

NEWS RELEASE

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RESEARCH UNIVERSITIES APPLAUD FUTURE READY PROVINCIAL INVESTMENT

VICTORIA: The research universities of BC welcome the provincial investment in the post-secondary education sector announced today by Premier David Eby and Post-Secondary and Future Skills Minister Selina Robinson.

“The **Future Ready** plan supports affordable, accessible education and skills training for students across the province and will remove barriers and increase the pool of talent we need to build a more prosperous, inclusive British Columbia,” said Dr. Philip Steenkamp, President and Vice-Chancellor of Royal Roads University and Chair of the Research Universities’ Council of BC.

Support for post-secondary institutions and students demonstrates the provincial commitment to build a strong, secure future for all British Columbians. New program grants and increased access to student financial aid will ensure all British Columbians have the opportunity to gain the skills that are currently in high demand in the labour market. Additional funding to expand on-campus housing will create more spaces for students while helping to alleviate housing pressures in the broader community.

“We are particularly pleased to see a significant investment in more internships and graduate student scholarships,” said Dr. Max Blouw, President of the Research Universities’ Council of BC. “This very welcome support will enable graduate students to acquire the advanced skills and knowledge that are so critical in the modern workplace. To support sustainable and growing prosperity, we need more highly skilled, research-informed graduates who can adapt and respond to shifting labour market demands and drive innovation. Additional technology spaces have contributed to the dynamism in our biosciences and technology sectors in the past, and these additional seats will provide the underpinning for accelerated engagement with a global shift to harnessing the economic benefits of advanced technologies.”

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RUCBC represents the interests of BC's research universities, identifying issues facing the institutions, providing system wide leadership in the development of relevant public policy and communicating on behalf of the university system. RUCBC also provides a coordinating forum for its members and acts as a provincial focal point for working with the Government of British Columbia and provincial or national bodies associated with universities.

