

December 15, 2023

Mr. Rob Douglas  
Director, Teaching Universities, Institutes and Student Transitions  
Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Training  
Post-Secondary Policy and Programs  
PO Box 9877 Stn Prov Govt  
Victoria, BC V8V 4W8  
[Rob.Douglas@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Rob.Douglas@gov.bc.ca)

Dear Mr. Douglas,

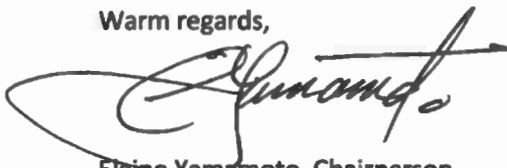
I am writing on behalf of the Maple Ridge Pitt Meadows Board of Education (SD42) to seek an update regarding the completion of the Post-Secondary Feasibility Study commissioned by the Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Training to Kwantlen Polytechnic University on March 25, 2022.

As outlined in the funding letter, there was an expectation that the completed assessment, inclusive of analysis, options, and recommendations, would be delivered to the Ministry by March 31, 2023. However, to date, we have not received any information regarding the status or completion of the study.

Given the importance of this assessment to our district and the broader educational community, we kindly request an update on the progress of the study and any expected timelines for the delivery of the final report.

We look forward to receiving an update at your earliest convenience.

Warm regards,



Elaine Yamamoto, Chairperson  
Board of Education

Attachment

Cc: *The Board of Education, School District No. 42 (Maple Ridge-Pitt Meadows)*  
*Lisa Beare, MLA Maple Ridge-Pitt Meadows*  
*Bob D'Eith, MLA Maple Ridge-Mission*  
*Chervahun Emilien, Chief Financial Officer, Kwantlen Polytechnic University*  
*Dr. Kathy Denton, President, Douglas College*  
*Dr. Michel Tarko, President and CEO, Justice Institute of BC*  
*Dr. Joanne MacLean, President and Vice-Chancellor, University of the Fraser Valley*  
*Mr. Harry Dhillon, Superintendent of Schools*  
*Mr. Richard Rennie, Secretary Treasurer*



March 25, 2022

Our Ref: 124542

Dr. Alan Davis  
President and Vice-Chancellor  
Kwantlen Polytechnic University  
12666-72<sup>nd</sup> Avenue  
Surrey BC V3W 2M8

Dear Dr. Davis:

The Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Training (the Ministry) is pleased to provide funding in the amount of \$250,000 to Kwantlen Polytechnic University. These funds will be forwarded to your institution in the next available electronic funds transfer.

The funding is intended to support the costs of undertaking a needs assessment to determine whether there is a need to improve access to post-secondary education and training in the communities of Maple Ridge and Pitt Meadows. Kwantlen Polytechnic University is expected to work in collaboration with the Ministry to design and implement the assessment and to include appropriate staff from public post-secondary institutions with nearby campuses (specifically Douglas College, the Justice Institute of British Columbia, and the University of the Fraser Valley) to ensure an objective and informed analysis.

The Ministry expects to receive a completed assessment, with analysis, options and recommendations, no later than March 31, 2023. The Ministry contact for this funding is Rob Douglas, Director, Teaching Universities, Institutes and Student Transitions (Rob.Douglas@gov.bc.ca).

The funding must be used for expenditures related to the grant's intended purpose as referenced above. If you anticipate that your institution will not be able to utilize the funding as planned, please contact the Ministry by December 31, 2022, to discuss reallocation to alternative priorities or repayment of the funds.

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Date: December 20, 2023  
Our Ref. 131606

Elaine Yamamoto  
Chairperson  
School District 42  
22225 Brown Avenue  
Maple Ridge BC V2X 8N6

Dear Elaine Yamamoto:

Thank you for writing to the Ministry of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills (the Ministry) regarding the status of the needs assessment to determine whether there is a need to improve access to post-secondary education and training in the communities of Maple Ridge and Pitt Meadows.

In September 2023, Kwantlen Polytechnic University submitted the final report for this needs assessment to the Ministry, as per the terms of the funding letter from March 2022.

The Honourable Selina Robinson, Minister of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills, has since received the report, and together with Ministry staff is currently assessing its findings. We anticipate the report will be shared more broadly, including with School District No. 42, in early 2024.


Sincerely,

Nicola Lemmer  
Assistant Deputy Minister  
Post-Secondary Policy and Programs Division  
Ministry of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills

pc: Robert Douglas, Director  
Ministry of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills

Any public announcements related to this funding will be determined solely by the Ministry. If you have any questions in this regard, please have your staff contact Hannah Lawrie, A/Communications Director, Government Communications and Public Engagement, by phone at (250) 952-2475.

Respectfully,



Greg Stone  
Executive Director

pc: Chervahun Emilien, Chief Financial Officer  
Kwantlen Polytechnic University

Dr. Kathy Denton, President  
Douglas College

Dr. Michel Tarko, President and CEO  
Justice Institute of British Columbia

Dr. Joanne MacLean, President and Vice-Chancellor  
University of the Fraser Valley

Hannah Lawrie, A/Communications Director  
Government Communications and Public Engagement  
Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Training

[AEST.FinancialReporting@gov.bc.ca](mailto:AEST.FinancialReporting@gov.bc.ca)

[CorpFinanceBudgets@gov.bc.ca](mailto:CorpFinanceBudgets@gov.bc.ca)

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## INFORMATION BULLETIN

For Immediate Release

Ministry of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills

2024PSFS0004-000124

Feb. 2, 2024

### **B.C. invests in planning for post-secondary education in Ridge Meadows**

MAPLE RIDGE – People in Maple Ridge and Pitt Meadows will benefit from a provincial investment in planning for the future of post-secondary education for the region.

The Province is investing \$250,000 for a feasibility study to help outline potential post-secondary educational opportunities in the area.

This builds on a previous needs assessment of post-secondary education and training in the region funded by the Province. That assessment concluded there is a perceived demand and need for increased access to post-secondary education and skills training in the area, and that the need is projected to grow over the next 20 years.

The needs assessment included engagement with 1,500 residents, students, parents and school district staff through surveys and community events, as well as consultation with a wide range of organizations, including local government, School District 42, TransLink, local First Nations, post-secondary institutions and the business community.

The feasibility study will be carried out by Kwantlen Polytechnic University in conjunction with Douglas College, the Justice Institute of British Columbia, and the University of the Fraser Valley. The study is expected to be completed by spring 2025.

This provincial funding is part of the Province's co-ordinated approach to address immediate and long-term workforce challenges across all sectors of the economy.

#### **Contact:**

Ministry of Post-Secondary Education and  
Future Skills  
Media Relations  
250 209-7629

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