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MEDIA RELEASE

## **BC Budget investing in students**

*Provincial investment in skills, training and education builds talent to fuel BC's future growth*

VICTORIA, BC, February 28, 2023 – The [British Columbia Association of Institutes and Universities](#) (BCAIU) is pleased to see the BC Government's continued commitment to reducing financial barriers for skills, training and education.

Targeted grants to support short-term skills training, a doubling of the student loan maximum and an increase in the amount a student can earn before they must begin loan repayment mean more British Columbians will be able to access the skills, training, and education they need for in-demand careers.

Budget 2023 recognizes the vital role that BCAIU member institutions have in their communities, partnering with the business sector and meeting the societal challenges from public safety to health care. The Budget includes investments in student housing and services at BCAIU member institutions and capital funding for forward-looking programs such as [BCIT's Trades and Technology Complex](#) and [Capilano University's Centre for Childhood Studies](#).

"We know that investing in learners' success is critical to our communities' future economy, sustainability and health and well-being," said Paul Dangerfield, Chair of BCAIU and President and Vice-chancellor at Capilano University. "Today's Budget will help BCAIU members deliver innovative programs to prepare students for the opportunities of today and tomorrow's economy."

BCAIU member institutions collaborate with community partners, organizations and businesses to develop programs, including applied research and experiential and work-integrated learning, so that students are ready to contribute to their workplace and community as soon as they graduate. BCAIU members use diverse delivery methods to promote a culture of continuous learning so that BC students can access the training and education they need to progress along in their careers.

"BCAIU's member institutions are helping equip BC's future-ready workforce. Continued investment in our institutions fosters growth and innovation, especially in high-demand sectors such as trades, healthcare, education and high-tech," said Dr. Deborah Saucier, Vice-chair of BCAIU and President and Vice-chancellor of Vancouver Island University. "In addition to preparing students with highly sought-after skills, we are working to enhance learners' experiences, so they are ready to contribute their knowledge, creativity and leadership in communities across the province."

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**About the British Columbia Association of Institutes and Universities (BCAIU)** BCAIU member institutions provide a wide range of programs and courses including academic, applied, workforce development and continuing education programs ranging from certificates through to masters' degrees. Our members are focused on meeting the needs of learners and are leaders in such areas as innovation and technology, health care, public safety, motion picture production, art and design, and education for Indigenous learners. We are committed to applied research, and experiential and work-integrated learning. Members include Vancouver Island University, University of the Fraser Valley, Kwantlen Polytechnic University, Capilano University, Yukon University, Emily Carr University of Art & Design, British Columbia Institute of Technology, Nicola Valley Institute of Technology and Justice Institute of British Columbia.

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