



## **2013 BC Budget Backgrounder**

### **Overview**

BC's 2013 fiscal plan shows some disturbing trends, trends that will put increasing pressures on the operating budgets of every post-secondary institution in BC. BC's Finance Minister, Mike de Jong, acknowledges that his greatest problem is one of credibility. In his briefing to reporters during the budget lock-up, he noted that his attempt to table a balanced budget is at odds with the public's perception that the BC Liberals' track record on budget issues is badly tainted by years of missed targets and broken promises.

For post-secondary institutions across the province the 2013 budget includes a number of disappointing measures. Capital spending is slated to decline over the next twelve months. Operating grants from the Ministry of Advanced Education are also trending down, a move that will put even greater pressure on colleges, universities and institutes to make further cuts in programs, course offerings and student support services.

For post-secondary students, the budget includes more increases in tuition fees. The budget documents forecast tuition fee revenues to climb by close to \$100 million over the next three years. A proposed new measure to address post-secondary affordability, BC Training and Education Savings Program, is a lopsided attempt to help pay for post-secondary education, but it will only be accessible for families who already have the economic means to save for their children's education.

The budget also shows no significant improvements in the support for trades training and apprenticeship, an area that educators and the province's business community recognize as critical to BC's future economic success. The funding for the Industry Training Authority (ITA) will be flat lined in this budget, an outcome that will put pressure on institutions to further reduce access to both entry level and apprenticeship training programs.

And finally, the Ministry's funding for Student Support Services and Multicultural Services will also come under pressure in this budget. The funding for Student Support Services will continue to decline in this budget. Multicultural Services, including many English Language support programs, will face a funding freeze over the next twelve months.



Federation of  
**Post-Secondary Educators**  
of BC

### **Summary of Key Budget Measures for Post-Secondary Education**

Total Operating Grants, 2012/2013:	\$1.867 (Billion)
Total Operating Grants, 2013/2014:	\$1.864 (Billion)
Total Student FTEs, 2012/2013:	201,307
Total Student FTEs, 2013/2014:	200,936