


STEPPING UP

BCCAT

2025 ANNUAL REVIEW



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

BCCAT acknowledges the unceded territory of Coast Salish peoples, including the territories of the xʷməθkwəyəm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), Stó:lō and Səlílwətaʔ/Selilwitulh (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations, on which the BCCAT office is situated.

BCCAT is committed to working respectfully with Indigenous peoples under the guidance of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and in response to the Calls to Action set out by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada.

In keeping with the Council's mandate, we are committed to moving forward together with post-secondary partners to foster an environment that supports and enables post-secondary access and pathways for Indigenous students.



A WORD FROM THE MINISTER

Our Government is ready to work with stakeholders to focus on expanding the middle class and improving the lives of people living in BC. We are facing challenging times, with federal changes impacting post-secondary enrollments, our Province's labour supply, and an overall uncertainty to our economy.

Luckily our partners in the community, including the BC Council on Admissions and Transfer, have always been resourceful, and I'm confident that together we can turn these challenges into opportunities.

– Hon. Anne Kang, Minister, Post-Secondary Education & Future Skills, BC Provincial Government



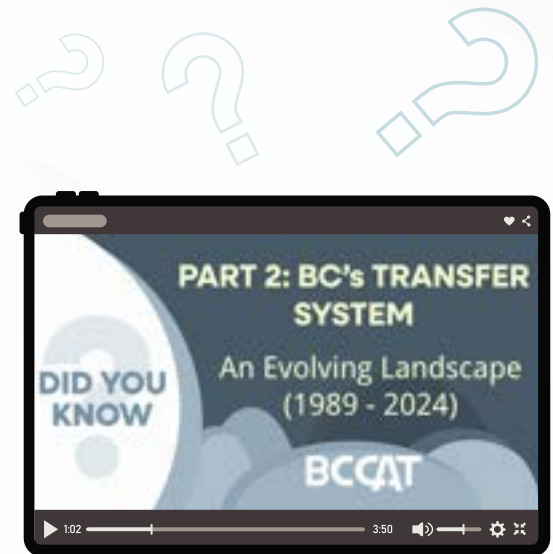
STEPPING UP INTRODUCTION

Over the years, BC's post-secondary landscape has weathered significant challenges. Through it all, BC's transfer network has grown and strengthened its capacity to support learner access and mobility.^[1]

BC's students continue to benefit from a wide array of flexible transfer pathways developed by dedicated groups and individuals from across BC's transfer community.

These days, we see fresh challenges emerging – affecting both students and institutions. In this moment, it is worthwhile to reflect on what has made BC's transfer community so responsive and adaptive, and how we may build on those strengths moving forward.

At the 2024 Joint Annual Meeting (JAM), we celebrated BCCAT's 35th anniversary and looked ahead at how we might continue to grow and move forward as a post-secondary transfer system.



Did you know?

Learn about the remarkable history of BC's post-secondary transfer system. Check out our "Did You Know? videos at www.youtube.com/@bccat_org.

¹ To learn more about the history of BCCAT and the BC Transfer System, see bccat.ca/system/history. Also, check out our "Did you know?" playlist (at www.youtube.com/@bccat_org) to learn more about the story of transfer in BC's evolving post-secondary landscape.

² See pp. 9–10 for further information about JAM 2024.

This year, BCCAT has made significant steps towards modernizing and expanding Transfer Credit System (TCS) credit technologies. The TCS underlies the database feeding into [BCTransferGuide.ca](https://www.bctransferguide.ca), the go-to site for identifying and planning transfer pathway opportunities.[3]

Meanwhile, BCCAT research continues to shine a light on how the system is working for students. For example, research continues to show that transfer students perform at least as well as students entering their credential programs directly from secondary school.[4]

This Annual Review presents key activities and developments from the 2024-25 academic year, as BCCAT and partners from within and beyond BC have worked together to expand transfer pathways in support of learner access and mobility.



3 See "Technologies" on pp. 15-16 for further information about BCTransferGuide.ca and the TCS.

4 See pp. 12-14 for an overview of recent research findings, including a project focused on the profile and performance of BC's transfer students.

