

June 18, 2025

Mr. Trevor Hughes
Deputy Minister
Ministry of Post-Secondary Education & Future Skills
Email: PSFS.DeputyMinister@gov.bc.ca

Dear Mr. Hughes:

On behalf of the BC Council on Admissions and Transfer (BCCAT), we are pleased to present BCCAT's 2024-25 Annual Review, "Stepping Up" (available online at bccat.ca/publication/annualreview2025). This report presents an overview of activities and developments from the 2024-25 academic year, as BCCAT and partners from within and beyond BC have worked to expand transfer pathways in support of learner access and mobility.

In 2024, BCCAT marked 35 years since the Council was first established to oversee BC's post-secondary transfer system. In the current climate, we see fresh challenges emerging. At this juncture, it is worthwhile to reflect on what has made BC's transfer community so responsive and adaptive over the years, and how we may build on those strengths moving forward.

To date, learners continue to benefit from the availability of a wide range of flexible pathway options:

- 400K credits transfer each year (between public post-secondary institutions, or "PSIs")
- 50K learners move between public PSIs annually (Source Student Transitions Project STP)
- 45% of degree graduates attended >1 public PSI (Source: STP)

BCCAT's mandate can be broken down into four key areas of work: facilitation, research, technologies, and collaboration. Here are a few highlights, in summary.

FACILITATION

Every year, BCCAT hosts the Joint Annual Meeting (JAM), bringing together transfer and articulation partners from across BC and beyond to connect, share, and learn about issues impacting transfer and mobility. At JAM 2024, the theme was "Growing Together". The event drew **388 (online and in-person) participants**, and 22 sessions were held over two days.

This year, JAM participants reflected on where we are today and what's ahead for us as an evolving transfer ecosystem. For more information, see bccat.ca/articulation/jam. We would also invite you to check out the JAM 2024 video playlist at www.youtube.com/@bccat_org.

In 2014, the Council launched the BCCAT Transfer Awards to acknowledge and celebrate individuals among us who make significant and valuable contributions to transfer and mobility in BC. At the 2024 BCCAT Transfer Awards ceremony, we celebrated the 10th anniversary by honouring two new winners:

- Pricilla Stone (Articulation & Transfer Credit Officer, Vancouver Community College)
 - RISING STAR AWARD
- Emily Gadzala (Student Advisor, Faculty of Environment, University of Northern British Columbia
 - TRANSFER & ARTICULATION SERVICE AWARD

Both Pricilla and Emily exemplify the kinds of "transfer champions" for which the awards were created. They stand out for their proactive and tireless efforts in support of learners. For more information, see bccat.ca/about/awards

RESEARCH

Research allows us to better understand key issues impacting student demand, patterns, and demographics, informing strategic policies and processes in support of students.

This year, we published a report looking at the pathways and performance of BC transfer students who transferred credits from BC Transfer System member institutions to nine BC public universities during the 2018-19 to 2022-23 academic years. One key finding of the report is that BC transfer students performed *at least as well* as those who entered directly from secondary school. The results of this study support findings of previous studies and uncover trends that were specific to the latest reporting period, part of which coincided with the COVID-19 pandemic. See bccat.ca/publication/bctransferstudents2024 for more information.

For an overview of recent publications and resources, see the attached document, "2024-25 Publications & Resources" – also available at bccat.ca/publication/annualreview2025.

TECHNOLOGIES

<u>BCTransferGuide.ca</u> is the most comprehensive resource used by the post-secondary community for identifying, documenting, and planning transfer pathways. Here's a quick look at the analytics for the site for 2024-25:

- 378.4K Total Equivalencies (BC and External)
- 1,618 Block Transfer Agreements
- 382K Active Users

The <u>Transfer Credit System (TCS)</u> 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. Currently, four collaborative TCS-related projects are underway:

(a) Expansion of the TCS to include micro-credential pathways assessed for credit, in partnership with Thompson Rivers University – Open Learning;

- (b) Working with the Ontario Council on Articulation and Transfer to deploy an Ontario version of the TCS;
- (c) Development of a <u>TCS Program Pathways tool</u>, working together with BC post-secondary institutions to develop more comprehensive program to program pathway agreements; and
- (d) Collaboration with <u>EducationPlannerBC</u> 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.

COLLABORATION

BCCAT works together with partners 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.

In addition to the collaborative (TCS-related) projects mentioned above, BCCAT also collaborates with interprovincial and international partners, such as the (a) <u>Pan-Canadian Consortium on Admissions and Transfer (PCCAT)</u>; (b) CATCan (BCCAT's counterparts in other provincial jurisdictions); (c) the <u>Association of Registrars of the Universities and Colleges of Canada (ARUCC)</u>; and (d) the <u>Groningen Declaration Network (GDN)</u>.

In closing, the work of BCCAT would not be possible without the collaboration and commitment of thousands of individuals dedicated to enabling learner access and mobility. We very much appreciate the words of the Minister, Hon. Anne Kang, who stated the following when she reflected on current developments affecting post-secondary education: "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."

As we move forward together, we are honoured to continue the important work of ensuring that learners throughout the province continue to benefit from flexible post-secondary pathways.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Rob Fleming Co-Chair and Executive Director Mr. Angus Graeme Co-Chair, and Retired President, Selkirk College

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Mr. Chris Rathbone, Assistant Deputy Minister, Post-Secondary Policy, and Programs (PSEFS) Mr. Ben Ferrel, Executive Director, Post-Secondary Digital Policy, and Programs (PSEFS)

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