee members meet regularly to connect and address key curricular and transfer issues and developments, fostering an environment of respectful relationships necessary to enable creative pathway solutions that work for students. Approximately, 1,500 individuals from all post-secondary sectors and disciplines meet annually across the province to facilitate student access, transfer and mobility across BC's high quality post-secondary eco-system.

Articulation committee attendance has grown steadily over the years, increasing by 63% since 2005. We are encouraged to see increased engagement that strengthens the culture, focus, and work of the articulation network as a whole.

- **ENGINEERING COMMON CORE:** Creation and implementation of a common first year engineering curriculum at [bccat.ca/articulation/arts/engineering](http://bccat.ca/articulation/arts/engineering)
- **ENGLISH FOR ACADEMIC PURPOSES (EAP):** A review of current practices and update on best practices and learning outcomes, in the 2018/19 ESL Articulation Guide at [bccat.ca/pubs/ESLguide18-19.pdf](http://bccat.ca/pubs/ESLguide18-19.pdf)



### Joint Annual Meeting

The Joint Annual Meeting (JAM) brings together those who are most directly engaged with the work of transfer and articulation, for a time of sharing, connection, discussion and learning.

The 2018 JAM event was attended by over 160 delegates. Speakers covered topics such as ESL support and Indigenous Student Pathways.

For more information, see [bccat.ca/articulation/jam](http://bccat.ca/articulation/jam)

Top pic (left to right): Rob Fleming, Executive Director, BCCAT; Eric Dohei, Manager, ACAT; Phoebe De Ciman, Director, Ministry of Advanced Education (Gov. of SK); Anne Ryton, Director, Strategy & Coordination, ACAT; Mike Winsemann, Director, Transfer & Technology, BCCAT; Robert Adamoski, Director, Research & Admissions, BCCAT.

Bottom pic (left to right): Jim Hamilton (BCCAT Co-Chair) and Elder Margaret George chat with Hon. Melanie Mark at 2018 JAM.

# BC and Beyond

BCCAT collaborates with partners within and beyond BC to enable and advance student mobility

## SECONDARY TO POST-SECONDARY TRANSITIONS:

BCCAT staff participated at the BC Graduation Program Forum held in fall 2018. The Council continues to facilitate enquiry and discussion on these and other issues pertinent to transfer and articulation in BC.

PCCAT: BCCAT staff members presented on transfer practices and developments at the 2018 Annual PCCAT Conference in PEI, and will be presenting again at the 2019 conference to be held in Regina, SK.

CATCAN: BCCAT is part of this pan-Canadian network of transfer representatives that focus on collaborative projects supporting intra- and inter-provincial mobility.

ARUCC and GDN: BCCAT supports the "ARUCC Groningen Student Mobility initiative, a national project focused on enhancing student data exchange, to advance social mobility across Canada and beyond. BCCAT's Executive Director and the Director, Transfer and Technology, presented at the 8th GDN Annual Meeting in Puebla, Mexico, in April 2019.

## INTERNATIONAL:

- Presented on "Credit Transfer and Student Mobility in the BC Transfer System" to senior leaders from the province of Yunnan, China, in conjunction with Langara College's "Higher Education Strategic Leadership and Management Program".
- Presented on "Credit Transfer and Student Pathways in the BC Transfer System" in association with the BCCIE and the VACC.



Photo published with permission provided by Herman de Leeuw, Executive Director, Groningen Declaration Network



ARUCC - Association of Registrars of the Universities and Colleges of Canada  
BCCIE - BC Council on International Education  
GDN - Groningen Declaration Network  
PCCAT - Pan-Canadian Consortium on Admissions & Transfer  
VACC - Vietnamese Association of Community Colleges





## RESEARCH

*Comprehensive research on key questions is essential to inform consequential decisions, contributing to the healthy growth and ongoing development of the BC transfer community.*

### *Learning that supports growth and development*

Over the years, BCCAT research has deepened our shared understanding about student access and mobility and the functionality of the BC Transfer System, illuminating the way with recommendations for change and ongoing development.

Research continues to answer important questions, informing our understanding and challenging persisting notions. We have learned that BC's post-secondary students are highly mobile, and they change institutions for a variety of reasons. Many intentionally plan to transfer, while others use transfer pathways when personal, family, or academic challenges arise. Overall, research indicates that the BC Transfer System supports both student access and retention.