ABOUT BCCAT

An Overview of Key Activities

WHAT WE DO

Connecting BC's post-secondary institutions, education ministries, and public and private education sectors. BCCAT's mandate is to facilitate transfer, articulation, and admission arrangements among BC's Transfer System member institutions.



FACILITATION

Overseeing and facilitating BC's 65 articulation committees; providing key resources and supporting partners across BC's transfer community.

TECHNOLOGIES

Managing the BC Transfer Guide, and leveraging Transfer Credit System (TCS) resources, building on existing processes and technologies that are cost-effective and efficient.

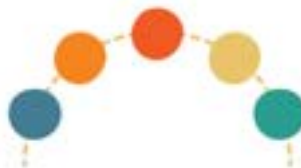


RESEARCH

Undertaking comprehensive research to inform on student demand, mobility patterns and demographics, and to equip us to support learner access and mobility in ways that are strategic, effective, and efficient.

COLLABORATION

Working together with post-secondary partners to advance learner mobility and expand pathways within and across borders.





LEARNER MOBILITY

*PSIs = post-secondary institutions

Transfer → U

On average, BC transfer students constitute 29% of all students admitted in a year at participating BC public universities.



Success

Post transfer, transfer students perform as well as students who enter post-secondary directly from a BC high school.

50K Mobile

Approximately 50,000 students move between BC's public PSIs, annually.

(Source: Student Transitions Project)



400K Credits

Every year, students transfer roughly 400K credits between public PSIs.

45% → >1 PSI

45% of bachelor degree grads attended >1 public PSI.

(Source: Student Transitions Project)





FACILITATION

THE VITAL ROLE OF ARTICULATION COMMITTEES

BC's articulation committees play a vital role in the overall functioning of BC's transfer system.

Committee discussions help to foster the kind of communication and trust needed to overcome transfer barriers and enable student mobility.^[5] Because of the dedicated efforts of these individuals, students benefit from a responsive and effective transfer network.

Every year, committees gather to discuss key articulation issues and developments.

BCCAT provides information and resources supporting articulation committees, available at bccat.ca/articulation/info.

BC's transfer network works effectively because of the dedicated efforts of thousands of individuals across BC's post-secondary transfer community working together to expand learner pathways.

A key component of BCCAT's mandate is the facilitation of transfer and articulation among BC's transfer institutions. This includes supporting and coordinating BC's 65 articulation committees, hosting the Joint Annual Meeting (JAM), and working with provincial partners to address transfer issues.

⁵ In May 2024, the English as an Additional Language (EAL) Articulation Committee approved the 2024 alignments for English for Academic Purposes (EAP) Learning Outcomes and Canadian Language Benchmarks (CLBs). The summary is available at bccat.ca/publication/eapclbsummary2024.



JAM 2024

The Joint Annual Meeting (JAM) brings together transfer partners from across BC and beyond to connect, share, and learn about issues impacting student transfer and mobility. At JAM 2024 there was much to celebrate as we joined together in marking BCCAT's 35th anniversary, 15 years of JAM, and 10 years of the BCCAT Transfer Awards.

The theme was "Growing Together", bringing into focus the remarkable history of BC's transfer community, looking at where we are today, and also considering the road ahead for us as an evolving transfer ecosystem.

The event drew **388 participants** who participated in a variety of ways: submitting questions, joining in discussions, sharing reflections and learning, and offering suggestions on how to modernize the BC Transfer System for the future.

There were 22 sessions over two days. One panel discussion looked at "The Impact on Transfer Due to Changes to International Study Permits," generating stimulating discussion and food for thought going forward.

This year, for the first time, BCCAT also hosted a Viewing Party to accommodate individuals wishing to gather together on the "Online Only" day. Feedback from participants was very positive, so it is likely this will become a regular JAM feature in future years!

