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Our Ref. 129145

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University of Victoria Faculty  
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Kenneth Christie  
President  
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Tony Ferreira  
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Canadian Union of Public  
Employees Local 917,  
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Daniel Gudino  
British Columbia Union  
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University of Victoria  
Graduate Students' Society

Glenda Beecham  
British Columbia Union  
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Richard Kool  
President  
Royal Roads University  
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Lynne Marks  
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Tiffany McLaughlin  
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Local 1858, Vancouver  
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Dear Ben Johnson, Kenneth Christie, Tony Ferreira, Daniel Gudino, Glenda Beecham, Cliff Haman, Richard Kool, Lynne Marks, Tiffany McLaughlin, Greg Melnechuk, Kirk Mercer, Gara Pruesse and Jen Wrye:

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Thank you for your letter addressed to Premier Eby and me, regarding your concerns for the financial state of Vancouver Island post-secondary institutions. I apologize for the delayed response.

I appreciate your advocacy on behalf of Vancouver Island students, faculty and post-secondary employees.

My Ministry provides funding for public post-secondary institutions under the *University Act*, *Royal Roads University Act* and the *College and Institute Act*, and institutions are responsible for the management and administration of their services, including financial and human resources matters.

I appreciate that some post-secondary institutions are still rebuilding from the COVID-19 pandemic. The Ministry worked diligently to support institutions' financial recovery from the pandemic in a variety of ways including allowing them to run deficit budgets, as well as adjusting the timing of government transfers to assist institutions with changes to cash flows.

It is also important to note the federal Department of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada is responsible for immigration matters, including study and work permits for international students. Although the Government of British Columbia is in regular contact with Canada on international education matters, decisions regarding the eligibility requirements, as well as the issuance of study and work permits, are solely Canada's responsibility.

Concerning your recommendations regarding international student enrollment and tuition at British Columbia's public post-secondary institutions, my Ministry has established [\*Guidelines Respecting International Students at British Columbia Public Post-Secondary Institutions\*](#), which sets out recommendations for consideration for public post-secondary institutions in regard to international tuition fees.

To assist with the costs of education and skills training for students, and to ensure post-secondary institutions can continue to provide the skills and training needed to build good lives, my Ministry has [recently](#) announced the launch of the [StrongerBC: Future Ready Action Plan](#), which will develop trained, skilled and talented people to fill the jobs of today and tomorrow. As a key pillar of the [StrongerBC Economic Plan](#), launched in February 2022, the StrongerBC: Future Ready Action Plan invests an additional \$480 million dollars over the next three years in targeted supports to a broad range of British Columbians, including:

- Student space expansions in a wide range of occupations that are in high demand, including tech sector and early childhood education;
- More graduate scholarships and internships;
- Providing up to \$3500 per person to access short-term skills training through the StrongerBC Future Skills Grant;

- Development of just-in-time, short-term training that responds to sector and employer demand through the Rapid Response Training Initiative;
- Expansion of the Tuition Waiver for Youth in Care to all ages, and;
- Expanding initiatives to aid advancement in reconciliation and self determination for Indigenous peoples.

Public post-secondary institutions on Vancouver Island will be key partners in these initiatives and will be receiving significant new investments as a result. I am very grateful for the role post-secondary institutions play in communities across the Island and I agree that the post-secondary sector is crucial to British Columbia's citizenry. I am confident the StrongerBC: Future Ready Action Plan will support British Columbians to acquire the skills they need to succeed in British Columbia's diverse and innovative economy, which is only attainable through a strong post-secondary sector.

I trust this information has been helpful.

Sincerely,



Honourable Selina Robinson  
Minister

pc: Honourable David Eby  
Premier

[Premier@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Premier@gov.bc.ca)