



**British Columbia
Degree Quality Assessment Board**

**10th Annual Report
1 April, 2012 - 31 March, 2013**

Ministry of Advanced Education



DEGREE QUALITY ASSESSMENT BOARD

November, 2013

File: 200-20/DQAB/REPORT

Honourable Amrik Virk
Minister of Advanced Education
Parliament Buildings
Victoria BC V8W 9E2

Dear Minister:

For the past ten years, the Board has carried out its advisory role by reviewing and making recommendations on applications for new degree programs, exempt status and use of “university”. The Board’s role has expanded in recent years to include an extensive performance reporting and monitoring process to ensure institutions under the *Degree Authorization Act* continue to maintain high quality operations.

In carrying out its duties to the Minister, the Board wishes to thank the work of the external reviewers who conducted quality assessments, as well as the work of the Secretariat staff as their contributions have been invaluable to the work of the Board.

On behalf of all Board members, I look forward to another productive year.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Nicholas Rubidge
Chair

Degree Quality Assessment Board

Roles and Responsibilities

The Degree Quality Assessment Board (the Board) reviews and makes recommendations to the Minister of Advanced Education (the Minister) on applications for:

- new degree programs and exempt status¹ submitted by British Columbia public post-secondary institutions and private and out-of-province public post-secondary institutions;
- use of the word “university” submitted by private and out-of-province public post-secondary institutions; and
- renewal of consent for existing degree programs and consents for use of “university” under the *Degree Authorization Act*.

The Board recommends to the Minister policies, criteria and guidelines that will apply for the purposes of giving or refusing consent or approval or attaching terms and conditions to consent. The Board also monitors organizational performance against strategic plans and compliance with applicable legislation and government direction, accounting to government and stakeholders through appropriate reporting.

Composition of the Board

The Board is composed of up to eleven voting members and three non-voting members. The voting members are selected for their background, experience and interest in post-secondary education, and include representatives from the private and public post-secondary degree-granting sectors, the business community, students and the general public. The three non-voting members are from the Ministry and the private training and transfer and articulation sectors. Please see Appendix 1 for Board Member biographies.

Board Members

Voting Members:

- Nicholas Rubidge, Chair
- Richard Tees, Vice-Chair
- Garth Evans
- Don Page
- Frank Pasacreta
- Robert Rogerson
- Carolyne Smart
- John Stubbs
- Laurel Douglas

Ex-officio Members:

- Rob Fleming, Executive Director/ Co-Chair, BCCAT
- Karin Kirkpatrick, Registrar, PCTIA
- Ian Rongve, Assistant Deputy Minister, Sector Strategy and Quality Assurance Division

¹ Institutions with proven track records (10 years’ history in enrolling students in programs in B.C. at a particular degree level) and appropriate governance mechanisms in place may apply for “exempt status” at a specific degree level. For example, if an institution meets the 10-year prerequisite period for baccalaureate degrees and satisfies other criteria for exempt status, the institution could apply for exempt status in respect of new baccalaureate degrees. When an institution has been granted exempt status at a certain degree level, proposals submitted for new degree programs at that level would go directly to the Minister for approval following the 30-day peer/public review period on the Ministry’s website. The board does not review the proposal unless the Minister has concerns about it and refers it to the board.

Board Secretariat The Governance and Quality Assurance Branch of the Ministry of Advanced Education provides secretariat support to the Board. The Secretariat provides policy and procedural advice, organizes meetings and expert review panels, and responds to inquiries from the public and applicant institutions. As of March 31, 2013 the Secretariat consists of:

Dorothy Rogers	<i>Director, Quality Assurance Unit</i>
Rosalyn Kilpatrick	<i>Education Officer</i>
Dao Luu	<i>Education Officer</i>
Dawn House	<i>Education Officer</i>
Vicki Simmons	<i>Policy Analyst</i>
Craig Mayer	<i>Research Officer</i>
Janet Jothen	<i>Contract Administrator</i>

Expert Reviewers

The Board relies on the expert opinions of highly qualified reviewers. These external experts review submissions of new degree programs and other applications², provide advice to the Board and are integral to the Board's role in ensuring that new proposed degree programs at both private and public post-secondary institutions meet the Minister's criteria.