Feedback from JAM 2024 participants:

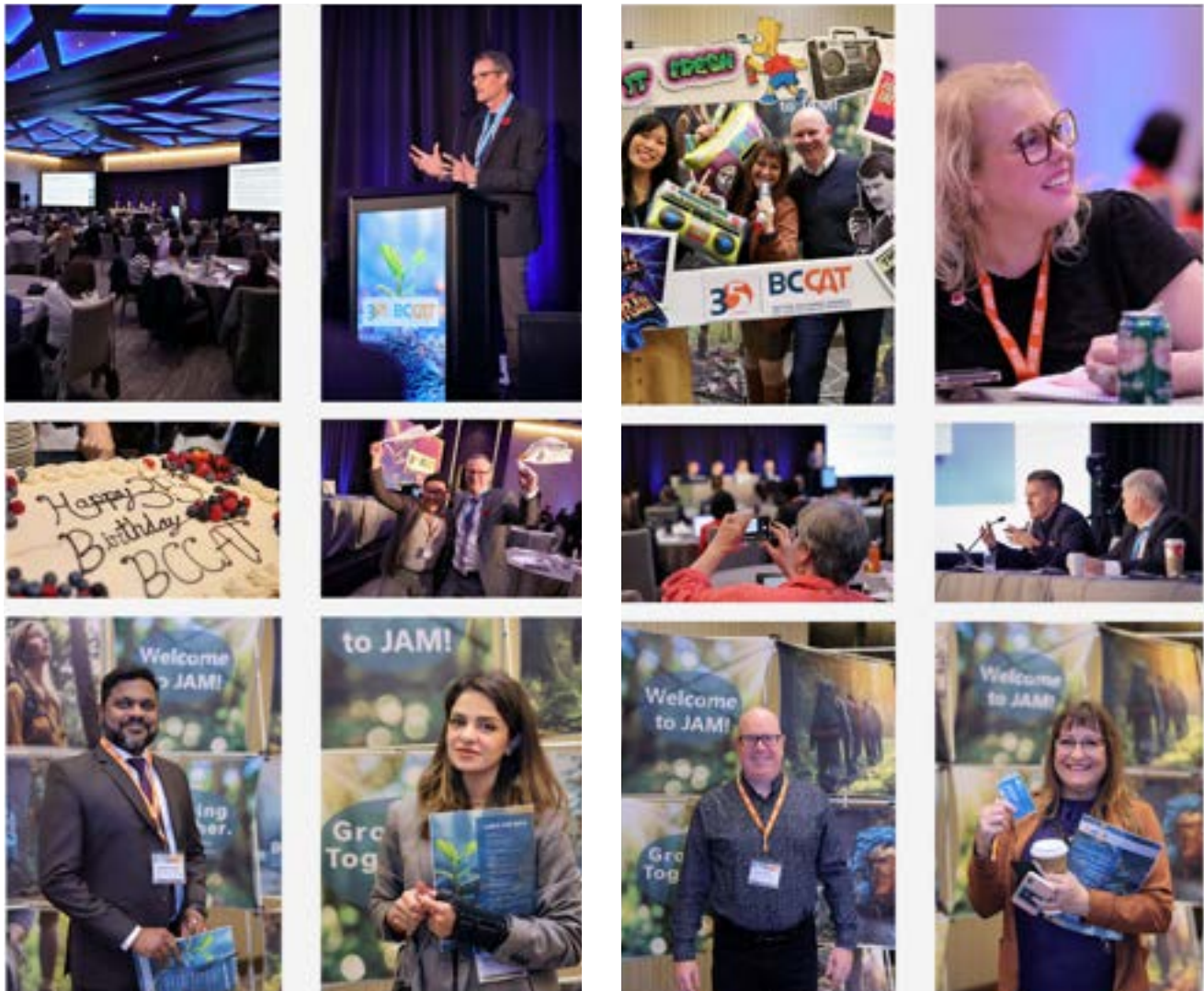
Thank you to all of the organizers and presenters! JAM 2024 was very engaging and the sessions covered very relevant topics to today's articulation and credit transfer landscape.

This is always my favourite conference – not only do I come away with great data, but it is also a great opportunity to discover trends in post-secondary education and advances BCCAT is making in technology and research. I really appreciated the sessions on ABE and Associate Degrees. I also really enjoyed the panel comments on the IRCC changes and what that means for the future of this industry.

JAM 2024 participants also joined in the fun, competing in the "Celebrate Good Times Photo Contest" and the "Back to the Future Trivia Quiz". And those who browsed the "History Corner" were able to learn more about key milestones throughout the history of BCCAT and BC's transfer system.

