

COMMUNITY REVIEW NOTE

August 21, 2026

PREPARED FOR: BCIT staff & students; Policy Review Team

PREPARED BY: Library Services

ISSUE: Proposed Revision of Policy 7506 Use of Materials Protected by Copyright

OBJECTIVE

This policy is being updated in 2026 to reflect BCIT's current policy format, to formalize the fair dealing exceptions available under the *Copyright Act* for education and research, and to align with current policy review and approval requirements.

BACKGROUND

Policy 7506 Use of Materials Protected by Copyright was introduced in April 1990 and last updated in October 2013. The policy is being updated to reflect changes to Canada's *Copyright Act* and promote compliance across the BCIT community. The policy outlines and balances access to and use of copyrighted materials for education and research. The revisions also support an informed understanding of “fair dealing” uses pursuant to the *Copyright Act*, and of alternative open licensing models. The proposed revision is renamed “Copyright Policy”.

DEVELOPMENT & CONSULTATION PROCESS

A working group began its review in 2026 by examining copyright policies and best practices at post-secondary institutions across Canada. Since these institutions are subject to the same federal copyright legislation, the findings helped guide revisions to the policy. The updated policy also incorporates educational and research exceptions found in the *Copyright Act's* fair dealing provisions.

NEXT STEPS

Following a 30-day community consultation, the working group will consider feedback from the BCIT community and the Policy Review Team and bring the policy, with any necessary changes, to a committee of the Board of Governors for final review. The Board committee may recommend that the revisions be brought forward for approval by the full Board or may send the policy back to the working group for further review and development. The Policy Sponsor intends to seek Board approval in December.

The two procedures associated with the policy are currently being assessed for conversion to Guidelines administered by Library Services, a process outside this community consultation.