

Annual Report

2025-2026

Celebrating
30 YEARS

of supporting access
to post-secondary in
British Columbia



We respectfully acknowledge the unceded territory of the Coast Salish Peoples, including the territories of the x^wməθk^wəyəm (Musqueam), Sk̓wx̓wú7mesh (Squamish), and səlilwətał (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations, and the traditional territories of the lək^wəŋən (Lekwungen) Peoples, comprised of the present-day Songhees and X^wsepsəm / Kosampson Nations, on which EducationPlannerBC offices are situated.

Celebrating 30 years

of supporting access to post-secondary in B.C.

STUDENTS FIND YOUR PATH
RECRUITMENT PARENTS
TRANSCRIPT EXCHANGE APPLY
FRENCH LANGUAGE PROGRAMMING
FIND EPBCONNECTS
YOUR MICRO-CREDENTIALS
FIT POST-SECONDARY
4000+ PROGRAMS PARTNERS
TEACHERS PLAN
CONNECTING EDUCATION TO CAREERS

Today, EducationPlannerBC is a maturing post-secondary organization within the portfolio of the Ministry of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills. It has become an essential tool for students imagining a post-secondary future in B.C., as well as for teachers and counsellors who support students through this journey.

Dr. Kathy Denton

President & CEO, Douglas College

Co-Chair, Steering Committee, EducationPlannerBC

History overview

In 1996, British Columbia launched Canada's first online provincial application system, known today as EducationPlannerBC.

This was an initiative led by post-secondary institutions, and supported by the Government of British Columbia, to streamline the post-secondary application process and make it easier for students to apply to the province's public institutions.

The planning began in 1992, when 52 ministry and education representatives convened at a Common Application Service workshop to explore a centralized system for post-secondary applications. The decision was a two-part application model consisting of a common form, and an institution-specific application. In 1996, British Columbia processed Canada's first online post-secondary applications.

In 2015, the ministry began consultations with the public post-secondary sector. Through this consultation a report was produced outlining 11 recommendations including consolidating Education Planner, ApplyBC, and TranscriptsBC to act as a foundational support for students and post-secondary institutions.

The launch of the online application system laid the groundwork for future improvements, with the goal of eventually bringing planning, applications, and transcript services together in a single online portal.

In 2016, through extensive work and consultation from over 60 representatives from British Columbia public post-secondary institutions, EducationPlannerBC was launched, providing key supports and establishing a foundation to build on additional services.

This year, EducationPlannerBC, together with our post-secondary and government partners, celebrates 30 years of supporting access to post-secondary education in British Columbia.

An excerpt from EducationPlannerBC's 2016-17 Progress Report

Since 2015, our sector has been working collaboratively on the EducationPlannerBC initiative to support students entering post-secondary education. We have consolidated and enhanced the sector's online application-for-admission resources with an integrated and intuitive application portal.

The EducationPlannerBC development and planning process has involved over 60 representatives from British Columbia public post-secondary institutions, representing a great deal of collective time, effort and resources. We would like to express our appreciation for the extensive collaboration and consultation within the post-secondary sector and the Ministry of Advanced Education, Skills and Training.

Dr. Kathy Denton
Co-Chair, Steering Committee, EducationPlannerBC

Dr. Kate Ross
Former Co-Chair, Steering Committee, EducationPlannerBC

Who we are

EducationPlannerBC supports a student's journey through post-secondary by connecting education to careers and providing shared services to support access and decision-making.

As B.C.'s centralized post-secondary application and data exchange service, EducationPlannerBC provides resources that help learners of all ages broaden their understanding of opportunities to study in B.C., while delivering application, data-sharing, and shared services that reduce barriers and gain efficiencies in support of the post-secondary sector.

EducationPlannerBC works collaboratively with post-secondary, government, and community partners to ensure inclusive pathways to student success.

Vision

To every person, a pathway to the future.

Mission

We connect people to education and career opportunities through information, support, and technology.