Learn more!

Explore the JAM 2024 playlist on YouTube at www.youtube.com/@bccat_org, or check out our website at bccat.ca/articulation/jam.



PICTURED ABOVE: TOP ROW (L-R): Angus Graeme (BCCAT Co-Chair) speaks while gathered attendees listen; Jennifer Kook (Associate Director, Member Services & Engagement, BCCAT), and colleagues Jean Maltesen (Interim Associate VP Academic) and Andrew Armour (Associate Registrar, Admissions & Registration) --both from Vancouver Island University-- try out the 80s photo booth; and Marnie Findlater (Assistant Registrar, Records & Systems, Vancouver Community College) takes in the proceedings.

MIDDLE ROW (L-R): BCCAT's birthday cake; Ernest Kwok (Audit & Articulation Officer, Thompson Rivers University) and Mike Winsemann (Director, Transfer & Technology, BCCAT) join in the excitement; Jennifer Kirkey (Instructor, Faculty of Science, Douglas College) snaps a photo; Philipp Reichert (Director, Global Engagement, University of British Columbia & Senior Advisor, Canadian Bureau for International Education) shares in a panel discussion, alongside Neil Mort (President, Ascenda School of Management).

BOTTOM ROW (L-R): Nirmal Vasanth (Faculty Member, Ascenda School of Management); Mahsa Heydari (Transfer Credit Officer, University Canada West); Mark Wallin (Assoc. Dean of Arts, Thompson Rivers University); and Jean Maltesen (Vancouver Island University) pose for the camera. PHOTO CREDITS: Eyes Multimedia

BCCAT TRANSFER AWARDS

Celebrating BC's Transfer Champions

In 2014, the Council launched the BCCAT Transfer Awards to acknowledge and celebrate individuals among us who demonstrate exemplary leadership in the BC post-secondary system through activities that make a significant and valuable contribution to BC's transfer community.

At the 2024 Awards Ceremony we were pleased to mark the 10th anniversary of the awards by celebrating two new awardees. Congratulations to Pricilla Stone and Emily Gadzala, and special thanks to all of you who contribute to the effectiveness of our transfer network for the benefit of students.



For more information, see bccat.ca/about/awards, where you can learn more about these and other awardees.

PRICILLA STONE

Articulation & Transfer Credit Officer, Vancouver Community College

* RISING STAR AWARD *

Pricilla will always advocate for a resolution that benefits the student while maintaining the academic integrity of our institution. Pricilla is a singular spirit and the Registrar's Office at VCC is a better place because of her diligence, skills, wisdom, and empathy.

Marnie Findlater, Assistant Registrar, Records & Systems, VCC.

EMILY GADZALA

Student Advisor, Faculty of Environment, University of Northern British Columbia

* TRANSFER & ARTICULATION SERVICE AWARD *

We are nominating Emily for the Transfer & Articulation Service Award for her exceptional, highly effective, innovative, and tireless work with students. We give her our strongest possible nomination for this award for her incredible efforts that have made a major difference in the lives and careers of hundreds of students at UNBC.

Dezene Huber, Professor, Faculty of Environment & Tamara Sweet, U/G Admissions & Articulation Coordination, Office of the Registrar, UNBC.



RESEARCH

BC Transfer Students

Profile & Performance (2018/19-2022/23)

Prepared for BCCAT by A. Wong; N. Franzova; S. Bajracharya

The report and infographic summary are available at

bccat.ca/publication/bctransferstudents2024

This report highlights the pathways and performance of students who transferred credits from BC Transfer System institutions to Capilano University, Kwantlen Polytechnic University, Royal Roads University, Simon Fraser University, Thompson Rivers University, University of British Columbia, University of Northern British Columbia, University of the Fraser Valley, and University of Victoria during the period 2018/19 to 2022/23 academic years.

BCCAT has conducted studies on BC transfer student profile and performance for nearly 30 years (e.g., in 2010, 2015 and 2020). These studies compare BC transfer students' profile and performance with the demographics and performance of students who entered the universities directly from a BC high school ("BC direct entry students"). The results of the current research support many findings of the previous similar studies and also uncover trends that were specific to the latest reporting period, part of which coincided with the COVID-19 pandemic.

