

# CONNECTIONS

## Supporting Educational Pathways as a Collaborative Community

An overview of BCCAT's 2020-21 Annual Review  
(Available at [bccat.ca/about/annualreview](https://bccat.ca/about/annualreview))

In 2020, BC's post-secondary community faced remarkable challenges due to the Covid-19 pandemic. BCCAT's top priority is to ensure that learners and post-secondary institutions continue to benefit from BC's network of flexible learning pathways during this critical time and going forward.

This is an overview of how BCCAT has worked this past year to strengthen collaboration and connections vital to enabling learner access and mobility.



There is perhaps no better example of successful cross-system integration than our post-secondary credit transfer system, overseen by the BC Council on Admissions and Transfer (BCCAT)...

Over the last 30 years, BCCAT has been instrumental in developing a highly efficient, evolving transfer system that is a world standard and the envy of other jurisdictions within Canada and abroad."

- Max Blouw, President, Research Universities' Council of BC (RUCBC)



### COLLABORATING WITH PARTNERS

to ensure learners continue to benefit from transfer pathways during the pandemic

### ENHANCING TECHNOLOGIES

to optimize credit transfer processes and make credit transfer pathways more intuitive and accessible to learners

### CONDUCTING RESEARCH

examining the impacts of the pandemic on post-secondary learners and institutions to guide post-pandemic policy and practice in the post-secondary system

### SUPPORTING COMMUNICATION

with the public and across the system to address emergent critical issues and developments in support of learner access and mobility

### FACILITATING DISCUSSION AND ENQUIRY

into issues of importance to the post-secondary community--such as micro-credentials and online course delivery--to help guide development of policy and practice

# COMMUNITY

*Connecting as a growing, collaborative transfer community*

## JAM 2020

BCCAT's Joint Annual Meeting (JAM) brings together individuals from across BC's post-secondary, articulation, and administrative community to connect, share, and learn about transfer and mobility.

The theme for JAM 2020 was "Transfer & Articulation in a Time of Pandemic". The program included sessions focused on the impact of COVID on transfer, challenges and opportunities for teaching and learning, and trends and implications of micro-credentials on transfer and admissions.

The virtual format allowed for a significantly wider audience and active participation and engagement.



"This was one of the best virtual conferences I've attended. The shorter sessions and time in between to take a break from the screen (and focus on a different screen) were really helpful."

"I thoroughly enjoyed these sessions. I am new to the group and it was a non-intimidating introduction to the JAM. Thank you organizers for the well-run JAM!"

- feedback provided after JAM 2020

For more information, [see www.bccat.ca/articulation/jam](http://www.bccat.ca/articulation/jam)



**Describe the impact of Covid-19 on your institution? Total. Total impact. At NIC we've been guided in all of this impact and change by the ongoing mission of fostering student success."**

- Diane Naugler, Dean, Business & Applied Studies, North Island College, speaking as part of a JAM 2020 panel discussion on the impact of Covid-19 on transfer.



TOP: Tracey Kinney (Kwantlen Polytechnic University) introduces her furry companion, and Willy Aroca (Vancouver Community College) shows JAM from his perspective; MIDDLE: The three winners of the Pandemic Photo Contest. Congrats to Ashley de Moscoso (University of Victoria), Queen of the Toilet Paper Hoarders; Audra Holloway (NorthernLights College), introduces her beloved pup; and Terin Woo (Douglas College) shares a sweet and familiar scene, perfectly summing up everyday life in 2020. Mike Winsemann (Director, Transfer & Technology, BCCAT) sets up for JAM 2020; BOTTOM: Monique Paassen and Willy Aroca (Vancouver Community College) pose for the camera, and Dezone Huber (University of Northern BC) offers a window of compassion.

# ARTICULATION COMMITTEES

BC's 65+ articulation committees are essential to the functioning of the BC Transfer System. Committee discussions are vital for addressing key curricular and transfer issues and developments. They help to build respectful relationships and pave the way to creating pathway solutions that work for students.

This year, the articulation community and academic staff provided important feedback on key issues, including those related to potential implications for articulation of courses when changes are made in delivery or assessment formats. (BCCAT's long-standing position is that the method of delivery should not affect articulation decisions.)

