June 21, 2023

Ms. Bobbi Plecas
Deputy Minister
Ministry of Post-Secondary Education & Future Skills
PO Box 9884, Stn Prov Govt
Victoria BC V8W 9T6

Email: AEST.DeputyMinister@gov.bc.ca

Dear Ms. Plecas

On behalf of the BC Council on Admissions and Transfer (BCCAT), we are pleased to present BCCAT's 2022-23 Annual Review, *Sustainable Transfer: Growing an adaptive eco-system that mobilizes student journeys*.

Students today face a fast-changing world. Adaptability and agility in education and training are vital for enabling student opportunities and success. BC's flexible transfer community stands ready to address emerging issues and priorities, responding to the needs of students in ways that are strategic and sustainable.

BCCAT oversees BC's transfer community, facilitating admission, articulation, and transfer arrangements among BC Transfer System member institutions. This Annual Review walks through key developments and collaborations from the past year. The report and a related infographic are available at https://www.bccat.ca/publications/annualreview2023.

COMMUNITY

The thousands of individuals who work every day to expand transfer pathways are the connective tissue of BC's transfer eco-system. BC's 65+ articulation committees play an essential role in supporting and advancing the system for the benefit of students. These groups meet regularly to address transfer issues and developments. Those discussions foster respectful working relationships, enabling dialogue and collaboration. (See our YouTube video, Articulation Committees: The Heart of BC's Transfer System" for a look at the important work of articulation committees.)

Every year, BCCAT hosts the **Joint Annual Meeting (JAM)**, bringing together the higher education, articulation, and administrative communities across the province of BC and beyond to connect, share, and learn about issues impacting student transfer and mobility.

JAM 2022 (our first ever hybrid event) focused on *Sustainability, Learning, Access & Mobility.* Over 300 people registered and the engagement over both days was outstanding. Attendees made the most of the opportunity to interact, through discussion, chats, live Q&As, polls, and more. A highlights video and session videos are available at www.youtube.com/@bccat_org. For more information see bccat.ca/articulation/jam

TECHNOLOGIES

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

BCTransferGuide.ca is widely recognized as the "go-to" resource for planning transfer pathways. The site is used by learners, advisors, and educators from across BC, Canada and around the world to view how equivalent courses and programs transfer to BC institutions, enabling stacking and laddering of quality assured academic credits and credentials.

- **400,000+ academic course credits** are recognized for transfer amongst BC's public post-secondary institutions each year
- **55,000+ students** move between BC public post-secondary institutions annually
- **350,000+ provincial, national and international course equivalencies** and **1,500+ program pathway agreements** listed in the BC Transfer Guide
- **80,000+ external equivalencies** have been added to the database in recent years, as BC Transfer System member institutions continue to upload their pan-Canadian and international transfer equivalencies
- This year, we developed a **"transfer widget"** enabling institutions to create their own, web-based customized transfer search tools using BCCAT technologies

BC's post-secondary institutions (PSIs) offer a wide range of flexible pathway options for students. This year, we collaborated with seven PSIs to create the "Transfer To" video series promoting these pathway options. (There are more videos to come as other PSIs have stepped forward to participate in this project.)

The **Transfer Credit System (TCS)** electronic work flow and software underlies the BC Transfer Guide database. Through the TCS, BC's post-secondary transfer institutions to formalize transfer decisions for publishing to the BC Transfer Guide. Recent TCS enhancements allow for easier tracking of articulation activity and make it possible to identify opportunities to create reciprocal agreements.

RESEARCH

A sustainable transfer eco-system thrives on clarity and comprehension of key issues. Research allows BCCAT and its partners to better understand student demand, patterns and demographics, and enables us to support student access and mobility in ways that are both strategic and effective. A few highlights on recently completed projects are provided below.

- ### The Collection and Use of Student Data on Race, Ethnicity, and Ancestry

  A framework to guide the collection and use of student data on race, ethnicity, and ancestry to support equity, and inclusion in BC public post-secondary institutions.