Values

Collaborative
Innovative
Fun
Inclusive

Staying true to our roots, EducationPlannerBC's mandate continues to align to our initial vision and purpose.

Vision: Connecting students to post-secondary opportunities and career destinations.

Purpose: Improve post-secondary planning and application services for students, making it easier to plan, search, and apply for post-secondary education in B.C.

Welcome

Thirty years ago, a foundational vision was set in motion: to streamline access to post-secondary education in British Columbia.

Our story since then is one of intentional, steady evolution, not just of a digital platform, but of a deep collaboration between the people who built it and the sector it serves.

In the beginning, we were a digital doorway, a place to plan, search, and apply. Today, we have matured into a comprehensive ecosystem that bridges the gap between a student's earliest curiosity and their eventual enrolment. Our growth has been fueled by a singular, unwavering commitment: to make the transition to higher education as seamless as possible for learners while acting as an innovative, reliable backbone for the entire B.C. public post-secondary sector.

Supporting lifelong learning

A pivotal moment in this journey was the complete reimagining and launch of our modern application system, designed to handle the complexities of contemporary admissions while respecting the applicant's time and user experience. Alongside this, we expanded our planning resources to provide a clearer roadmap for those who feel overwhelmed by choice or simply don't know where to begin.

Through innovations like Find Your Path, the micro-credentials platform, and the seamless integration of the StrongerBC future skills grant, we have demonstrated that EducationPlannerBC is a vital resource for lifelong learners, career changers, and workers looking to upskill and reskill quickly.

Expanding our reach

As our digital tools grew, so did our commitment to face-to-face engagement. Today, EducationPlannerBC directly connects with over 50,000 students, parents, and career counsellors annually through dynamic classroom and community engagement, showcasing B.C.'s renowned and diverse program offerings.

This past year, our impact in classrooms reached an exciting new milestone. The integration of the Find Your Fit program has transformed career exploration into a tangible, hands-on experience. By helping students connect their natural curiosities to high-demand careers right here in British Columbia, we are making the dream of post-secondary education feel attainable, practical, and real.

Informing the sector

We have demonstrated a strong commitment to our post-secondary partners in the services we provide. Those services have increased over the years and continue to expand and evolve. This year, we are conducting the first annual applicant survey. We will soon be launching our provincial data warehouse. Jointly, these initiatives will provide our institutional partners with an unprecedented understanding of applicant behaviour. Beyond seamless application management, we are delivering the actionable intelligence that allows institutions to adapt, evolve, and better serve their diverse communities.

Looking ahead

We have successfully established the structural, technical, and collaborative foundation required to support the next generation of B.C. students and the future of our provincial workforce.

Thank you to our Steering Committee, our institutional partners, and our ministries for your continued trust and shared vision.

Karen McCredie
Executive Director,
EducationPlannerBC



Dr. Kathy Denton
Co-Chair, Steering Committee
President & CEO, Douglas College



Michael Bluhm
Co-Chair, Steering Committee
Associate Vice-President, Strategic
Enrolment & University Registrar, TRU



Governance

Steering Committee



Dr. Kathy Denton
Co-Chair
President & CEO,
Douglas College



Michael Bluhm
Co-Chair
Associate Vice-President,
Enrolment Services &
University Registrar, TRU



Todd Bondaroff
President & CEO,
Northern Lights College



Sarah Dench
Vice-President, Student
Affairs, Douglas College



Dr. Jane Fee
Higher Education
Consultant



Benjamin Ferrel
Executive Director,
Digital Policy & Business
Transformation Branch,
PSFS



David Johnston
University Registrar &
AVP, Enrolment
Management, UVF



Reza Khakbaznejad
Chief Information
Officer, KPU



Angela Konieczny
Secretariat
Executive Assistant,
EducationPlannerBC



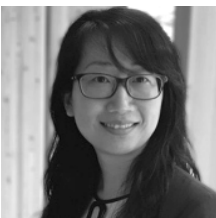
Wency Lum
AVP, University Systems
& CIO, UVIC