## Articulation Committee Project (ACP)

[Articulation Committee Project \(ACP\)](#) funding supports committee-led research projects on transfer-related issues and initiatives. In 2020, these projects were put on hold, temporarily, due to the pandemic. As of spring 2021, BCCAT relaunched the program, accepting applications for funding for new projects.



RISING STAR AWARD:  
Congratulations

**TAMARA  
SWEET**

Congratulations to Tamara Sweet, Registrar Services Officer – Articulation at the University of Northern BC, and winner of BCCAT's Rising Star Award in 2020! Tamara is being acknowledged for her exemplary dedication to improving transfer for students at UNBC and across the province as a whole. Check out [this video](#) celebrating Tamara and sharing a bit of her story. For more information about the BCCAT Transfer Awards see [www.bccat.ca/about/awards](http://www.bccat.ca/about/awards)

## BCCAT YOUTUBE VIDEOS



BCCAT provides a range of videos available on our [YouTube channel](#). Check out our playlists, including JAM 2020 session videos, and the "Transfer Stories" series. In addition, you'll find a resource designed for students: a short, animated clip about post-secondary transfer in BC.

In May 2021, we launched the "Research Factor" series: a quick, concise video presentations of research highlights.

In this [debut video](#), Anna Tikina walks viewers through findings from the "Transfer Students Profile and Performance" report.



