

MEETING MINUTES

BCIT BOARD OF GOVERNORS - OPEN

Wednesday December 3, 2025, 2:45 to 2:06 p.m.

Board:

Mike Bonshor, Chair
Don Matthew, Vice Chair
Corry Anderson-Fennell
Cora Bell
Catherine Boivie
Annabelle Donovan
Bobby Davidson
Noor Esmail
Zahra Esmail
Brooks Patterson
Carla Reid
Stepan Vdovine (virtual)
Claire Wang

In Attendance:

Tanya Buschau, Advisor, Respect, Diversity & Inclusion (#6.4)
Raimonda De Zen, Dir. Enterprise Risk & Internal Audit
Jennifer Figner, Provost & VP, Academic
Chris Hudson, VP, People, Culture & Inclusion
Cynthia Petrie, VP, External
Navida Suleman, CFO and VP, Administration
Barbara Kader, EA, Governance

Regrets:

Colin Jones, Board Member

Ex Officio:

Jeffrey Zabudsky, President
Shawna Waberi, Education
Council Chair

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 received as read.

IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, SECONDED AND CARRIED THAT the Agenda/Consent Agenda for the Open Board of Governors meeting held on December 3, 2025, be approved.

3.1 Adopt Agenda

Distributed material: Agenda

3.2 Minutes October 7, 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 Public Interest Disclosure and Protection Annual Report (FY2024/25)

Distributed material: Information Note

4.0 Board Chair's Comments

The Board Chair acknowledged the good work and achievements from the past year. He highlighted the completion of the student housing tall timber building, which has had a significant positive impact on our students. He noted the celebration for the Foundation's INSPIRE Campaign completion and the soft launch of its ongoing work. He acknowledged the contributions made by the BCIT Foundation as they shift focus to upcoming initiatives.

Recent discussions about BCIT's future promises will be exciting, especially as these two projects become more interwoven with the institute's growth. Engaging interested partners will be crucial as BCIT continues to be developed.

He commented on the provincial review and felt that it has the potential to bring substantial changes to the organization and funding of post-secondary institutions, while also presenting valuable opportunities. He reported that he had engaged in proactive discussions with the President, utilizing their comprehensive understanding of the institute to formulate constructive recommendations for the province. Rather than passively accepting provincial decisions, BCIT should actively engage and communicate within its community to promote progress and positive outcomes.

5.0 President's Report

5.1 President's Activities

Distributed material: Information Note

The President highlighted four items:

BC's post-secondary review has quickly advanced after a lull, aiming to build a sustainable framework for the sector. The review addresses ongoing funding issues and recent federal policy changes affecting international students, seeking new strategies for system sustainability.

The review, led by former deputy minister Don Aveson, is on a tight schedule with reports due by mid-March. Sector meetings with provincial post-secondary associations are set to finish by year-end, after which further review and questions may follow. While no individual institutional meetings are planned, sector representatives hope for opportunities to provide input, allowing BCIT to showcase its contributions to addressing systemic challenges.

The review offers BCIT an opportunity to contribute, drawing on its size and reputation for problem-solving and is hopeful that the process will enable meaningful input into government decisions.

The President welcomes board input on key initiatives like the provincial review, though formal board contributions may not be part of the process. Board members should send feedback to Barbara, who will forward it to the President for inclusion in stakeholder discussions. The President will keep the board informed if a chance for formal engagement emerges.

[Province reviews public post-secondary system to ensure long-term sustainability](#)

The President reported that a significant provincial announcement was made regarding an increase in trades funding, the first such boost in 18 years. The government's commitment will more than double existing funding, allocating \$54M in the first year, \$26M in the second year, and \$25M in the third year. With 85% of trades training in BC conducted by public institutions, most notably at BCIT, the institution stands to benefit considerably.

The funding aims to resolve ongoing shortfalls by directly supporting trades programs that previously depended on other budgets. Although allocation details are pending, prospects are positive, with expectations of targeted expansion and a commitment to using most funds as intended.

He reported that the recent funding increase does not include foundation trades training, which is essential for students starting in the trades and progressing to higher levels. The Skilled Trades Training Council (STTC) has urged reconsideration, noting that BCIT has above-average transition rates from foundation programs and higher persistence to Red Seal certification. BCIT's partnership with Seaspans and the Washington Foundation is highlighted as a successful model.