Karen McCredie
Executive Director,
EducationPlannerBC



Tom Nault
University Registrar &
Executive Director,
Student Enrollment, SFU



Rella Ng
Associate Vice-President,
Enrolment Services &
Registrar, UBC



Chris Rathbone
ADM, Post-Secondary
Policy & Programs, PSFS



Wendy Taylor
Registrar, UVIC



Mike Winsemann
Executive Director -
Interim, BCCAT

Executive Committee

Dr. Kathy Denton, Co-Chair
Michael Bluhm, Co-Chair
Chris Rathbone
Benjamin Ferrel
Karen McCredie
Angela Konieczny, Secretariat

Finance & Risk Committee

Michael Bluhm, Chair
Dr. Kathy Denton, Vice-Chair
David Johnston
Reza Khakbaznejad
Benjamin Ferrel
Karen McCredie
Angela Konieczny, Secretariat

Thank you for your support

Recognizing those who served on
EducationPlannerBC's Steering
Committee over the past 10 years.

Post-secondary & sector representatives

Daniel Blue
Jennifer Burns
Carrie Chassels
Lisa Collins
Dr. Mary Demarinis
Jim Dunsdon
Dr. Rob Fleming
Jody Gordon
Dr. Andrew Hay
Rummana Khan Hemani
Dr. Dennis Johnson
Kathleen Kuhnert
Stephen Lamb
Dr. Pam Ratner
Dr. Kate Ross
Tracey Szirth

Ministry representatives

Claire Avison
Sally Barton
Trevor Hurst
Laura Hutchinson
Nicola Lemmer
Eleanor Liddy
Tony Loughran
Kerry Pridmore
Jeff Vasey
Niya West
Jennifer Wray

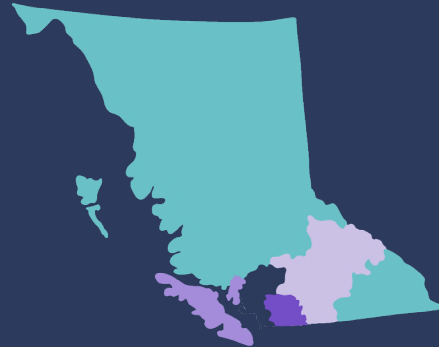
Our history

EducationPlannerBC was launched in 2016, while its partnerships and services to support access to post-secondary education have been developing since the 1990s.

1992

B.C. began exploring a centralized system for applications.

Common Application Service workshop held with **50+** education and government representatives.



1994

Post-secondary Application Service of British Columbia (PASBC) led the development of the Common Application Service.

1995

A two-part application model was developed:

A Common Form:
Recorded standard applicant information

An institution-specific application:
Captured institutions' unique application requirements

1996

January 15, 1996
B.C.'s online application service launched, the first in Canada.

The first online post-secondary applications were submitted.

Within the first month

70 B.C. high schools sent **1500** applications to **5** B.C. public post-secondary institutions

Explore, a searchable database of post-secondary programs, launched and was delivered to all B.C. high schools via **CD-ROM.**



1999

In 1999, PASBC & Explore combined and became **Opening Doors**.

2001

Opening Doors became a provincially recommended planning resource and was added to the Career and Personal Planning (CAPP) curriculum for grade 11 and 12 students.

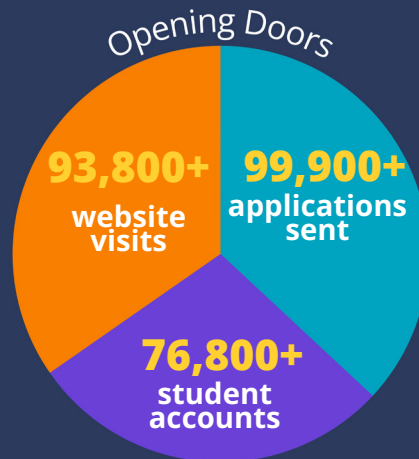
2003



Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) launched to support online transcript exchange for B.C. public post-secondary institutions. This service was supported by BCcampus.