Research is a key component of BCCAT's mandate, allowing us all to better understand key issues impacting student demand, patterns and demographics. Deeper comprehension leads the way to informed decisions that better support student access and mobility.

29%

On average, BC transfer students constitute 29% of all students admitted in a year at participating BC public universities.

46 credits

BC transfer students carry an average of 46 credits (equivalent to 1.5 years of full time study).

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

Upgrading Programs

Prepared by T. James



bccat.ca/publication/upgradingprograms/

Student Transitions from Adult Basic Education (ABE) Upgrading Programs into Further Studies at BC Post-Secondary Institutions

This study identified routes from ABE upgrading courses into undergraduate and other programs within the BC post-secondary institutions that offer upgrading courses. To evaluate the success of ABE students in further post-secondary education, interviews with ABE professionals and data from previous provincial and institutional research on the outcomes of ABE programs were employed.

Summer Melt

Prepared by A. Tikina



bccat.ca/publication/summermelt/

This short report reviews factors contributing to “summer melt”* including different types of barriers for admitted post-secondary applicants, strategies to reduce summer melt and their success. The prospects and options of estimating summer melt at the system level in British Columbia are also discussed.

* “Summer Melt” refers to instances when post-secondary students who received an offer of admission and may have paid a deposit when accepting the offer “fail to enroll at all in the fall after high school graduation”.

Research Factor



bccat.ca/publication/accessibleadmissions/

Take a tour through our “[Research Factor](https://www.youtube.com/@bccat_org)” playlist (at www.youtube.com/@bccat_org) for a quick and easy walk through key research findings. The latest addition is a video looking at findings from the 2023 report, *Accessible Admissions: Fostering Equitable, Accessible, and Inclusive Admissions through Disability Justice*.

To explore BCCAT publications, go to bccat.ca/publications. Learn more about BCCAT research at bccat.ca/research/overview.

STUDENT TRANSITIONS

20 Years of STP Research

The STP has collected twenty years of student data from twenty grade 12 graduation cohorts and twenty years of post-secondary enrolments.

To celebrate this achievement, this report provides a twenty-year review of STP research findings, including trends in student transitions, enrolments, mobility and credential completions, along with some interpretation of those trends, concluding with future goals of the STP over the next twenty years.

Scan
to view



<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/education/post-secondary-education/data-research/stp/infographic-20-years-stp-full-report.pdf>

International Students in BC's Education Systems

This report provides key research findings from a recently updated analysis of international students studying in the BC secondary and post-secondary education systems.

Scan
to view



https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/education/post-secondary-education/data-research/stp/stp2023_international_research_results_2025-02-07_final2.pdf

ABOUT THE STP

The Student Transitions Project (STP) is a collaboration between the Ministries of Education and Advanced Education, public post-secondary institutions and BCCAT, linking student data across education systems to answer questions on student mobility and guide program planning.

TECHNOLOGIES

BCCAT works together with institutional partners to develop and enhance technologies focused on upgrading and streamlining transfer processes, and on informing and supporting students with their post-secondary pathway planning.

BCTransferGuide.ca and the Transfer Credit System (TCS)

[BCTransferGuide.ca](https://bctransferguide.ca) is the most comprehensive resource used by students and post-secondary faculty and staff for identifying, documenting, and planning transfer pathways.

The Transfer Credit System (TCS) underlies the BC Transfer Guide database. Through the TCS, BC's transfer institutions are able to formalize transfer decisions for publishing to the BC Transfer Guide.



Stepping Up the TCS

Stakeholder consultation is underway to gather feedback for modernizing the TCS technologies. The TCS last underwent a major revision in 2019, with new enhancements added annually. BCCAT intends to conduct an end-to-end review of the TCS workflow, to explore how to incorporate new technologies including AI and greater automations.

BCCAT is currently expanding the TCS to include micro-credential pathways within the BC Transfer Guide. BCCAT is working in partnership with [TRU's Credit Bank](#) to develop a workflow to enable broader articulation of micro-credentials to credit-based programs.

