



July 8, 2022

**Sent via email:** [aestfundingformulareview@gov.bc.ca](mailto:aestfundingformulareview@gov.bc.ca)

Don Wright  
Engagement Lead  
Post-Secondary Funding Formula Review

Dear Mr. Wright:

**RE: MoveUP BC Post-Secondary Funding Review Engagement Submission**

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On behalf of MoveUP, the union that represents over 12,000 public and private sector workers in British Columbia and nearly 400 support staff workers at Capilano University, I am submitting the following to be included in the ongoing BC public post-secondary funding review engagement.

I would like to also request that our organization be listed in the list of key stakeholders under the Labour associations category.

Any questions, concerns, and feedback can be directed to me at [cslusarenko@moveuptogether.ca](mailto:cslusarenko@moveuptogether.ca).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Slusarenko".

Christy Slusarenko  
Vice-President, Combined Units  
MoveUP

Att.

MoveUPTogether.ca



### **1. What are the most important contributions the PSE system makes to the economic, social, and environmental health of BC?**

Post-secondary education in British Columbia goes far beyond the conferring degrees or conducting research. It is a gateway to the rest of the country and to the world, highlighting our province as a place of ingenuity, advancement, progress, and diversity.

In economic terms, BC's post-secondary education system attracts millions of direct dollars from around the world but also leads to growth with many who choose to come here for post-secondary education also deciding to invest in our province and build their lives here.

Our post-secondary institutions serve as leaders on diversity, equity and inclusion and provide a roadmap for where we want our province to progress as a society both socially and environmentally.

### **2. What could the system be doing differently to enhance its contributions to the economic, social, and environmental health of BC?**

The system traditionally has given more prestige to institutions that focus on conventional studies, notably STEM programs, as well as focuses on enrolment size as a key indicator of success. Unfortunately, that limits the ability for growth and sustainability for many of BC's other post-secondary institutions whose offerings, expertise, and geographical area provide enormous potential particularly to provide opportunity for studies outside of STEM as well as for prospective students who, for one reason or another, do not find a comfortable fit within BC's larger institutions.

A change in the funding formula must, first and foremost, have an equity lens.

### **3. What do you see as the key economic, demographic, social and technological trends that will impact post-secondary education in BC over the next 30 years?**

We anticipate that, over the next 30 years, BC's demographic makeup will continue to increase in diversity and, at the same time, the predominant industries will be related to technology, health, and clean energy.

The institutions that are best positioned within these industries will get a lot of the focus. Our funding formula must balance between ensuring that our best-positioned institutions can be in a place that is world-class, but that our other institutions that do not specialize in these areas are not neglected or left behind. There are many areas of focus and study that are outside the STEM areas that must be allowed to continue to grow because they are vital for many people. These include studies in fields such as history, sociology, arts, psychology, communications, Indigenous studies and language, social justice, and so on.



#### **4. How do you think the PSE system needs to evolve in response to those trends?**

The PSE system needs to balance between positioning BC as a top post-secondary destination students, researchers and teachers around the world, and ensuring that the diverse needs of local students are not sacrificed. It must take additional steps to ensure that traditionally underfunded institutions and programs have an equal opportunity to thrive as the larger institutions and programs.

#### **5. What modifications to the funding formula would you recommend considering the above?**

The funding formula cannot be solely predicated on institution size and enrolment numbers. It must examine the local population and examine the factors that lead people to forego their local institutions and determine adequate funding that can help in retaining those people.

It must examine the uniqueness of program offerings among institutions and find ways to ensure that programs are not cut or lost because of lack of adequate funding.

Finally, it must also consider the demographic of those that are in those institutions and determine whether existing support systems are adequately funded to allow for people to thrive. This could include access to services such as childcare, mental health support, support for those who identify as Indigenous, Black, or People of Colour, people who identify as disabled, people who identify as women, and people who identify as 2SLGBTQIA+.