BCcampus
Learning. Doing. Leading.



2004

BCCAT
BRITISH COLUMBIA COUNCIL
ON ADMISSIONS & TRANSFER

The online application moved to BCcampus along with the transcript system.

The program listing portion of Opening Doors moved to BCCAT and was **renamed Education Planner**.

2005

300,000+
website visits
on **Education Planner**.

2010

XML transcript exchange pilot launched with SFU, KPU, & Douglas College.

2011

Work began on the PASBC application form to integrate the common form with post-secondary-specific applications, and to rebrand as ApplyBC.

2012

ApplyBC went live with SFU as its first integrated application.

TranscriptsBC launched using XML transcript exchange.

2013

ApplyBC's integrated application form became available to all B.C. public post-secondary institutions.



2014

B.C.'s post-secondary sector and provincial government explored a centralized online portal for education planning and applications.

17,000+ transcripts exchanged (including to Ontario).

2015

A Sector Advisory Committee convened to recommend the development of a common online solution for public post-secondary institutions in B.C.

The Ministry of Advanced Education, Skills and Training, BCCAT, and BCcampus were integral partners in this work.

2016

16 B.C. public post-secondary institutions joined EducationPlannerBC.

EducationPlannerBC launched, integrating: Education Planner, ApplyBC, TranscriptsBC.



2017

EducationPlannerBC enhanced its application interface and infrastructure to improve program search and user experience.

EducationPlannerBC expanded online applicant support and program content management. Launched outreach campaign to support community engagement.



2018

A total of 18 public post-secondary institutions now integrated with EducationPlannerBC's application service.

2019

EducationPlannerBC appointed inaugural Interim Executive Director, signifying the organization's maturity and independence.

First in-person high school presentation

First virtual high school presentation

First parent information workshop

Reached over **6,500 students, parents, and counsellors** across **16 school districts**.

EducationPlannerBC
150,000+ online applications received
1.8 million+ website visits

19 public post-secondary institutions onboarded to EducationPlannerBC's online transcript exchange.
15 institutions began receiving high school transcripts.

2020



COVID-19 Pandemic:
All engagement shifted to virtual presentations in response to school restrictions on in-person instruction, ensuring continued access to post-secondary planning.

2021

Outreach expanded to reach diverse communities through community partnerships including S.U.C.C.E.S.S. and Strengthening Connections.

22 post-secondary institutions now received high school transcripts.



EducationPlannerBC hosted its inaugural **EPBConnects** virtual event for post-secondary and sector partners.

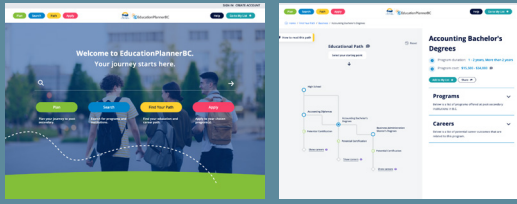
2022



EducationPlannerBC launched focused French Language Programming engagement.

2023

Launched **refreshed website** and the **Find Your Path** interactive tool.



Expanded parents workshops reaching over **1,500 parents**.



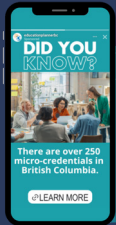
BC Services Card integrated into the Application.



PEN validation integrated.

EducationPlannerBC hosts the program listing for the StrongerBC future skills grant, announced as part of the province's StrongerBC Future Ready Action Plan.

2024



Micro-credential listing launched on EducationPlannerBC.

24 public post-secondary now integrated with EducationPlannerBC's application service.



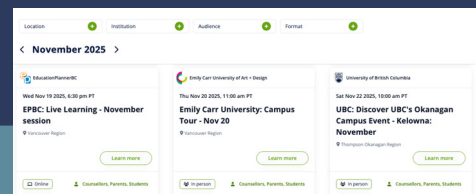
Developed a Nursing page to promote education and training opportunities to support B.C.'s labour market needs.