The willingness of these experts to serve on review panels, and the quality of their advice, has greatly assisted the Board in conducting its work.

Board members and the external experts engaged by the Board adhere to a Conflict of Interest and Confidentiality Policy which ensures that Board members and external experts avoid any actual or perceived conflict of interest including that which might impair or impugn the independence, integrity or impartiality of the Board.

Thank you to the expert reviewers who provided evaluations this year³:

Dr. Bernard Adell	Dr. Wayne Greene	Dr. Ross Paul
Dr. Karen Bartlett	Dr. Kellie Hadden	Prof. David Percy
Mr. Jeffrey Berryman	Dr. Stanley Hamilton	Dr. Marcia Rioux
Dr. Konstantin Beznosov	Dr. Janice Hoshino	Dr. Donna Romyn
Dr. Daniel Birch	Dr. Dorothy Jantzen	Dr. Peter Schouls
Dr. Roger Blackman	Dr. Bruce Kapron	Dr. Richard K. Smith
Prof. Joost Blom	Mr. Adrian Kershaw	Ms. Brenda Snaith
Prof. Elisabeth Charman	Dr. Penny LeCouteur	Ms. Dorothy Stern
Dr. Stan Chung	Dr. Darrin Lehman	Dr. Landa Terblanche
Dr. Sandra Collins	Prof. Annick Mitchell	Dr. Miguel Vargas Martin
Dr. Rene Day	Dr. John Munro	Dr. Harro Van Brummelen
Dr. Stephen Dugiod	Dr. Neil Murphy	Dr. Patricia Vertinsky
Prof. Cezary Gajewski	Dr. Jennifer Nicol	Dr. Jan Walls
Dr. Brian Gillespie	Dr. Gerry Nixon	Dr. Neil Watson
Dr. Michael Goldberg	Ms. Anne Papas	

Conflict of Interest and Confidentiality

Board members must also adhere to the Guidelines for Conduct of Government Appointees to B.C. Agencies, Boards and Commissions developed by the Board Resourcing Development Office. External experts are also expected to adhere to the spirit of these guidelines.

² Experts may also be contracted to review applications for exempt status and for institutions governed by the *Degree Authorization Act*, applications for use of the word "university".

³ The list of expert reviewers below includes those that were involved in a quality assessment report where the report was submitted during the period covered by this report.

Degree Authorization Website

The Board and the Ministry communicate with post-secondary stakeholders and members of the public via the [Degree Authorization website](#). The website provides information about the Board, the quality assessment process, assessment criteria, guidelines and policies, relevant legislation, applications currently under review, recommendations of the Board and decisions of the Minister.

Activities of the Board

Recommendations to the Minister

During the period of April 1, 2012 to March 31, 2013, the Board made the following recommendations to the Minister (these included recommendations on submissions received during the 2011/12 reporting cycle):

- 8 recommendations for new degree programs
- 4 recommendations for re-consent of degree programs
- 3 recommendations for re-consent for use of the word “university”
- 2 recommendations for extension of consent
- 8 recommendations for Change of Consent
 - 6 location change requests
 - 2 name change requests

Other Activities

During the period of April 1, 2012 to March 31, 2013, the Board completed the following:

- 15 recommendations for review panels to be convened
- 19 issues related to performance and quality assurance standards identified for review of special terms and conditions of consent or provisions of the Board

British Columbia Public Institutions' Applications Requiring Board Review

Institution/ Program	DQAB Recommendation	Minister's Decision
British Columbia Institute of Technology		
Bachelor of Interior Design	Recommend Approval	Approval Granted March 27, 2013
Douglas College		
Bachelor of Arts Degree in Applied Psychology/ Honours	Under Review	
Bachelor of Science in Nursing	Recommend Approval	Approval Granted March 27, 2013
Emily Carr University of Art and Design		
Master of Design	Recommend Approval	Approval Granted March 27, 2013
Justice Institute of British Columbia		
Bachelor of Public Safety Administration	Recommend Approval	Approval Granted August 1, 2012

Private and Out-of-Province Public Institutions' Applications Requiring Board Review

Note: Includes recommendations made during 2011/12.