# 17%

of students move  
between BC public post-  
secondary institutions  
every year

Source: Student Transitions Project

# 400,000+

credits move with  
BC transfer students  
every year

Source: Central Data Warehouse / BCCAT /  
BC Ministry of Advanced Education, Skills & Training

# 45%

of bachelor graduates  
attend more than one BC  
public post-secondary  
institution

Source: Student Transitions Project

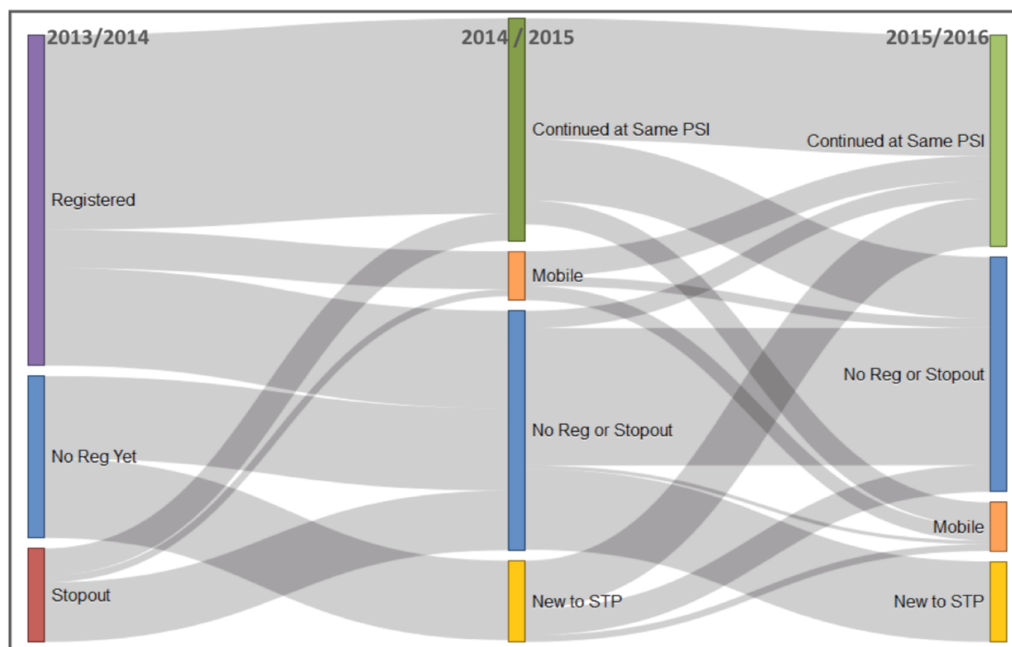
*"The ability for students to move in a reverse transfer pathway appears to demonstrate that there is a powerful redemptive quality of the BC Transfer System..."*

- Readiness and Reverse (2015)  
[bccat.ca/pubs/readandrev2015.pdf](http://bccat.ca/pubs/readandrev2015.pdf)

*"Respondents reported that, overall, these transfer agreements seemed to help increase Indigenous student retention rates."*

- Indigenous Educational Pathways (2018)  
[bccat.ca/pubs/Indigenous\\_Pathways.pdf](http://bccat.ca/pubs/Indigenous_Pathways.pdf)

Registration State of BC Public Post-Secondary Students (2013/14 to 2015/16)  
[www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/education/post-secondary-education/data-research/stp/psm-highlights.pdf](http://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/education/post-secondary-education/data-research/stp/psm-highlights.pdf)



## BCCAT Research

BCCAT has a comprehensive research agenda focused on projects looking at student access, admissions, transfer and mobility. This past year, BCCAT also examined practices regarding assessment, credentials, and international credit recognition. The research plan is informed through engagement with BC's transfer community, and shaped by BCCAT's standing committees under the governance of the Council. (See [bccat.ca/research/plan](http://bccat.ca/research/plan))

### Admissions of High School Non-Graduates to Post-Secondary Institutions in BC

Prepared for BCCAT by Patricia Beatty-Gardner, Bob Craven, and Ted Jones  
October 2016



### Admissions Policies and Practices for Underrepresented Groups of Students

By Phil Henson and Patricia Beatty-Gardner  
September 2016



### Understanding Advanced Placement Grading in BC

Prepared for BCCAT by Andrew Strickland, Patrick Laughlin, and Lynne Jackson  
Fall Consulting  
October 2016



### International Transfer Credit Practices

Prepared for BCCAT by Joanne Duklas, Dublin Connections Consulting  
January 2019



*"Creating provincial and national course equivalency systems remains the goal of provincial councils of admission/articulation and transfer, such as BCCAT. This goal is achievable, as evidenced by the publicly available international course equivalency databases created by select Canadian institutions."*

- Joanne Duklas, author of *International Transfer Credit Practices*.