  Prepared by UBC's Planning and Institutional Research Office in collaboration with DPM Research, for BCCAT, EducationPlannerBC, and the BC Registrars Association (BCRA).

  bccat.ca/publication/reastudentdata/

  This project reviews data collection practices regarding race, ethnicity and ancestry (REA) in post-secondary institutions (PSIs) in Canada, as well as in other relevant sectors (e.g., health, K-12 education, government agencies). The goal of the project was to identify promising practices and to develop recommendations to guide REA data collection initiatives both at the institutional and system level in BC post-secondary education.

The framework for the collection and use of student demographic data, which was developed through the project work, offers a comprehensive approach to demographic data both at the institutional and system levels, considering the tools to be used, as well as appropriate processes to meet the objectives of the data collection. The report contains a discussion of key terms and definitions as well as examples of data collection questions used by other PSIs and organizations.

- **Survey of Mobile Students**

    Infographic summaries (focused on *Demographics*, *Motivations*, and *Mobility*) and sector-related reports are available at: bccat.ca/publication/surveyofmobilestudents

    In 2019, BCCAT collaborated with BC Stats to conduct the Survey of Mobile Students: this project examined transfer students ("movers") and their decisions, motivations, and experiences within the BC transfer environment. Expanding on the information collected through its predecessor, the 2012 Survey of Movers, this survey took place in the spring of 2019 and included **4,566 respondents** from a cohort drawn using Student Transitions Project (STP) data.

    The information provided by respondents helps explain their profiles and pathways—who they are and how and why they change institutions—in ways that can inform future research, policies, and practices supporting post-secondary movers in the BC Transfer System.

For further information regarding BCCAT's research projects, see bccat.ca/research/plan

COLLABORATION

Collaboration is vital for building sustainability into our transfer processes and practices. BCCAT collaborates with post-secondary partners from BC and beyond to expand student pathways within and across borders.

BCCAT and EducationPlannerBC are focused on working towards integrating transfer credit information into the application process for post-secondary education. As a first step, BCCAT has undertaken a proof of concept **Program Pathways building too**l that will connect equivalency data in the TCS with program-level course requirement information. This project leverages currently existing digital services and transfer data, and aligns with the target outcomes identified by BC's Ministry of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills' Digital Services initiative.

Meanwhile, BCCAT is consulting with BC Transfer System members to review **membership policies** in relation to out-of-province and private institutions. Another area of consideration will be eligibility for membership for **Indigenous and First Nations institutions** delivering post-secondary pathways or degree-level curriculum, on their own or in partnership with public post-secondary institutions and other partners.

BCCAT has been working with the Indigenous Policy & Engagement Branch (BC Government), Indigenous Adult and Higher Learning Association (IAHLA), and key contacts regarding the transferability of Language Fluency degree programs and articulation relationships of IAHLA schools with BC Transfer System member institutions.

Finally, we continue to work with inter-provincial transfer partners to expand pathways within and across jurisdictional borders. This includes exploring the potential for collaborative initiatives, including the potential for leveraging technologies and sharing information.

We are mindful of the words of the Honourable Minister Selina Robinson, underscoring the importance of supporting student journeys: *"Our Government appreciates BCCAT's important role in supporting students to ensure we have the skilled workforce we need for British Columbia to be successful. Expanding transfer pathways and supporting student journeys through the BC Transfer System helps to increase access to post-secondary education and skills training and allow British Columbians to reach their fullest potential."*

It is a privilege to be able to work together to advance a sustainable transfer system that enables access and mobility for students, and we look forward to continuing this important work going forward.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Rob Fleming
Co-Chair and Executive Director

Mr. Jim Hamilton
Co-Chair, and Retired President, Okanagan College

cc:　Ms. Nicola Lemmer, Assistant Deputy Minister, Post-Secondary Policy and Programs (PSEFS)
　　　Mr. Tony Loughran, Executive Lead, Governance, Legislation and Corporate Planning (PSEFS)
　　　Mr. Ben Ferrel, Executive Director, Post-Secondary Digital Policy & Programs (PSEFS)

Encs.