

2021 Provincial Budget Consultations:
Kwantlen Faculty Association Submission to the Select
Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services

In preparation for the upcoming budget, the Kwantlen Faculty Association respectfully submits the following recommendations to the Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services, advocating for an increase in funding for post-secondary education and a revision of the post-secondary funding formula to address regional inequities.

Respectfully submitted,
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President, Kwantlen Faculty Association
On behalf of the KFA Executive

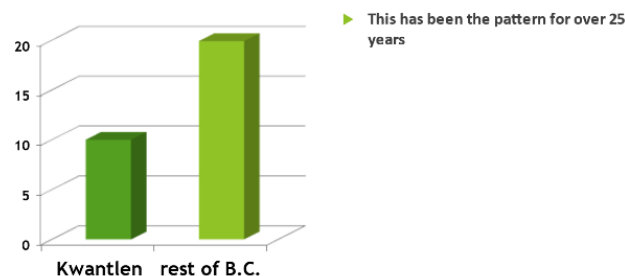
As we have done for many years in budget consultations, the Kwantlen Faculty Association (KFA) once again calls for an increase in funding for post-secondary education and a revision of the provincial post-secondary funding formula to address regional inequities and to ensure it better responds to the cost pressures faced by BC's post-secondary institutions, with particular attention paid to adult basic education, English language training, and trades education.

Public post-secondary education is being privatized by provincial underfunding, and it is time to reverse this trend. Less than half of B.C post-secondary institutions' budget—43%—is covered by provincial funding; forty years ago, the funding was more than double that percentage.

Post-secondary institutions in BC are not funded to meet the needs of their regions. For instance, in 2019, the south Fraser region that Kwantlen Polytechnic University (KPU) serves had 41% of metro Vancouver's population, but KPU was funded for only 25% of these students.

For years, the Surrey Board of Trade and the B.C. Chamber of Commerce have requested that the inequities in funding at KPU be addressed.

FTE Student Seats per 1,000 region residents



In its [2016 Post-Secondary Education Paper](#), the Surrey Board of Trade writes:

- 148,000 of Surrey's 323,000 adults do not possess the level of literacy needed for success in today's economy; over 30,000 lack a high school diploma.
 - 128,000 Surrey residents don't speak English at home. Over 6,000 immigrants arrive in Surrey each year, of which more than 2,000 don't speak English (or French).
- According to the B.C. Trades Occupational Outlook, 2010-2020, approximately 11% of all jobs are and will be in the trades.... However, while our region has 20% of BC's population, only

4.4% of B.C.'s trades training is offered here.

- Research in the region's universities is severely limited by the lack of available program funding and facilities. [\(3\)](#)

The B.C. Chamber of Commerce, in its [2020/2021 Policy and Positions Manual](#) writes: "The Chamber recommends [t]hat the Provincial Government [p]rovide per capita funding throughout the Province to increase the number of post-secondary seats and trades training opportunities – increasing the overall numbers and efficacy of British Columbia's future workforce and those looking to upgrade skills [\(21\)](#)."

Meanwhile, the B.C. government has received the following Recommendations from Budget Consultations over the past several years:

- the 2014 and 2016 Budget Consultations both recommended "a comprehensive review of the post-secondary funding formula so that regional inequities and core funding for the system as a whole are adequately addressed."
- the 2018 Budget Consultation recommended that the government "prioritize new capital and operating funds to provide equitable access to postsecondary education for students in under-served regions" and "review funding formulas for post-secondary institutions to ensure that inequities between institutions are addressed, increased funding is provided where appropriate, and funding levels reflect the specific mandates of institutions across the province."
- the 2019 Budget Consultation acknowledged "the need for increasing the availability of seats in high-growth areas, such as south of the Fraser River in the Lower Mainland and in rural areas."

In September 2021, the [Labour Market Intelligence Report](#) revealed that "Surrey's economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic continues to be driven by a two-pronged strength: knowledge-based industries and resource industries.... Meanwhile, [e]ducational services (private and public), [are] down over 3,100 jobs or - 19%."

In crafting the next budget, the BC government has an opportunity to build on the success of recent initiatives such as the BC Access Grant and tuition-free adult basic education by reviewing the funding formula for post-secondary institutions, as well as increasing the base funding provided to post-secondary institutions, in particular KPU. Doing so will help expand access to post-secondary education, enable institutions to better serve the needs of their regions, and build a just recovery.