



Submission to the B.C. Post-Secondary System Sustainability Review

Institution: snəwəyəʔ lələm Langara College

To: Don Avison KC, Chair

Langara.

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A brief note from the President

Dear Mr. Avison,

Thank you for taking on this important work. A thoughtful, system-wide review of public post-secondary education is both timely and necessary, and we support the collective submission brought forward by BC Colleges, which reflects the shared priorities and collaborative spirit of the public college sector in British Columbia.

British Columbia's post-secondary system has significant strengths, and at the same time, real opportunities to deepen how we collectively serve students, communities, and industry. We welcome the Province's decision to take a holistic look at sustainability, coordination, and long-term resilience, with learner access and workforce needs at the forefront.

At snəwəyəʔ leləm Langara College, this work aligns closely with our Future Focused framework, which sets a clear direction for how we are strengthening academic quality, student success, and workforce relevance over the coming years. As part of this work, Langara is advancing a new Academic Centres model to better organize programs around learner needs, emerging labour market demand, and stronger collaboration across disciplines in alignment with community needs.

For snəwəyəʔ leləm Langara College, this review provides an opportunity to share the work we are doing, what makes our role distinct within the system, and where we see practical opportunities to strengthen outcomes for students and families across the province. We offer the following submission in that spirit.

Sincerely,

Dr. Paula Burns

President and CEO, snəwəyəʔ leləm Langara College

Langara College's role within the public post-secondary system

snəwəyəʔ leləm Langara College is a public post-secondary institution located in South Vancouver on the unceded, ancestral, and traditional territory of the Musqueam people. Langara brings forward strengths that directly address the challenges highlighted by the Province in launching this review, including affordability, student mobility, collaboration across institutions, and alignment with labour market needs.



Langara's contribution to the public post-secondary system

1. MUSQUEAM PARTNERSHIP AND INDIGENOUS LEARNER SUPPORT

Langara's relationship with the Musqueam people is foundational to the identity and operations of snəwəyəʔ leləm Langara College, shaping how the institution approaches reconciliation, Indigenous learner access, and community engagement.

WHAT SETS US APART

- Langara carries the Indigenous name **snəwəyəʔ leləm**, meaning “*house of teachings*,” a name gifted by Musqueam that formally embeds this relationship into the College's public identity, governance, and daily operations.
- Langara provides **tuition waivers for Musqueam Band Members**, ensuring that financial barriers do not prevent Musqueam learners from accessing post-secondary education at the College.
- The **Indigenous Upgrading program** supports Indigenous learners who may not meet traditional admission requirements by providing academic preparation and clear transition pathways into regular studies programs.
- Langara maintains **formal Indigenous transfer agreements with both UBC and SFU**, enabling Indigenous students to begin their studies in a smaller, supportive learning environment before transferring into degree programs at research universities.
- Indigenous learners are represented in **high-demand programs such as Nursing**, supporting participation in priority workforce areas while strengthening Indigenous representation in essential public services.
- Langara has a signed Memorandum of Agreement with Musqueam to further honour, formalize and strengthen our relationship and to work together.

2. ACCESS, AFFORDABILITY, AND STUDENT SUCCESS

Langara operates as an access-oriented institution serving learners who often balance employment, family responsibilities, and financial pressure while pursuing post-secondary education.

WHAT SETS US APART

- The average tuition cost for a full-time first-year student in regular studies at Langara is **\$3,228**, increasing to **\$3,359 in 2025/26**, which remains **lower than the average tuition across all B.C. colleges**, helping to reduce financial barriers for learners entering post-secondary education.
- In 2025, Langara distributed **\$1.8 million in scholarships and awards**, providing direct financial support to students and mitigating affordability pressures.
- The **Academic Success Centre** provides free tutoring, writing assistance, and study-skills programming that support academic confidence and persistence across disciplines.
- Students are supported in planning their academic pathways, including academic preparation and course selection that build confidence to transfer to research universities, helping reduce delays and uncertainty in progression.
- Langara integrates co-operative education, work-integrated learning, and structured scaffolding supports to help students navigate and succeed in workplace environments that maximize their future career opportunities.

3. A PRIMARY TRANSFER PATHWAY TO UNIVERSITIES IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

Transfer is a core function of Langara's role within the post-secondary system, particularly for students seeking affordable and accessible entry points into university degrees.