Institution/ Program	DQAB Recommendation	Minister's Decision
Adler School of Professional Psychology		
Doctor of Clinical Psychology (Psy.D.)	Recommend Consent	Consent Granted August 30, 2012
Master of Counselling Psychology: Art Therapy	Under Review	
City University of Seattle		
Application to use the word "university" (<i>renewal of consent</i>)	Recommend Consent	Consent Granted June 28, 2012
Master of Counselling (<i>renewal of consent</i>)	Recommend Consent	Consent Granted June 28, 2012
Master of Education in Leadership in Education/ School Counselling (<i>renewal of consent</i>)	Recommend Consent	Consent Granted June 28, 2012

Coquitlam College

Associate of Arts Degree	Recommend Consent
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Gonzaga University

Application to use the word “university” (<i>renewal of consent</i>)	Recommend Consent	Consent Granted June 28, 2012
Master of Education in Leadership and Administration (<i>renewal of consent</i>)	Recommend Consent	Consent Granted June 28, 2012
Master of Counselling (<i>renewal of consent</i>)	Recommend Consent	Consent Granted June 28, 2012

New York Institute of Technology

MBA with Concentrations (Finance) and (Tourism)	Under Review
Master of Science in Information, Network, and Computer Security	Under Review

Pacific Coast University for Workplace Health**Sciences**

Bachelor of Disability Management	Under Review
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Strong Education Ltd.

Bachelor of Commerce	Under Review
Master of Business Administration (MBA)	Under Review

Trinity Western

Juris Doctor	Under Review
PhD in Religious Studies	Under Review

University of Oregon

Application to use the word “university” (<i>renewal of consent</i>)	Recommend Consent	Consent Granted July 24, 2012
Master of Science in Educational Leadership (<i>renewal of consent</i>)	Recommend Consent	Consent Granted July 24, 2012

Determination of New Degrees

Determination of new degrees, requests for degree/credential name changes, and changes to consent.

The Degree Program Review Criteria and Guidelines include a provision that allows institutions to request the Board's determination on whether a change in program offering is of sufficient magnitude to be classed as a new degree requiring Board review and/or approval of the Minister.

During 2012/2013, the Board reviewed six requests received from institutions requesting the Board's determination of whether changes were of such a magnitude that they constituted a new degree and would require more formal review. The Board determined that one of the six requests did constitute a new degree. The Board also determined that five requests be approved without review as a new degree.

Determination - New Degree Requiring Review

Date Reviewed	Institution	Program
2013-Feb-12	<i>Thompson Rivers University</i>	The Board reviewed TRU's requested changes to the Bachelor of Journalism program. The Board determined that it is a new degree and a full proposal will need to be submitted to undergo a degree program review.

Determination - Approved without Review as New Degree

Date Reviewed	Institution	Program
2012-April-10	<i>Vancouver Island University</i>	The Board reviewed VIU's request to convert the Bachelor of Business Administration concentrations to majors. The Board did not consider the proposed changes to its BBA to be of sufficient magnitude to constitute a new degree.
2012-May-7	<i>Douglas College</i>	The Board reviewed Douglas College's correspondence regarding changes to the Bachelor of Physical Education and Coaching program. The Board noted that there were few changes and that the revisions to the program represented continuous improvement. The Board did not consider the proposed changes to the degree program to be of sufficient magnitude to

constitute a new degree.

2012-July-16	<i>University of Northern British Columbia</i>	The Board reviewed UNBC's request to change the name of the Master of Science in Mathematical, Computer and Physical Sciences to MSc in Chemistry, MSc in Computer Sciences, MSc in Mathematics, MSc in Physics and MSc in Biochemistry. The Board approved the name change.
2012-July-16	<i>Art Institute of Vancouver</i>	The Board reviewed AiV's correspondence regarding changes to their degree programs. The Board approved the changes as outlined in AiV's correspondence.
2012-July-16	<i>Vancouver Island University</i>	The Board reviewed VIU's request to create the Bachelor of Arts, Minor on Creative Writing from an existing major. The Board determined it is not a new degree and that VIU does not need approval to create a minor from an existing major.