BCCAT is also working with the Ontario Council on Articulation and Transfer (see <https://oncat.ca>) to deploy an Ontario version of the TCS scheduled for launch in June, 2025. Once launched, BC and Ontario will share the same online platform. This will increase efficiency in terms of ongoing development costs and shared technologies.

BC TRANSFER GUIDE

THE STATS

Equivalencies

292.4K	British Columbia
86K	Pan-Canadian & Int'l
378.4K	Total Equivalencies
1,618	Block Transfer Agreements
37.7K	Active Courses (BC)

Analytics

382K	Active Users
2.3M	Page Views
705K	Sessions*

*Sessions are initiated when a user visits the website or views a page or screen. Sessions time out after 30 minutes of user inactivity.

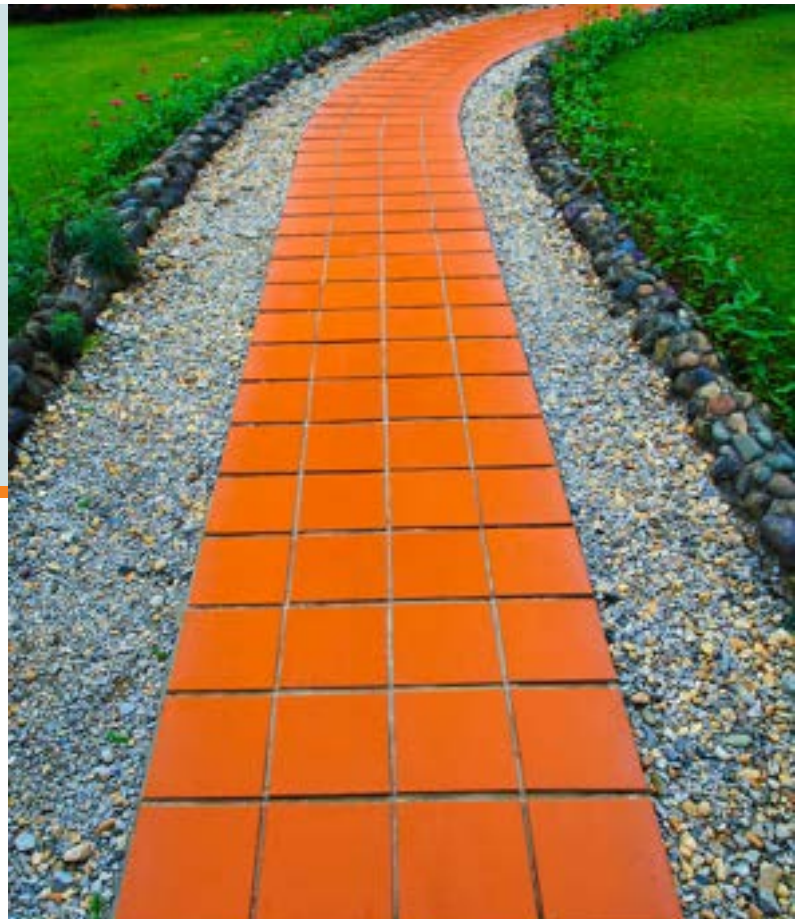
TCS PROGRAM PATHWAYS PROJECT



The TCS Program Pathways project aims to address information challenges faced by our transfer students and BC’s post-secondary institutions when mapping bridging and laddering learning opportunities.

The project utilizes the existing TCS, leveraging the already familiar system-wide workflow, data tables and data management tools, to aggregate course-level program requirements and facilitate the creation and maintenance of program pathways. The proof of concept provides a limited scope foundation that can be extended to accommodate other program structures and types of pathway opportunities.

The TCS Pathways tool will be piloted over Summer 2025, by proof-of-concept partners including the Northern Consortium post-secondary institutions and Engineering programs stakeholders. Alongside the pilot, BCCAT will be adding programs that work within the currently developed scope for our next phase PSI partners and anticipate including numerous programs that could be available for institutions to create pathway agreements and partnerships later this year. Future development includes expanding the scope of programs that are able to be added, working with specific program areas, and identifying pathway priorities that benefit learners and post-secondary.