## Recent BCCAT research publications:

- **International Transfer Credit Practices**  
Report: [bccat.ca/pubs/Intl\\_Transfer\\_Credit.pdf](http://bccat.ca/pubs/Intl_Transfer_Credit.pdf)  
Summary: [bccat.ca/pubs/Intl\\_Transfer\\_news.pdf](http://bccat.ca/pubs/Intl_Transfer_news.pdf)
- **Understanding Advanced Placement Grading in BC**  
Report: [bccat.ca/pubs/AP\\_Grading.pdf](http://bccat.ca/pubs/AP_Grading.pdf)  
Summary: [bccat.ca/pubs/AP\\_Grading\\_news.pdf](http://bccat.ca/pubs/AP_Grading_news.pdf)
- **Admissions of High School Non-Graduates to Post-Secondary Institutions in BC**  
Report: [bccat.ca/pubs/non-grads.pdf](http://bccat.ca/pubs/non-grads.pdf)  
Summary: [bccat.ca/pubs/Non-Grads\\_news.pdf](http://bccat.ca/pubs/Non-Grads_news.pdf)
- **Admissions Policies and Practices for Under-Represented Groups of Students**  
Report: [bccat.ca/pubs/underrepresented\\_groups.pdf](http://bccat.ca/pubs/underrepresented_groups.pdf)  
Summary: [bccat.ca/pubs/underrepresented\\_groups\\_exec\\_summary.pdf](http://bccat.ca/pubs/underrepresented_groups_exec_summary.pdf)
- **The Growth of Post-Degree Programs in BC**  
Report: [bccat.ca/pubs/post\\_degree\\_programs.pdf](http://bccat.ca/pubs/post_degree_programs.pdf)  
Summary: [bccat.ca/pubs/post\\_degree\\_programs\\_news.pdf](http://bccat.ca/pubs/post_degree_programs_news.pdf)

## Student Transitions

Since 2005, BCCAT has worked closely with the Student Transitions Project (STP) to analyze system-wide trends. STP research has contributed much to our understanding of student mobility in the BC post-secondary system.

See [www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/education-training/post-secondary-education/data-research/student-transitions-project](http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/education-training/post-secondary-education/data-research/student-transitions-project)

## Coming Soon - Survey of Mobile Students

Stay tuned for the results of our latest survey, due for release in the coming months!





## TECHNOLOGY SERVICES

*By sharing resources, and building on existing processes and technologies, BCCAT and the BC Transfer System members deliver technology in a way that is both cost effective and efficient for students, post-secondary institutions, and the BC government.*

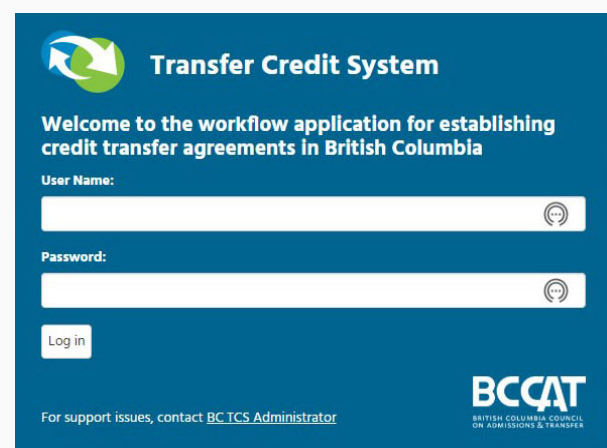
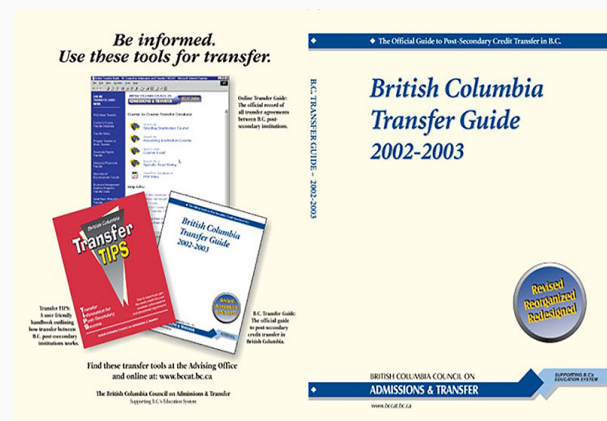
### BC Transfer Guide & the Transfer Credit System (TCS)

BCCAT has come a long way since transfer agreements were processed across institutions using a "Transfer Credit Evaluation Form" and the BC Transfer Guide was delivered in the form of a weighty, paper-based resource!