2025



Launched EducationPlannerBC **Live Learning** sessions - virtual presentations open to anyone.

Find Your Fit joined EducationPlannerBC's engagement portfolio, expanding our reach to support students in Grades 5-9.



EducationPlannerBC's **Event Calendar** launched for students to access recruitment event information across the province.

Post-secondary partners

EducationPlannerBC was established through a partnership between B.C.'s post-secondary institutions and the provincial government. That partnership model continues to guide our work as we grow and evolve to meet the needs of today's students and future learners. Our governance structure was designed to maintain this shared partnership through committees composed of senior leaders from B.C.'s public post-secondary sector and representatives from the Ministry of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills and the Ministry of Education and Child Care. This collaborative governance model ensures our work continues to reflect the shared priorities of B.C.'s post-secondary sector.

Providing connection

EducationPlannerBC is committed to working alongside post-secondary institutions to help students succeed. This is reflected in our investment of a Client Relations team, which fosters strong relationships with our post-secondary partners and creates opportunities for ongoing engagement and feedback.

The Client Relations team serves as a dedicated and personalized point of contact for each post-secondary institution, providing proactive communication and support for the development, integration, and use of our services.

EducationPlannerBC launched EPBConnects, our annual virtual event, in 2021 to bring colleagues together to network, share best practice, and explore new developments in student support, applications, transcripts, and engagement. The event features diverse voices from post-secondary and sector partners.

1295
event
attendees
over 6 years

87
external
speakers
over 6 years



Delivering insight

EducationPlannerBC is uniquely positioned within B.C.'s post-secondary sector to provide insights into applicant and student behaviour through our application and data exchange systems, and recently introduced annual applicant survey.

The upcoming launch of our data warehouse will build on this foundation, further establishing EducationPlannerBC as the central hub for analyzing and presenting applicant and student insights from a provincial perspective.



We work with our post-secondary and ministry partners to review and verify over 4000 programs and 600 careers shared on EducationPlannerBC.

Transcript exchange

As a key collaborator of B.C.'s flexible transfer system, EducationPlannerBC provides an efficient and secure electronic transcript exchange system between B.C.'s public post-secondary institutions.

There are 200+ post-secondary digital transcript exchange relationships across 14 post-secondary institutions, enabling faster student mobility and reducing manual processing and costs for our post-secondary partners.

EducationPlannerBC also manages the delivery of all B.C. high school transcripts to post-secondary institutions in B.C. and across Alberta and Ontario. This service simplifies and supports student mobility while providing cost-savings and supporting enhanced business practices for post-secondary institutions and the ministry.

"Having a secure, centralized application platform, enhanced by the Plan, Search, and Find Your Path tools, has truly elevated the experience for our prospective students in ways that simply would not have been possible without EducationPlannerBC.

Being a member of EducationPlannerBC and utilizing its robust functionality has enabled KPU to significantly reduce manual work, creating efficiencies within our internal operations that directly support both applicants and students. The integration of electronic transcript exchange, along with greater data standardization and ongoing expansion, provides us with exciting opportunities to continue enhancing these processes.

EducationPlannerBC's ongoing support and commitment to working closely with B.C. post-secondary organizations has been key to these successes. I look forward to continued collaboration with EPBC and our B.C. partners as we explore new possibilities in our ever-evolving sector."