Withdrawing a Proposal

Institutions are able to withdraw a proposal at any time prior to the Minister's decision. Institutions are informed at the time of application that withdrawn applications are posted publicly to ensure transparency and accountability in the quality assessment process.

The following applications were withdrawn during the period covered by this report:

Withdrawn Applications

Institution/ Program	Status	Date
Douglas College		
Bachelor of Business Administration Degree - Marketing	Withdrawn	July 9, 2012
Emily Carr University of Art and Design		
Masters of Applied Arts - Low Residency Streams	Withdrawn	June 7, 2012
Justice Institute of British Columbia		
BSc in Emergency Medical Services (EMS)	Withdrawn	March 13, 2013
Kwantlen Polytechnic University		
Bachelor of Nursing	Withdrawn	July 30, 2012
Art Institute of Vancouver		
Bachelor of Arts in Fashion Marketing	Withdrawn	March 5, 2013
Royal Canadian College		

Associate of Arts Degree	Withdrawn	July 3, 2012
Strong Education Ltd.		
Application to use the word “university”	Withdrawn	July 9, 2012

Reporting and Monitoring – Private and Out-of-Province Public Institutions

In addition to a quality assessment process, the *Degree Authorization Act* (DAA) requires all consent holders to submit annual reports to the Ministry and the Board including information on the institution, its operations in British Columbia, student demographics, the degree programs under consent and how they are continuing to meet or exceed performance standards under the established criteria.

In conjunction with the annual reporting cycle, representatives of the Ministry and Board Secretariat conduct an annual performance meeting with institutions to ensure that the quality of education is continually improving and meeting the needs of students. These meetings focus on evidence-based outcomes and act as a means to follow up on issues that have been raised in relation to current performance and quality assurance standards.

Annual performance reports are compiled for the Board and the Ministry regarding the annual performance of these institutions. The site visit and performance reports are informed by the institution's annual report and site visit, as well as the initial organization review, program review(s), and any concerns or issues brought to the Ministry's attention during the reporting cycle. The reports include general observations, examples of good practice noted and recommendations and requirements for the institution to enhance quality, where necessary. Any issues that arise as a result of the annual performance report are followed up on throughout the year and consent holders are required to report in the following year on the steps they have taken to address these issues or areas of concern.

Seventeen institutions were required to report for the 2011/2012 reporting year. Annual reports were submitted by July, 2012 and annual performance meetings were conducted with four institutions from September to December 2012. The performance reports were sent to each institution and institutions were given the opportunity to provide comments on the report before the Board reviewed the individual reports.