He reported on the provincial industrial strategy, spearheaded by Minister Ravi Kalon, is focused on identifying key sectors for growth in the coming years. This initiative is especially significant considering anticipated federal funding opportunities, including commitments related to NATO.

Several themes in the strategy align with BCIT's strengths and ongoing projects such as construction innovation, which BCIT is working with industry partners to advance. The marine sector is a priority for the province, and BCIT is actively involved. Many provincial priority sectors match BCIT's programs and expertise, highlighting BCIT's key role in supporting economic growth and workforce strategies in British Columbia.

The province's focus on growth sectors aligns well with BCIT's programs, allowing the institution to strengthen its role in economic and sectoral development.

Similar to the Board Chair's comments, the President reported on the successful conclusion to the INSPIRE Campaign, acknowledging the contributions of donors and campaign leadership, notably Mr. David Podmore. The BCIT Foundation Board, comprised of dedicated and competent individuals, continues to be exemplary stewards of the funds raised. These resources are carefully managed and directed toward infrastructure improvements and student support through scholarships and bursaries.

6.0 Policies and Procedures

6.1 Acceptable Use of Information Technology – Policy #3501, and Information Security – Policy #3502

Distributed material: Decision Note

The Audit and Finance Committee Chair reported that a thorough review was done at the committee meeting who fully supports the revisions highlighted for the Board's approval.

Management noted that Technology is advancing, including AI and other innovations, and we've factored these in with the board's endorsement of the NIST cybersecurity framework. The policy underwent an extended community review to incorporate extensive feedback. Staff completed a voluntary legal review of Policy #3501 to confirm alignment.

Management reported that staff and faculty training will be delivered through a 'roadshow' format, recognising that effective policy implementation depends on both comprehensive awareness and clearly defined procedures. As we move into the new year, communications will be organised in collaboration with our marketing and communications team. Furthermore, internal updates will be disseminated via established channels to ensure all staff remain informed. BCIT is committed to fostering community engagement through initiatives such as Town Halls and enhanced direct email correspondence.

IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, SECONDED AND CARRIED THAT the revised Acceptable Use of Information Technology - Policy #3501, and the Information Security – Policy #3502, and the retirement of the Information Security Procedure – Procedure #3502, be approved.

6.2 Admissions and Recognition of Prior Learning – Procedure #5003-PR1

Distributed material: Decision Note

The Governance Committee Chair referred to the material previously circulated. Definitions noted in the policy will be reflected in the Governance Manual and Board of Governors' Bylaws.

IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, SECONDED AND CARRIED THAT the revised Admissions and Recognition of Prior Learning - Procedure - 5003-PR1, be approved.

6.3 Recording in the Classroom – Policy #5201

Distributed material: Decision Note

The Governance Committee Chair referred to the material previously circulated. Questions were answered regarding the definition of 'Classroom' within the policy.

IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, SECONDED AND CARRIED THAT the revised Recording in the Classroom - Policy #5201 and Recording in the Classroom - Procedure - 5201-PR1, be approved.

6.4 Prevention of Discrimination, Harassment, and Bullying – Policy #7507, and Harassment and Discrimination – Procedures #7507-PR1

Distributed material: Decision Note

The Human Resources Committee Chair referred to the material previously circulated. The current version was last updated in 2014 and approved by the leadership team rather than the board. Most revisions clarified language or made administrative updates. The key change is that the policy now includes students, employees, contractors, the Board of Governors, and volunteers. The policy is distinguished from other policies, by involving multiple groups, such as the Student Association, three unions with their representatives, and management, which requires coordinating significant information.

IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, SECONDED AND CARRIED THAT the revised Prevention of Discrimination, Harassment, and Bullying - Policy #7507, and Procedure #7507-PR1, with the provision that it shall come into effect on January 5, 2026.

7.0 Academic

7.1 New Programs:

- Certificate in Professional Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems
- Diploma in Construction Management

Distributed material: Decision Note

The Education Council Chair highlighted key points from the material previously circulated.

IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, SECONDED AND CARRIED THAT the new programs: Certificate in Professional Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems, and Diploma in Construction Management, be approved.

11.0 Next Meeting and Conclusion

The next Board of Governors meeting will be held on February 24, 2026 at 1:00 p.m. The open meeting concluded at 3:40 p.m.

Signed

Mike Bonshor, Chair

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EDUCATION
FOR A COMPLEX WORLD.