WHAT SETS US APART

- Langara is the access point for many B.C. students and families to a university degree, allowing them to start their education strongly and then transfer on. We transfer more students to the **University of British Columbia** annually than any other college.
- Langara transfers a **five-year average of approximately 280 students annually to Simon Fraser University**, placing it among the leading contributors to SFU's transfer population.
- Across the system, Langara facilitates a **five-year average of more than 2,100 student transfers annually** to other B.C. public post-secondary institutions, contributing significantly to system-wide student mobility.
- Lower-cost entry points and strong academic preparation support competitive GPA outcomes for Langara students transitioning into university programs.

4. WORKFORCE ALIGNMENT AND APPLIED LEARNING

Langara aligns programming with provincial economic priorities and future labour market needs, including those identified through **Look West** and the **B.C. Labour Market Outlook**, which forecasts well over one million job openings across the province over the next decade and highlights the importance of post-secondary skills and training for future workforce demand, with a focus on preparing students for both immediate employment and successful transfer into high-demand degree pathways.

WHAT SETS US APART

- Langara delivers programs aligned with emerging and sustained workforce demand under **Look West**, including **data analytics, science, and engineering transfer**, supporting students to succeed academically and transfer into competitive engineering and applied science programs at **UBC, SFU, and UVic**.
- Health-related programming, including **Nursing, allied health programs, food and nutrition, and gerontology**, supports workforce needs associated with population growth, aging, and demand for skilled health professionals.
- Programs such as **Early Childhood Care and Education and Child Care Assistant** credentials align with labour market needs in education and care sectors that are essential to community well-being and economic participation.
- Langara's **creative arts programs** contribute to British Columbia's cultural and creative economy, supporting skills development in sectors tied to innovation, entrepreneurship, and regional growth.
- The College offers an **expanding portfolio of micro-credentials and short-cycle programs** that respond quickly to labour market demand, support upskilling and reskilling, and complement longer academic pathways, through both regular studies as well as our Stackable by Langara continuing studies offerings..
- Across these program areas, Langara integrates work-integrated learning and employer engagement to support students in applying their learning, navigating workplace expectations, and transitioning successfully into employment or further study.

Recommendations to support system sustainability

Based on Langara's role within the post-secondary system and the pressures facing institutions across British Columbia, the College offers the following recommendations for consideration as part of the review.

1. STRENGTHEN COORDINATED INDIGENOUS COLLABORATION ACROSS GOVERNMENT AND INSTITUTIONS

Government could play a constructive convening role in supporting coordinated engagement with Indigenous Nations, including Musqueam, while also enabling stronger collaboration among post-secondary institutions. This approach would reduce pressure on individual Nations to engage separately with multiple institutions and support more consistent, community-led pathways, particularly through strengthened collaboration between Langara and research universities such as UBC, to improve continuity of support and outcomes for Indigenous learners.

2. FORMALIZE KEY INTER-INSTITUTIONAL RELATIONSHIPS TO SUPPORT STUDENTS AND FAMILIES

Given Langara's role as a major feeder institution, government could explore ways to formally recognize and strengthen "sister institution" relationships with universities and polytechnics, including UBC and SFU, improving clarity and confidence for students and families navigating pathways.

3. ENABLE COORDINATED PROCUREMENT AND SHARED OPERATIONS

There are clear opportunities to reduce costs through shared procurement, particularly in high-cost areas such as Nursing equipment, where coordinated purchasing across institutions could generate significant efficiencies.

4. SUPPORT SYSTEM-WIDE APPROACHES TO MAJOR TECHNOLOGY INVESTMENTS

Langara was among the first institutions to implement Workday alongside UBC, absorbing significant, self-funded costs over multiple years. As Workday becomes a broader system requirement, government could explore mechanisms to support coordinated implementation and cost-sharing across institutions.

5. ADVANCE TUITION EQUITY ACROSS LIKE PROGRAMS

Tuition policy should focus on **equity rather than increases**, ensuring that similar programs carry similar tuition levels across institutions to support fairness, transparency, and informed decision-making for students.

6. EXPAND GOVERNMENT-ENABLED COLLABORATION ON WORK-INTEGRATED LEARNING AND LABOUR MARKET ALIGNMENT

Government could play a stronger convening role in bringing industry and post-secondary institutions together in more formal and coordinated ways to better understand workforce needs, align co-curricular and experiential learning, and ensure graduates are prepared to meet current and future labour market demand. This approach would support the development of skilled, work-ready talent in priority areas aligned with **Look West** and other provincial labour market priorities.

Closing

Langara College welcomes the opportunity to contribute to this review and to continue working collaboratively with government and system partners to ensure that all British Columbians have access to high-quality post-secondary education and clear, affordable pathways to university degrees and meaningful employment.