- Nadia Henwood

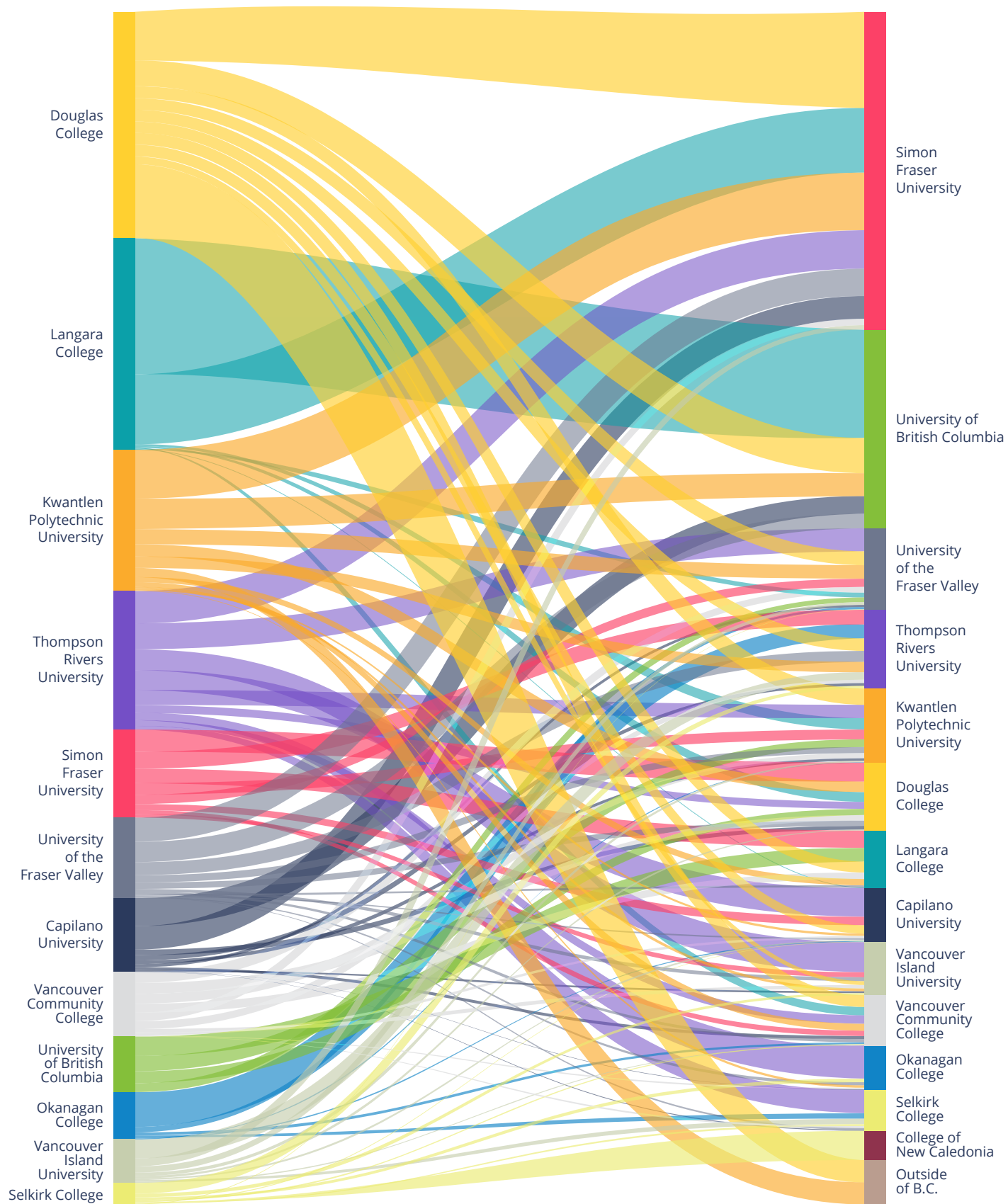
AVP Enrolment Services & Registrar
Kwantlen Polytechnic University

The following graph illustrates the impact of the transcript exchange between B.C.'s post-secondary institutions managed by EducationPlannerBC's data exchange system.

By streamlining this process, the system significantly reduces the administrative and financial impacts on post-secondary institutions, accelerates service delivery for students, and reinforces the province's flexible transfer system.

TRANSCRIPT SOURCE

TRANSCRIPT DESTINATION



Application & data exchange

As the provincial application service, EducationPlannerBC facilitates access to post-secondary in British Columbia. In its inaugural year, the online application received just over 1,500 applications. Today, EducationPlannerBC processes over 280,000 applications annually, including all domestic undergraduate applications, as well as portions of international, graduate, and law school applications for 24 of B.C.'s public post-secondary institutions.