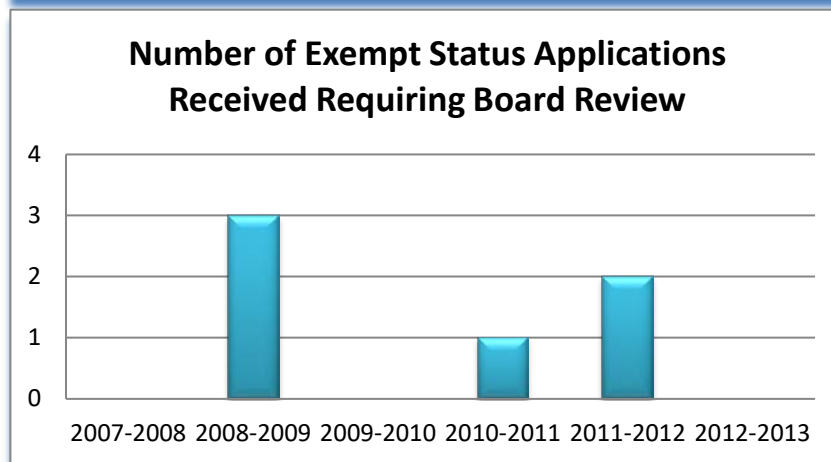
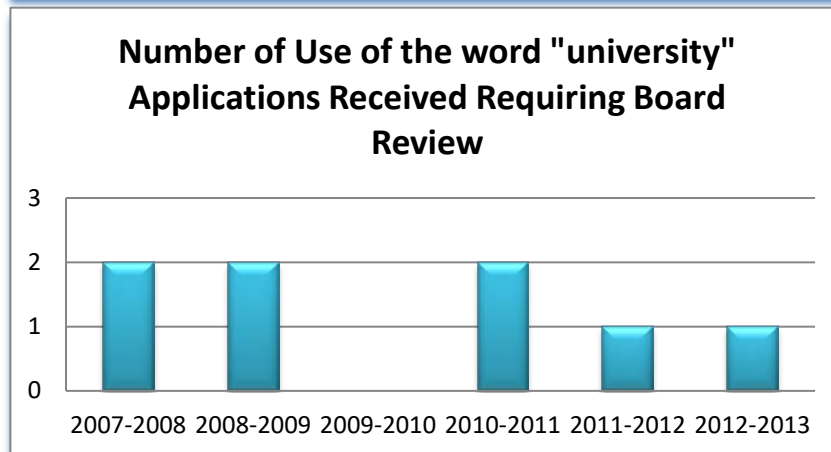
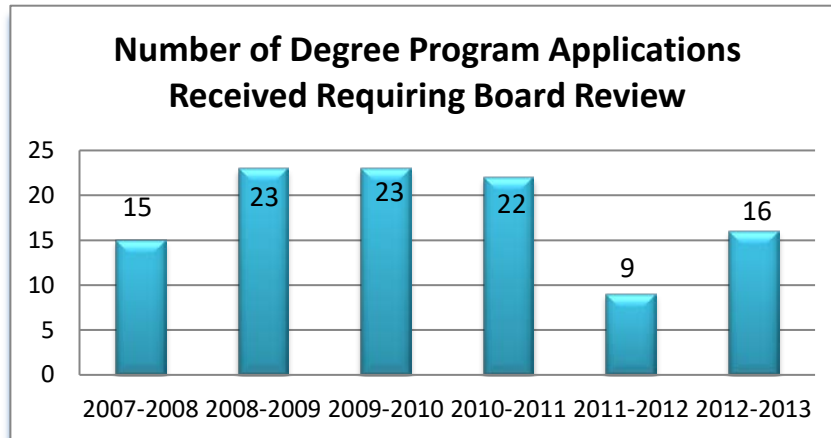
Substantive Changes

Under the Standard Terms and Conditions of Consent the Board also reviewed applications from private and out-of-private public institutions for substantive changes such as location changes and changes in ownership.

Looking Back - Applications Received

Board in Review

Since the establishment of the DQAB in 2002, 223 program applications, 24 applications for use of the word "university" and 13 applications for exempt status have been received requiring board review. Applications include renewal of consents.



Other Activities and Accomplishments

Quality Assurance Framework

During development and discussions of the Quality Assurance Framework with the Ministry, the Board contributed to the Framework's engagement process by providing feedback on the goals and objectives and discussing the possible impacts to the Board. The Quality Assurance Framework outlines the plan for strengthening quality assurance across the entire post-secondary education system and developing new standards that will apply to all institutions. The review recognizes that BC's quality assurance processes must adapt as the province's post secondary system evolves and grows in complexity.

Looking Towards the Future

In the 2013/14, the DQAB will continue to review applications for new degree programs, use of "university" and exempt status. With the increasing number of new degree proposals given consent under the *Degree Authorization Act (DAA)*, the DQAB continues to experience a shift in workload from new applications to monitoring existing programs based on evidence-based outcome reviews and established reporting mechanism. This includes reviewing and making recommendations on applications for renewal of consent submitted by institutions whose period of consent is about to expire.

