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BC COLLEGES TRC FINDINGS

COMPILATION OF SURVEY RESULTS

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BC Colleges TRC Findings

Recent events and initiatives such as the release of a report by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada (TRC), Federally and Provincially supported education and training recommendations and individual actions by Post-Secondary Institutions prompted BC Colleges to look at their current and future activities relating to Indigenous Communities.

A short survey was conducted asking BC College institutions to indicate their current and future levels of activities in three areas: Culturally Appropriate Curriculum (programs), Learner Successes and System Design. These three areas were determined by looking at several documents which currently guide Post-Secondary Policy. This survey was not intended to duplicate the exhaustive inventories compiled by the Provincial Government. The intention instead was to provide a quick “gut check” of activities and intention relative to a compilation of regulation and requests posed to Post-Secondary Institutions.

10 Colleges took part in the survey, with most providing answers to each of the different categories. In the attached reports you will see the overall responses for the sector (current and future), the trend of activity, and responses specific to your institution.

Findings:

The following information could be gleaned from the responses:

Overall:

- In general, BC Colleges expect to step up the level of activity and commitment to Indigenous activities, relative to their current involvement, over the next 3 – 5 years.

Culturally Appropriate Curriculum:

- Currently, Colleges are including an Aboriginal context in professional programming and credentials. Specifically programming in areas such as medical, legal, education and media relations programs showed the highest levels of engagement and activity for institutions. Institutions did not predict a significant change in their levels of activity and engagement in 3-5 years.
- Institutions do predict a significant change in the inclusion of Aboriginal contexts in general programming in the next 3-5 years. 8 out of 10 institutions predicted high levels of activity and engagement moving forward.
- Some institutions predict a shift towards a moderate level of activity relating to creating specific Aboriginal Credentials.

Learner Success Activities:

- Ensuring access and decreasing barriers to Post-Secondary was a strong or moderate area of focus for all institutions. Almost all institutions predict that this will increase to strong engagement and high levels of activity in 3-5 years.
- Organizations also predict a significant shift in story telling and promotion of success of the initiatives underway at their institutions in the next 3- 5 years.
- Institutions predicted a moderate shift to higher levels of engagement and activity relating to increasing the numbers of credentials obtained by Aboriginal learners. This was true also for activities that ensure Aboriginal learners gain the skills or experience directly related to future employment.

System Redesign

- The biggest area of current and future activity is in the area of Post-Secondary Collaboration and Partnership with Aboriginal Communities
- Three other areas show a significant shift in engagement and activities:
 - Institutions predicted to have high activity and engagement around changing institutional culture to reflect and respect Aboriginal ways of learning and knowing.
 - This corresponded to more activity/commitment in the future at each institution to the provision of training or engagement of employees to bring awareness to an Aboriginal context.
 - Institutions also expected to increase their level of activity in reporting successes around programing or institutional changes.

Reading your Individual Reports:

The attached reports are a summary of institutional feedback and a comparison to the self-report provided by your institution. This information is mainly qualitative in nature and does not reflect a quantitative examination of activities. The data should be used to form an understanding of an institutions individual response relative to the many responses of the BC College Sector.

In the following report, individual institutions ranked activities as:

- High (green)– This indicates a high level of activity or engagement by an institution, that it is actively working on initiatives related to the category, considers them to be priorities for the institution and has a strong level of engagement at the institution.
- Medium (yellow) – This indicates a medium level of activity or engagement, that the institution has activities underway, are of importance (but not highest) priority, and has a moderate level of engagement at the institution.
- Low (red) – This indicates a low level of activity or engagement, that there are limited numbers of activities underway, those initiatives are of lower priority, and may have limited or little engagement at the institution.

There is also an indicator of trend direction for the sector which identifies the difference between current activies and future activities. Upward arrows indicate a movement towards higher numbers of activities and institutional engagement. Downward arrows indicate a decrease in numbers of activities and institutional engagement (this is likely the case when organizations feel that they have have accomplished short term goals or have moved on to focus on other priority areas in future years. This does not indicate that the activities or engagement stops). The number of arrows indicate a small, medium or large change between current state and future state.