280,000
applications
submitted

691,000
high school
transcripts
delivered

21,000
post-secondary
transcripts
delivered

51,000
international applications
submitted

228,000
domestic applications
submitted

144,000
supporting
documents delivered

Numbers on this page may vary year-to-year, representing a shift in student activity or in a post-secondary institution's business processes.

The evolution of applying to post-secondary

1990s



Paper applications were filled out by hand.

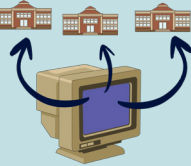


Application fees were paid by cheque.



Transcripts were printed, sealed, and mailed from the high school to the post-secondary institution.

2000s



Applications via Common Form were sent to each institution separately.

2010s



EducationPlannerBC went live!



XML Transcript Upgrade allowed for faster processing and for transcripts to be sent instantly.



Application fees were paid by credit cards.

2020s



Application system was integrated with the BC Services Card.

Website enhancements

EducationPlannerBC's website continues to evolve to meet the needs of students, their supporters, post-secondary institutions, and community partners.

2 million

website
visits

1/4 million

Find Your Path
page views

Connecting Education to Careers

EducationPlannerBC's Find Your Path

Find Your Path was announced on November 24, 2023 as part of a significant provincial government investment to enable students to connect education to career paths and empower lifelong learning. The interactive tool, launched on EducationPlannerBC's website, allows students to easily explore different sectors, learn about high opportunity occupations, discover the post-secondary programs that lead to their careers of interest.

Meeting B.C.'s Labour Market Needs

StrongerBC future skills grant

As part of the StrongerBC Future Ready Action Plan, the provincial government introduced the future skills grant program to support people living in B.C., aged 19 and older, in accessing up to \$3,500 for eligible short-term skills training. The eligible programs, which are listed on EducationPlannerBC's website, are aligned with the province's labour market needs and government priorities.

To support the growing demand, the webpage underwent further redevelopment to improve the ability to search short duration, skills focused training to align with B.C.'s evolving economic needs.

Micro-credentials

EducationPlannerBC's micro-credentials webpage has continued to evolve to support the growing interest in short-term upskilling and reskilling needs to inspire new interests and support lifelong learning. Users can search and use filters to discover fast, flexible, and recognized learning options to upskill for in-demand jobs, and build towards longer term career goals.

French language programming

The French Language programming initiative was developed to increase awareness and access to French programs at B.C. post-secondary institutions.

EducationPlannerBC's French students webpage showcases French programs that are available in B.C. as well as specific French bursaries and scholarships. The webpage promotes French-speaking career opportunities, including French language instruction within the B.C. school system.

Student engagement & recruitment

EducationPlannerBC began as an application service and online resource supporting access to post-secondary education in B.C.

Our work has expanded to include direct engagement with students, parents, counsellors, and community organizations. We engage over 40,000 students and supporters annually through presentations, workshops, events, and community partnerships. Our marketing initiatives help further raise awareness of EducationPlannerBC while providing a collective voice to promote B.C.'s public post-secondary institutions and the education opportunities and career paths available to learners of all ages across B.C.

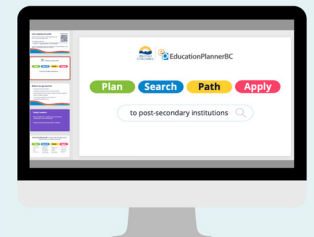
40,000+

students & supporters
reached

Providing access to everyone

EducationPlannerBC Live Learning virtual sessions launched in 2025 to provide an inclusive engagement model, offering presentations open to anyone, anywhere.

Students, parents, supporters, teachers, and counsellors can all register to attend to learn more about EducationPlannerBC's website and resources. The accessibility of these sessions has allowed for hundreds to participate.



"Thank you for your presentations yesterday to our grade 10 Career Life Education students. We were surprised at how successful a virtual presentation was. I witnessed student engagement which is HUGE! We love EducationPlannerBC for so many reasons and believe this resource is valuable and essential. With this presentation being delivered to grade 10 students we see this as seed planting.