In the coming year, enhancements made to the Post-Secondary Institution Proposal System (PSIPS) will be put into production with several enhancements directly related to the Board. As recommended by the Review of the Degree Approval Process Advisory Panel Report (Stubbs Report), these include limiting the range of material deemed proprietary and including expert reviewers in the PSIPS process. As well, the Board is committed to an open and accountable quality assessment process and has worked to strengthen peer and public consultation. PSIPS enhancements allow for equal access, including offering peer comments, to all new proposals by all PSIPS users. Institutional participation in peer and public review is central to the quality assessment process and the Board will continue to examine current review procedures to identify barriers to institutional participation in the system consultative process.

The Board will continue to engage with the Ministry on work related to a more province-wide view of quality assurance, including the Quality Assurance Framework process. The Board is also committed to reviewing the current criteria and guidelines for degree program review, exempt status, organization review and use of the word "university".

The Board members look forward to working with the Minister of Advanced Education and Ministry staff as well as stakeholders and students to ensure the Province of British Columbia continues to build a reputation as a jurisdiction of post-secondary educational excellence.

Appendix 1 – Board Members

DQAB Member Biographies

Nicholas Rubidge, Chair

Nicholas Rubidge is the president and chief executive officer of College of the Rockies. He has more than 30 years' experience in the post-secondary system. Before joining the College of the Rockies, Rubidge served as director of the colleges and institutional planning branch at the Ministry of Advanced Education and Labour Market Development, Training and Technology in Victoria and as vice-president of Royal Roads University. In 1975, Rubidge was one of the educational administrators hired to create a multi-campus college for the East Kootenay region. That college became East Kootenay Community College and was later renamed College of the Rockies. Rubidge serves as chair of the Post-Secondary Employers Association. His educational background includes a master's degree in agricultural economics and a doctorate in adult education from the University of British Columbia, and a bachelor of science degree from London University in England.

Richard Tees, Vice-Chair

Richard Tees is a professor emeritus of psychology at the University of British Columbia (UBC). He has acted in UBC management and advisory roles for 40 years, serving as head of the psychology department and on its senate for 15 years. Tees was a member of the executive of the UBC Okanagan transition management team that oversaw the establishment of a second campus of UBC in Kelowna, serving as its acting deputy vice-chancellor and academic vice-president until July 2006. He is the past president of the Canadian Society for Brain, Behaviour and Cognitive Science and the Canadian Council of Departments of Psychology, and a past chair of the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council grant selection committee. Tees received his doctor of philosophy in psychology (biopsychology) from the University of Chicago and a bachelor of arts with honours from McGill University. His academic honours include election as a Fellow in each of the three major North American scholarly societies: the Canadian Psychological Association, the American Psychological Association and the American Psychological Society

Garth M. Evans

Garth M. Evans lives in Burnaby BC and practices law with the Vancouver law firm of Barbeau Evans & Goldstein concentrating on real estate, commercial and corporate matters. He graduated from the University of British Columbia in 1971 with a bachelor of arts (economics) and in 1974 with a bachelor of laws and was called to the British Columbia Bar in 1975. In 1981 he was awarded the Canadian Medal of Bravery. He was the chair of the Solicitors' Issues Committee of the BC Branch of the Canadian Bar Association from 2003 to 2007. He was a Burnaby city councillor from 2005 to 2008 and is a member of the Burnaby Board of Trade. He is actively involved in the management of a number of small businesses. He is a member of the B.C. Medical Association Environmental Health Committee and chair of its Water Quality Subcommittee and a director of a number of non-profit societies including Fairhaven United Church Homes Society and L'Arche Greater Vancouver Society.

Donald M. Page

Don Page is currently Trinity Western University's Senior Fellow and Professor Emeritus in the Master of Arts in Leadership (MAL) program. He served as the university's academic vice president for ten years before establishing the MAL program and the Laurentian Leadership Centre in Ottawa. He has also served as the program director for the Executive Leadership Institute for training new university presidents and chief academic officers. Before joining the university in 1989, he was a foreign policy analyst and speech writer in the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade. He has conducted workshops on leadership and team building for non-profit and business

organizations and government departments throughout Canada and in the United States, Kenya, South Africa, and China. He has published more than six dozen studies on foreign affairs, public history, and leadership, the most recent being his book on Servant Empowered Leadership: A Hands-On Guide to Transforming You and Your Organization. He holds his B.A., M.A., and Ph.D. degrees in history from the University of Toronto.

