

For immediate release

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## **Student advocacy works - Province of B.C. invests a further \$4 million in COVID-19 emergency assistance funding**

**Burnaby, B.C.** — The BCIT Student Association is pleased to commend the Province for stepping up with \$4 million in new student emergency financial assistance.

“COVID-19 has caused unmanageable financial pressures for far too many students,” said Claire McCallum, VP External. “Our team has heard from countless students about their struggles, and the negative effects this has had on their education.”

“Today’s announcement builds upon past investments made by all levels of government to support students,” added Ms. McCallum. “The BCITSA will continue to advocate for further emergency measures, including through expanded student grants, greater regulation of tuition increases, and increased U-Pass BC exemption limits.”

Recent results of student advocacy have included the new BC Access Grants, the *Here2Talk* 24/7 counselling service, the extension of graduate scholarships, and last autumn’s \$108.8 million investment in student housing at the Burnaby campus.

Over the preceding year, the external advocacy office at the BCITSA has been pursuing multiple efforts to champion students’ needs during this pandemic. Since December, three new policies have been passed by Council, focusing on affordability and student aid, and the team has met with countless MLAs to lobby for these important issues.

As information becomes available, eligible individuals will be able to apply for this funding through the BCIT Student Financial Aid and Awards office.

“This pandemic has caused far too much hardship for our peers,” said Hunter Sones, President of the BCIT Student Association. “That is why our Council donated \$130,000 towards emergency assistance, and we continue to press for additional supports from post-secondary institutions, TransLink, and all governments. We hope to see further positive announcements in the federal and provincial budgets on April 19th and 20th.”

Please review the Government’s news release ([here](#)) for full details. For additional comment, please contact:

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