You made a difference in our students lives yesterday.
We look forward to booking with you again next school year."

- Teacher

"The presentation was fabulous. I'm always reminded of how incredibly valuable the resource is for students...but the conversation last night, really amplified how valuable it is for parents. EducationPlannerBC is such a brilliant stepping stone to post secondary conversations."

- Counsellor

Expanding support to middle years

In collaboration with WorkBC, EducationPlannerBC expanded our engagement in fall 2025 to reach middle years students across the province through Find Your Fit.

This hands-on career exploration event showcases high-opportunity occupations such as healthcare, skilled trades, engineering, and technology, with a strong focus on building job skills and introducing educational pathways.

Students are introduced to the connection between education and careers and discover resources, including EducationPlannerBC's website and Find Your Path tool, for further exploration.



15,800
students engaged

54
schools engaged

"This is a great hands-on opportunity for our students, I would've loved to have had this opportunity at their age!"

- Teacher

"I finally found out what I want to be when I grow up!
I'll definitely show my parents this website and look at more careers when I get home!"

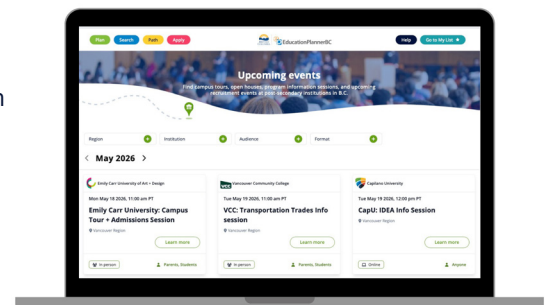
- Student

Showcasing recruitment activities

EducationPlannerBC's Event Calendar enhances student access to post-secondary recruitment opportunities.

The calendar allows post-secondary institutions to promote campus tours, open houses, and information sessions directly to prospective applicants through intuitive search filters and direct links.

By also highlighting EducationPlannerBC's engagement opportunities and community outreach, the calendar serves as a powerful hub that bridges the gap between learners and the education and career information they need to succeed.



820
Events shared

7,000+
Event calendar page views

Marketing strategy

Study in beautiful British Columbia

EducationPlannerBC's marketing strategy has evolved and matured over time. In response to the shifting needs in the post-secondary sector, EducationPlannerBC developed a campaign to drive applications, encouraging students to "Study in B.C." The campaign positioned B.C. as the place where students can pursue diverse education and career opportunities, while enjoying the uniqueness of beautiful British Columbia.

Acting as a collective voice for post-secondary institutions across the province, the campaign balanced broad and inclusive messaging with key themes to present B.C. as an inspiring place to learn and live.

The media strategy focused on outdoor advertising in Greater Vancouver and key regions across the province to reach Grade 11-12 students through a variety of channels in high-density youth areas. Social media expanded the campaign's reach to students and their supporters across the province, while national print and digital channels connected with parents and supporters nationwide.

The campaign connected education to career opportunities, highlighting the endless possibilities available through studying in B.C., and positioning EducationPlannerBC as the central resource for exploring and learning more.

160,000+
social media
reach

300,000+
social media
impressions

4,600+
website
views

Thinking of post-secondary?

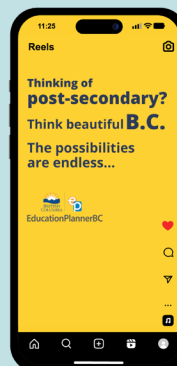
Explore **4,000+** programs
& endless career paths
in beautiful **B.C.**

Find out how at EducationPlannerBC, the provincial resource to easily explore education and careers, and apply to study in British Columbia. It's the centralized place for making informed, inspiring decisions about your future.



EducationPlannerBC

EducationPlannerBC.ca



Supporting learners on their lifelong journey to study and work in British Columbia

MIDDLE YEARS WONDER AND CURIOSITY

HIGH SCHOOL EXPLORATION AND PLANNING