Participating Institutions:



Learn more!

bccat.ca/technology/pathways





COLLABORATION

BCCAT works together with partners within and beyond BC to advance learner access and mobility within and beyond our provincial borders. Through leveraging resources and shared learning, we are better able to support students now and going forward.

Three major collaborative projects have already been referenced in this report:

- a) Expansion of the TCS to include micro-credential credit pathways, in partnership with **Thompson Rivers University - Open Learning**;^[6]
- (b) Working with the **Ontario Council on Articulation and Transfer (ONCAT)** to deploy an Ontario version of the TCS;^[7]
- (c) Development of a **TCS Program Pathways** tool; currently entering the pilot phase, working together with two BC post-secondary stakeholder groups.^[8]

BCCAT is also working with **EducationPlannerBC** to enable transfer credit data exchange with the TCS. The goal is to enable students to see how their courses transfer based on their post-secondary academic transcripts.

BCCAT is an active member of the **Pan-Canadian Consortium on Admissions and Transfer (PCCAT)**^[9] and **CATCan**, a network of Canadian “CATs” (BCCAT’s counterparts in other provincial jurisdictions).

BCCAT staff members also participate with the **Association of Registrars of the Universities and Colleges of Canada (ARUCC)**^[10] and BCCAT is a signatory of the **Groningen Declaration Network (GDN)**. In May 2025, BCCAT participated at the GDN PCCAT Conference (Toronto; May 28–30, 2025).^[11]

6 See <https://inside.tru.ca/2025/01/28/tru-open-learning-receives-funds-to-improve-micro-credential-assessment/>
7 See p. 15 for more information regarding these TCS projects.
8 See p. 16 for further details about the TCS Program Pathways project.
9 For more information, see <https://www.pccat.ca>
10 See <https://arucc.ca>
11 See <https://groningendeclaration.org/gdn-pccat-2025>

THE PATH FORWARD

The work of BCCAT would not be possible without the dedicated efforts of thousands of individuals from across BC's transfer community. We are mindful that there is much yet to be done going forward as we work together to adapt and expand in the face of current challenges. And we are grateful for the opportunity to continue our collaborative relationships in support of students.

BCCAT'S Council & Committees

The Council guides the work of three standing committees, each devoted to different aspects of the Council's mandate.^[12] We are grateful for the valuable contributions of all Council and committee members.

This year, we were pleased to welcome the following new members to the Council:

- **Avery Hulbert**, Faculty Instructor, College of the Rockies
- **Stephanie McKeown**, Chief Institutional Research Officer, University of British Columbia
- **Kathy Siedlaczek**, Dean, Academic Planning & Quality Assurance, British Columbia Institute of Technology
- **Sunita Wiebe**, Director, Academic Quality Assurance, Langara College



¹² For more information, see bccat.ca/about/council and bccat.ca/about/committees



Finally, our thanks go to these outgoing members for their contributions to the work of the Council over the years:

- **Helen McGregor**, Superintendent & CEO, Vancouver School District
- **Laureen Styles**, Interim President and Vice-Chancellor, Capilano University

Message from our Co-Chairs

BC's remarkable transfer community continues to deliver positive outcomes and innovative transfer choices for students.

This past year the BC Council on Admissions and Transfer has been effective in responding to current challenges and opportunities for the transfer system and remains focused on ensuring that students continue to benefit from flexible pathways into the future.

BC's transfer system continues to operate as a model of post-secondary system collaboration in Canada and an important investment in the future of post-secondary students across the province.



Robert Fleming
Executive Director
& Co-Chair, BCCAT



Angus Graeme
Council Co-Chair
& Former President,
Selkirk College

LINKS FOR INFO

Council & Committees

bccat.ca/about/council

bccat.ca/about/committees

Articulation & JAM

bccat.ca/articulation

bccat.ca/articulation/jam

Publications

bccat.ca/publications

Research

bccat.ca/research/projects

bccat.ca/research/plan

Technology

bccat.ca/technology/overview

BCCAT Transfer Awards

bccat.ca/about/awards

Engage (Subscribe for regular updates!)

bccat.ca/about/news/#Engage



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BC Council on Admissions & Transfer

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