



College Institute Educators' Association

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Media Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 17, 2004

Balanced budget equals an educational deficit

Despite lofty promises about student access in the Throne speech, the BC budget continues a pattern of broken promises for students, families and communities. College Institute Educators' Association of BC President Cindy Oliver expressed disappointment that minimal new funding for post-secondary institutions will come directly out of students' pockets in the coming year.

Oliver says that on top of the elimination of student grants, the government's plan offers little additional funding. "An access plan that says here's another three years of doing 'more with less' does a serious disservice to students and educators," said Oliver. Tuesday's budget offers post-secondary institutions one per cent more money to deliver two per cent more students in the coming year. The three-year service plan sees institutions enrolling seven per cent more students with an increase of only four per cent in funding.

"Funding per student declines each year of the three year plan – by over three per cent – even before taking inflation into account," said Oliver.

Oliver said she was also disappointed that the budget did not contain a new commitment to a balanced approach to apprenticeship and industry training, nor did it offer the sector the significant funding that will be needed for the 2010 Olympics.

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The College Institute Educators' Association is British Columbia's largest post-secondary education union, with locals at colleges, university colleges, institutes and agencies, and in the private sector.