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# OPEN EDUCATION REPORT 2020/21

[open.bcit.ca](http://open.bcit.ca)

**BCIT**<sup>®</sup>



## BCIT OPEN EDUCATION REPORT 2020/2021

“Open Education encompasses resources, tools and practices that are free of legal, financial and technical barriers and can be fully used, shared and adapted in the digital environment.” SPARC.

### OPEN EDUCATION IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

Supported by BCcampus, British Columbia is a trailblazing province in Open Education. Colleagues across the country follow BC’s lead in supporting the development and use of Open Educational Resources (OER) and Open Education Practices (OEP).

**BCcampus calculates that British Columbia students have saved at least \$20M on textbook costs since the open textbook project started in 2012.**

### BC GOVERNMENT MANDATE

In BCIT’s [2020 Mandate Letter](#): BCIT was asked to “develop and recognize flexible learning pathways for students to access postsecondary education and skills training including... advancing and supporting open learning resources.”

We have a new website!  
[bcit.ca/open](https://bcit.ca/open)

### BCIT’S OPEN EDUCATION WORKING GROUP

Sponsored by the AVP, Education Support and Innovation, BCIT Open supports and promotes the development and use of OER and OE teaching practices, and functions as a community of practice. The Working Group oversees the Open Grants program and the Open BCIT website.

Open BCIT is under the umbrella of Education Council’s [Education Technology and Learning Design Committee \(ETLDC\)](#).

ETLDC approved revised [BCIT Open Education Best Practices and Guidelines](#) and released the [BCIT e-Learning Strategy](#). One of the six key principles that guides the e-Learning Strategy is collaboration and sharing.

**Tim Carson is on a two year secondment to BCcampus as the Provincial Trades Representative, Open Education. He is responsible for leading and collaborating with faculty and staff in BC institutions to promote, support, and advocate for the use of Open Educational Resources and Open Educational Pedagogy for the Trades and Vocational sector.**

*“Transitioning from the Program Head of the Piping Department to a secondee at BCcampus has been a life changing event. A year and half ago if anyone had told me that I would be advocating for Trades and Vocational Education and Training (TVET), supporting TVET faculty across trades disciplines around the province, and facilitating/managing TVET projects for open resources with an open pedagogical approach, and partnering with some excellent faculty around the province I would not have believed it.*

*To date we have seen nine projects funded and built for faculty and apprentices covering a wide spectrum of trades. Electrical, Horticulture, Hairstylist, Millwright, Math for Trades, Piping AR/VR, Sheet Metal, and Welding were areas that benefited. We’ve built partnerships with the Industry Training Authority as well as Trades Training BC to further the support and delivery of content to apprentices in the province.”*



## BCIT OPEN GRANTS

BCIT is in its sixth year of providing open education grants. The grant program is offered in partnership with BCcampus. Due to the pandemic, BCIT changed its grant structure and offers different tiers of funding:

- **Department Open Education Grant** – this grant goes directly to departments to adopt, revise, or create open education resources.
- **Adoption** – review and adopt an open textbook or other open learning resource, this can include minor revisions to customize it
- **Revision** – Take an existing OER and make substantial revisions to better suit class learning outcomes
- **Creation** – Create a learning resource of any category or format, [for example, textbook, videos, question or test banks]

In 2020/21, [28 projects received funding](#). The range of projects include:

- Textbooks
- Image libraries
- Interactive learning resources
- Video libraries

## BCCAMPUS OPEN EDUCATION SUSTAINABILITY GRANT

In Fall 2019, BCIT was awarded an Open Education Sustainability Grant from BCcampus. This grant supported several open initiatives including developing institutional support for PressBooks projects, conversion of the well-used Tools for the Trades module to a sustainable format, supporting an inaugural Open Education Faculty Champion, and continuing to support the open education grants program.

## OPEN EDUCATION CHAMPION

The 2020 BCIT Open Education Champion was Chad Flinn. Chad was an electrical and entrepreneurship instructor at BCIT, with a focus on student-led experiential learning. Chad was recently appointed as Dean, Trades and Technology at Medicine Hat College. Congratulations Chad!

Chad's YouTube channel, [The Electric Academy](#), has 28,000+ subscribers. He has created three open textbooks, including [Trigonometry and Single Phase AC Generation for Electricians](#), which are part of the [BCcampus Open textbook collection](#).

## OPEN EDUCATION SUPPORT

Amanda Grey is at BCIT for a short-term contract which includes working on Open Education projects. Amanda recently completed her MLIS degree at UBC and previously worked at UBC Library as an Open Education Librarian supporting faculty in the creation of open educational resources.

At BCIT, Amanda is working on open initiatives including:

- Building an Open Education Course to be included among the BCIT's Free Online Learning courses. This course introduces people to key concepts in open education and provides practical help and resources for those interested in getting involved.
- Planning how to track the adoptions of open textbooks at BCIT, as well as how to inform students which courses use open resources.
- Moving and re-creating the Open BCIT website in WordPress.

Additionally, Amanda is available to train faculty on how to use the Pressbooks open textbook publishing platform as well as offering support and guidance for faculty-created open educational resources.

## OPEN PUBLISHING PROJECT

A collaboration between LTC and BCIT Library, the Open Publishing Project Pilot is exploring how to sustainably support openly licensed faculty projects in PressBooks.

If you are interested in finding out more, please [contact Open BCIT](#).

If you need help with technology, BCIT Library's [MediaWorks](#) offers support for [a variety of software](#) used to create open educational resources.

BCcampus will soon be providing support for using LaTeX in Pressbooks. Details are currently being arranged, more information to come on the Open BCIT website.

## BCIT IN THE PROVINCE AND BEYOND

### EDUCATIONAL ELECTRONIC HEALTH RECORD SYSTEM (EDEHR) PROJECT

Glynda Rees, Cheryl Rees, Rob Kruger, and Janet Morrison, BCIT faculty, continue to be involved in the [EDEHR project](#) with BCcampus.

In 2017, a successful proposal was developed to secure funding from the Ministry of Advanced Education, Skills and Training to build on the research and development already completed for this project. The group is actively working towards the development of a resource that can be piloted and evaluated by post-secondary institutions across B.C.

### B.C. OPEN TEXTBOOK COLLECTION

Currently, there are 12 BCIT faculty authored Open Textbooks included in the [BCcampus collection of textbooks](#) published in BC. inclusion in the collections means that the textbooks have met expectations for quality, relevancy, and ability to meet the needs of post-secondary faculty, students, and institutions within B.C. and Canada.

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**British Columbia  
Institute of Technology**

3700 Willingdon Avenue  
Burnaby, British Columbia  
Canada, V5G 3H2

**[bcit.ca/library](https://bcit.ca/library)**