Today, BCCAT technologies are designed to provide efficient accessible information and resources to a wide variety of users. They also allow for greater collaboration with post-secondary partners and existing platforms.

The Transfer Credit System (TCS) is the underlying technology enabling the processing of transfer agreements across BC Transfer System institutions. The new improved TCS was launched last year, having been redeveloped through collaboration with Campus Manitoba.

The new improved TCS is significantly more efficient and easier to maintain offering advanced tools for updating articulation agreements. The TCS was designed to support all articulation activities within a post-secondary institution, including out-of-province and international agreements, not just those within BC.



52

degree partnerships

275,000+

course transfer agreements

1,328

block transfer agreements



**BCTransferGuide.ca**  
DISCOVER YOUR TRANSFER OPTIONS

*"I love the BC Transfer Guide.  
I've used it so much I have it  
tattooed on my brain!"*

- Ryan Johnson, Langara College student

Since 1995, the BC Transfer Guide has delivered vital transfer information for student planning. Course-to-course agreements are updated automatically as they are processed through the TCS, so users receive accurate, up-to-date information on course transfer options.

This year, we contracted with Plaid Consulting to undertake an external review of the site, including a user survey and focus groups. Based on the findings of the review, we plan to proceed with enhancements in the near future.

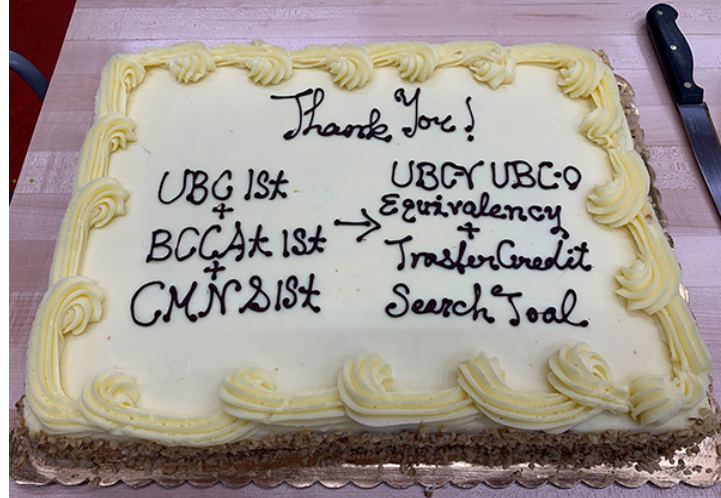


# UBC-TCS Pilot Project

This year, BCCAT worked with UBC on a pilot project focused on importing their internal tables into the TCS, and allowing UBC to adopt the TCS as their internal workflow for all articulation activities at UBC/UBC-Okanagan. UBC is now using BCCAT's web services to pull data from the TCS in real time to make it available on their website, allowing perspective transfer students to search credit transfers from within BC and around the world to UBC.

As a result of this project, over 45,000 agreements were added to the BC Transfer Guide database. In addition, approximately 15,000 agreements to other BC Transfer System members, not previously published, were added to the BC Transfer Guide.

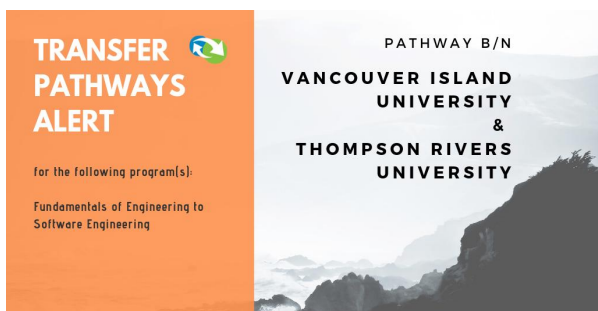
This program will be extended to all BC Transfer System members in 2019/20, with a goal of expanding the BC Transfer Guide to position BC as THE destination for transfer students from around the world. The expansion of the BC Transfer Guide supports the Ministry priorities of access and breadth within a student's higher education experience.



This pilot represents a significant milestone in BCCAT's history as, for the first time, data from across the country and around the world has been imported and made available through BCCAT technologies.