Frank Pasacreta

Frank Pasacreta has over 30 years of experience in Industrial Relations. Prior to his retirement in December 2007 he spent 18 years with the BC Maritime Employers Association (BCMEA), most recently as President and CEO, and before that as Executive Vice-President and Vice-President of Operations. As CEO he was responsible for all of the BCMEA activities including, Health & Safety, Collective Bargaining, Labour Relations, Recruitment and Training, Claims Management, Information Services, Payroll & Benefits, Legislative Advocacy and the Longshore Despatch Centres. Prior to joining the BCMEA in 1987 he held a variety of senior positions in the Human Resources field with the Provincial Department of Labour, BC Labour Relations Board, Construction Labour Relations and Canada Post. Frank, who lives in Kelowna, has served as a fundraiser for the Lions Gate Hospital 911 Relay for 10 years and volunteers as an account executive for the United Way. Pasacreta currently serves as a Director and Chair of the Board of the Industry Training Authority and as Director of the Templeton Secondary School Education Foundation. He is a former Director of Family Services of Greater Vancouver, Greater Vancouver Gateway Council, Western Marine Community and Federal Employers Transportation & Communications (FETCO).

Robert Rogerson

Robert Rogerson is president of Rogerson Academic Services Inc., Victoria BC. He is former vice-president academic at University Canada West, and the former Dean of Arts and Science at the University of Lethbridge. He has also held academic appointments at Memorial University of Newfoundland, where he served as head of geography, assistant director to the Labrador Institute for Northern Studies and executive director of Oceans 2000. At the University of Lethbridge he completed two terms as professor and chair of the geography department. In 2001, he was awarded the Canadian Association of Geographers Award for Excellence in Teaching Geography, and in 2005 was presented with the J. L. Robinson Award for Meritorious Service to the Discipline of Geography by the Western Division of the Canadian Association of Geographers. He was president (2007-2009) of the Western Division of the Canadian Association of Geographers. Rogerson holds his bachelor of arts (honours) from the University of Liverpool in the U.K., his master of science from McGill University, and his doctor of philosophy from Macquarie University in Sydney, Australia.

Carolyn Smart

Carolyn Smart is professor emeritus of business strategy and former dean of the Faculty of Business Administration at Simon Fraser University. She has spent the last 25 years as an academic and senior administrator at Simon Fraser University. Carolyn is academically trained in the discipline of strategic analysis and planning and she has developed a deep understanding and appreciation of management processes within not-for-profit and entrepreneurial organizations. She has published extensively on issues relating to improving organizational decision-making processes, particularly during crises, and the quality of strategic decisions made by entrepreneurial enterprises. She also is the former director of the Scotia Bank Centre for Women Entrepreneurs and she works extensively with female business owners. Carolyn served as a member of the Board of Directors of the Vancouver Arts Stabilization Team and she has a particular interest in strategic decision-making in arts and cultural organizations. She holds the degrees of bachelor of commerce (marketing), master of business administration (organizational theory) and doctor of philosophy (strategy) from The University of British Columbia.

John Stubbs

John Stubbs is a professor emeritus of history and past president and vice-chancellor of Simon Fraser University. A long-time university executive and educator, Stubbs has served as president and vice-chancellor of Trent University, associate dean of arts at the University of Waterloo, governor of Sir Sandford Fleming College, and a member of the executive of the Council of Ontario Universities. He has taught politics and history at Trent University and history at the University of Waterloo. He is the author of articles and papers on British political history and the history of journalism. Stubbs is a former director of BC Hydro and the Laurier Institution. In the past, he served as a director for the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada, the Vancouver Board of Trade, and the Business Council of British Columbia. He served as a director of the Canada Millennium Scholarship Foundation from 1999 to 2010. Stubbs holds a bachelor of arts from the University of Toronto, a master of science from the London School of Economics, and a doctor of philosophy from Oxford University.

