

# MEETING MINUTES

## BCIT BOARD OF GOVERNORS - OPEN

Tuesday February 24, 2026, 1:00 to 1:25 p.m.

### Board:

Mike Bonshor, Chair  
Don Matthew, Vice Chair (*virtual*)  
Corry Anderson-Fennell (*virtual*)  
Cora Bell (*virtual*)  
Annabelle Donovan (*virtual*)  
Bobby Davidson  
Zahra Esmail  
Colin Jones  
Brooks Patterson  
Carla Reid  
Stepan Vdovine

### In Attendance:

Jennifer Figner, Provost & VP, Academic  
Chris Hudson, VP, People, Culture & Inclusion  
Lisa Jung, Dir., Alumni Relations (#6.0)  
Cynthia Petrie, VP, External  
Navida Suleman, CFO and VP, Administration  
Barbara Kader, EA, Governance

### Regrets:

Catherine Boivie, Board Member  
Noor Esmail, Board Member  
Claire Wang, Board Member

### Ex Officio:

Jeffrey Zabudsky, President  
Shawna Waberi, Education  
Council Chair

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A quorum was present.

### 1.0 Call to Order and Introductory Remarks

The Chair acknowledged that BCIT campuses are located on unceded Indigenous land belonging to the Coast Salish Peoples, including the territories of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Səlilwətaʔ/Selilwitulh (Tsleil-Waututh) and Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish) Nations.

### 2.0 Declaration of Conflict of Interest

*Distributed material: Information Note*

No declarations were received.

### 3.0 Approval of Agenda/Consent Agenda

All reports were read with no discussion.

**IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, SECONDED AND CARRIED THAT** the Agenda/Consent Agenda for the Open Board of Governors meeting held on February 24, 2026, be approved.

**3.1 Adopt Agenda**

*Distributed material: Agenda*

**3.2 Minutes December 3, 2025**

*Distributed material: Meeting Minutes*

**3.3 Education Council Report**

*Distributed material: Information Note*

**3.4 Governance Committee Report**

*Distributed material: Information Note*

**3.5 Institute Report**

*Distributed material: Information Note*

**3.6 Committee Timetable of Key Deliverables**

*Distributed material: Decision Note*

**3.7 2027 Board and Committee Meeting Dates**

*Distributed material: Calendar*

**4.0 Board Chair's Comments**

The Board Chair acknowledged the tragedies that occurred on February 10, 2026 at Tumbler Ridge, BC.

He reported that he had attend all committee meetings on February 10, 2026, and that he was pleased with the current financial position reported at the Audit and Finance Committee meeting held on February 10, 2026. He acknowledged that BCIT was recognized as a recipient of the *Canadian Workplace Well-being Award* received in late 2025.

The Chair reported that he and other Governors had attended a tour of the School of Energy, which was well received, prior to the board meeting.

**5.0 President's Report**

**5.1 President's Activities**

*Distributed material: Information Note*

The President also acknowledged the tragedies at Tumbler Ridge, BC.

The President reported that the recently announced provincial budget contained no significant surprises. The confirmation of a \$240M investment in skilled trades over three years, with most of the funding allocated upfront was reported by government. The President noted that further details regarding the allocation are forthcoming; however, it is anticipated this investment will benefit the institute, given its status as the largest trades trainer in the province. It was highlighted that the funding includes an increase in per-seat allocations, which will positively affect the institute's financial position, though some of the funding may be contingent on the addition of new seats due to existing shortages and waitlists. The President committed to providing updates as more information becomes available.

The provincial post-secondary review of sector sustainability, led by Don Avison, is ongoing. The independent review is being led by Don Avison, KC, former B.C. deputy

minister and former board chair of Emily Carr University of Art + Design. Mr. Avison will deliver a report with recommendations before mid-April 2026, that will guide government's work to keep the system accessible, affordable, sustainable and aligned with provincial economic priorities., has held several meetings regarding the matter.

The President announced a BCIT-specific report will be submitted for the provincial post-secondary review. BCIT will remain active in provincial collaborations with other institutions, if these efforts align with its mandate and do not conflict with the institute's strategic, financial, or sustainability goals.

The President had attended a gathering per MP Wade Chang's request with Prime Minister Carney, joined by Jing Xie, a recent graduate of BCIT's Heavy-Duty Mechanic Foundation program, Tyanna Jaco, from BCIT's Electrical trades, who recently completed second year apprenticeship and will be at the Canada Apprenticeship Forum to represent BCIT on a panel.

The President expressed appreciation to the Prime Minister for his strong support and prioritization of skilled trades in the Building Canada initiative. The President also emphasized BCIT's leadership in research and innovation on advanced construction methods, including fast timber construction, panelization, and modularization.

## 6.0 Policies and Procedures

### 6.1 Honorary Awards – Policy #5501 and Procedures #5501-PR1

*Distributed material: Decision Note*

Management referred to the material previously circulated.

The policy and procedures have been revised for clarity, alignment, and consistency with governance practices. Updates define award categories, governance rules, and board, committee, and alumni responsibilities. Procedures streamlined to match current award process from nomination to board approval. Key clarifications: selection process, honorary doctorate recognition and title usage, formalized rescission. Changes enhance governance, reduce ambiguity, and support committee continuity.

**IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, SECONDED AND CARRIED THAT** the revised Honorary Awards – Policy #5501 and Procedures #5501-PR1, be approved.

## 7.0 Academic

### 7.1 Statements of Completion

*Distributed material: Decision Note*

Management advised that the Board of Governors approves credentialed programs as per the College and Institute Act, with program changes handled by Education Council. Historically, BCIT issued statements of completion, which were not formal credentials and did not require board approval. These statements are being phased out due to processing and credentialing concerns and converted into Associate Certificates which are formally credentialed programs.

**IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, SECONDED AND CARRIED THAT** the Board of Governors delegate approval to Education Council to transition a series of existing

Statements of Completion to Associate Certificate credentials using the standard major change process.

### 8.0 Next Meeting and Conclusion

The next Board of Governors meeting will be held on March 31, 2026 at 1:00 p.m. The open meeting concluded at 1:25 p.m.

Signed

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Mike Bonshor, Chair