*"It has been a pleasure to work with our BCCAT colleagues to reach this important milestone in support of transfer students. The launch of UBC Transfer Search Tool reflects how successful collaboration and partnership can support student access, and improve business processes for transfer articulators."* -Debbie Lin, Manager - Transfer Credit, UBC Enrolment Services

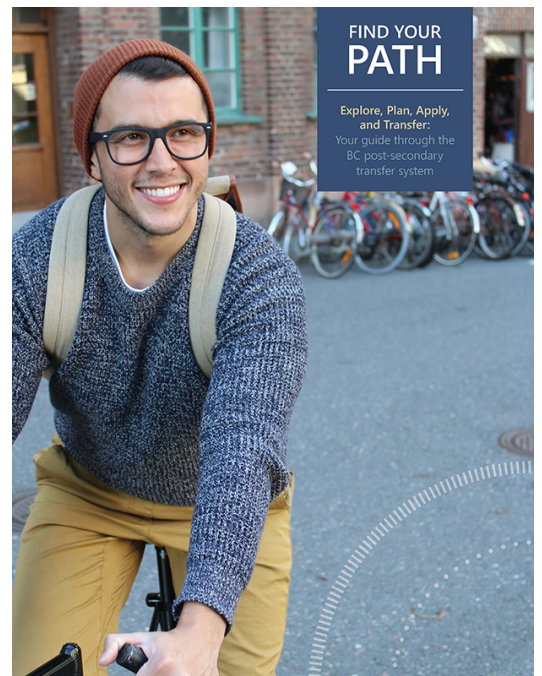
*Watch out for these alerts on Twitter as new transfer pathways become available.*



## Find your path: Student Viewbook

Check out our new viewbook designed as a guide for domestic and international students navigating the BC post-secondary transfer system, from the earliest stages of exploration through to application and transfer.

bccat.ca/pubs/BCTS\_Viewbook\_Find\_Your\_Path.pdf





## The BC Transfer System: Growing Strong

Today, 30 years on, BC's transfer community is growing strong. Through collaborating, sharing resources, and undertaking research to inform key decisions and developments, the BC Transfer System continues to grow ever more flexible, robust and responsive.

### FRIENDS OF BCCAT

To commemorate BCCAT's 30th anniversary, we invited a few "Friends of BCCAT" to share reflections on the BC Transfer System from their own unique perspectives. These individuals have served in a variety of roles across the post-secondary system; each provides a different window from which to view the evolution of BC's transfer community through the years.

We invite you to check out their stories, and stay tuned as we introduce other friends throughout 2019! (See [www.bccat.ca/system/history](http://www.bccat.ca/system/history))



Pictured (above): Frank Gelin (BCCAT Executive Director Emeritus) with his colleague Alistair McVey, taking registration at the College of New Caledonia in 1960, when CNC first opened.



Left to right: Dezene Huber, Adrian Lipsett, and Norm Shaw. (Not pictured: Rick Chester)

## BCCAT Transfer Awards

The BCCAT Transfer Awards were designed to acknowledge and celebrate the contributions and dedication of exemplary individuals from across the the BC Transfer System in supporting and improving transfer and articulation in BC. Congratulations to the 2018 award winners! (See [bccat.ca/system/awards/2018](http://bccat.ca/system/awards/2018))

### TRANSFER & ARTICULATION COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP AWARD

- Dezene Huber, Professor (Conservation Science and Practice, and Ecosystem Science & Management), UNBC
- Adrian Lipsett, Program Manager, Creative and Applied Arts, Langara College

### LEADERSHIP AWARD (Joint Award)

- Rick Chester, Faculty Member, Natural Resources and Engineering, BCIT
- Norm Shaw, Association of BC Forest Professionals (ABC FP) and former BCIT Instructor

## A Word from our Co-Chairs



For the past thirty years, the BC Transfer System has thrived as a key component of BC's post-secondary ecosystem through the collaboration and professionalism of the numerous faculty and staff dedicated to widening access opportunities and transfer credit pathways for students around the province.

Reflection on the path travelled so far provides inspiration for mapping a continuing path forward, as students pursue more diverse and enriching educational experiences throughout their lives.

The staff at BCCAT look forward to continuing collaboration with system partners over the next thirty years and beyond. Thank you for your support, and Happy Birthday!

Robert Fleming, Executive Director, BCCAT,  
and Jim Hamilton, President, Okanagan College



This infographic summary and the related, full Annual Review are available at [bccat.ca/about/annualreview](http://bccat.ca/about/annualreview)  
[bccat.ca](http://bccat.ca) > [bctransferguide.ca](http://bctransferguide.ca) > [info@bccat.ca](mailto:info@bccat.ca) > [@bccat\\_org](https://twitter.com/bccat_org) > [@bctransferguide](https://twitter.com/bctransferguide)