Laurel Douglas

Laurel Douglas has a background in technology, finance and economic development, and an interest in post-secondary education. She spent 15 years in senior underwriting, strategic planning and business development positions at Chubb Insurance, Alcatel NV, Nortel and JP Morgan in Toronto, Paris, London and Frankfurt. After almost 10 years in Europe, she moved to BC in the mid 1990's, entered the economic development field, and held leadership roles in the Okanagan technology community from 1997 to 2004. She was the founding Executive Director of the Science & Technology Council of the Okanagan (now Accelerate Okanagan). Since 2004, Laurel has been CEO of Women's Enterprise Centre, which provides business loans, advisory services, resources, training and mentors to women business owners throughout BC, from its offices in Kelowna, Vancouver and Victoria. The Centre was the winner of the 2012 national Startup Canada 'Canadian Mentorship Challenge'. Douglas serves on numerous boards, including Women's Enterprise Organizations of Canada and the Central Okanagan Economic Development Commission (since 2003). She received the 'Order of Entrepreneurship' in 2008 from Small Business BC, a silver medal for 'Economic Developer of the Year' from the Economic Development Association of BC in 2009, and was named one of the 'World of Difference 100 Award' winners by The International Alliance of Women in 2011. She spoke at the 2011 Summit of APEC nations on the topic of access to capital, and has provided keynotes and presentations on leadership, mentoring and women's entrepreneurship at national and international academic and industry conferences. Laurel has a BBA from Wilfrid Laurier University (1983), an MBA from INSEAD (1987), and a Post-Baccalaureate Diploma in Community Economic Development from SFU (1995).

Rob Fleming, *Executive Director and Co-chair, British Columbia Council on Admissions and Transfer*. The mandate of the British Columbia Council on Admissions and Transfer is to facilitate admission, articulation and transfer arrangements among institutions, public and private, that are members of the BC transfer system. The Council provides information and assistance to private institutions that are seeking baccalaureate degree approval and that anticipate articulating their courses for transfer credit. The Council's collaborative approach to the planning and administration of policies, practices and projects helps to ensure an accessible and responsive system.

Karin Kirkpatrick, *Registrar, Private Career Training Institutions Agency (PCTIA)*. In January of 2011, Karin began as the Registrar and CEO of PCTIA, a BC Provincial Crown Agency regulating the private post-secondary career training sector. Previously, as CEO of the Real Estate Foundation of BC, Karin worked with senior provincial ministries officials on housing issues, and key members and organizations in the real estate industry across British Columbia, funding and planning sustainable and responsible land use projects. For six years Karin was Assistant Dean at the Sauder School of Business and Director of the Centre for CEO Leadership in the University of British Columbia. Karin continues to be regularly featured in Canadian media on issues related to business

management, employment issues, and women in business. Currently she sits on the Board of the BC Council for International Education and is an ex-officio Board member with the Provincial Degree Quality Assessment Board. She is a professional member of the Certified Management Accountants Society of BC, the Real Estate Institute of BC, and the BC Human Resource Management of Association. Following in the footsteps of her entrepreneurial family, she was President of the Kirkpatrick Staffing Group, a company she founded in 1994 and sold in 2001. Karin holds a Master of Business Administration degree in Human Resources as well as being a Certified Management Accountant (CMA) and a Certified Human Resource Professional (CHRP). The non-traditional start to her business career was as a musician and song-writer.

Ian Rongve, *Assistant Deputy Minister, Sector Strategy and Quality Assurance Division, Ministry of Advanced Education*. Previously, Dr. Rongve was the Executive Director, Planning and Innovation Division with the Ministry of Health and the Executive Director, Knowledge Management and Technology Division with the Ministry of Health. He holds his Bachelor of Commerce (Honours) from the University of Saskatchewan, and his Master of Arts in Economics and his Doctorate in Economics from the University of British Columbia.