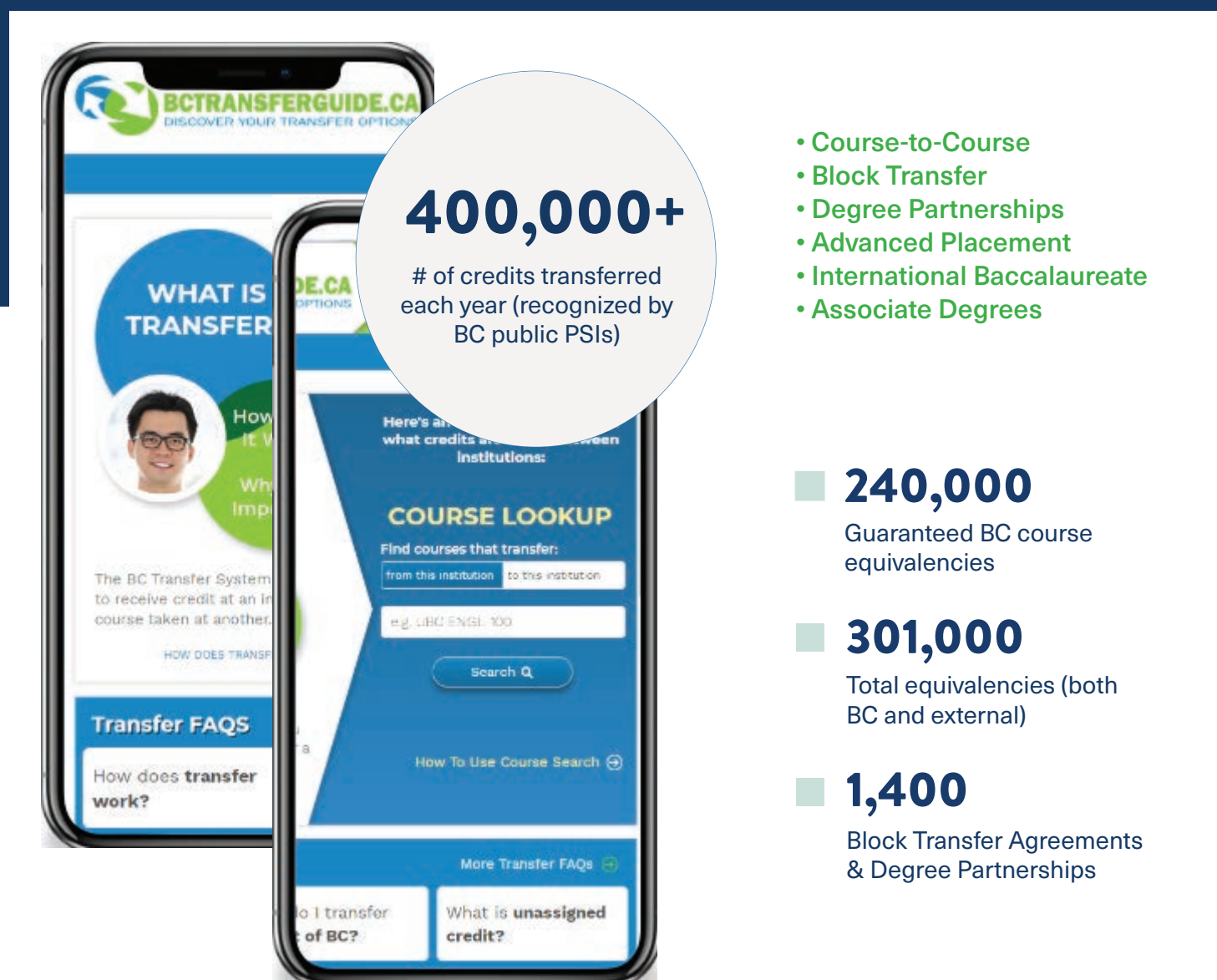
# TECHNOLOGIES

## Connecting to support pathways for diverse, mobile students

BCCAT delivers technologies and resources, facilitating institutional transfer decisions and the publication of transfer information to the BC Transfer Guide for the benefit of student access and mobility.

The Council makes it a priority to address the needs of a diverse, mobile student population, to ensure that the BC Transfer System continues to expand and sustain educational pathways for students as they move forward in their journeys.

[BCTransferGuide.ca](https://www.bctransferguide.ca) is an integral, online resource offering extensive information on a wide range of transfer pathway options. At [BCTransferGuide.ca](https://www.bctransferguide.ca), students can check out transfer agreements for courses they have completed (or plan to complete). They can learn the basics and benefits of transfer, explore a wide range of transfer options, and map out their own transfer pathways.



**400,000+**  
# of credits transferred each year (recognized by BC public PSIs)

- Course-to-Course
- Block Transfer
- Degree Partnerships
- Advanced Placement
- International Baccalaureate
- Associate Degrees

- **240,000**  
Guaranteed BC course equivalencies
- **301,000**  
Total equivalencies (both BC and external)
- **1,400**  
Block Transfer Agreements & Degree Partnerships



# BCTRANSFERGUIDE.CA GETS BIGGER



*This project is part of BCCAT's ongoing efforts to improve upon British Columbia's premiere transfer system. Thank you for your contributions to our collective success in supporting BC students."*



– Robert Fleming (BCCAT Executive Director & Co-Chair) & Tony Loughran (Executive Lead, Governance, Legislation and Corporate Planning, Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Training)

BCTransferGuide.ca now includes transfer equivalencies to seven BC post-secondary institutions (PSIs) from PSIs across the country, and the globe, in addition to transfer agreements among BC Transfer System members.

As a result, students from all over the world are now able to search for transfer decisions on the BC Transfer Guide to identify the credit they may receive at the BC PSIs for learning obtained outside of BC.

To date, we have added over 61,000 new equivalencies from 452 institutions in 33 countries.

This expansion continues the work of facilitating student mobility, by reducing barriers and promoting pathways to access quality, post-secondary education in British Columbia.

We thank the onboarded post-secondary institutions and the Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Training for continuing to facilitate student mobility and our province's transfer-friendly culture - another reason why BC is the ideal destination for students from across Canada and the world.

**452**

Institutions

**33**

Countries

**61,000+**

New Transfer  
Equivalencies

## Onboarded Institutions:



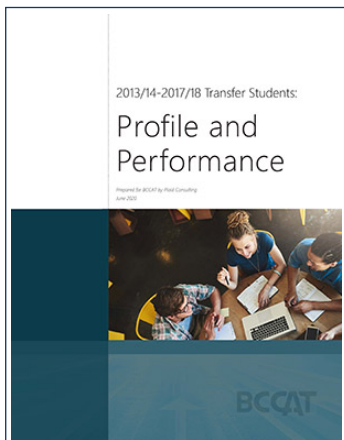
# RESEARCH

*Connecting to inform and advance our shared understanding*

BCCAT works collaboratively with post-secondary partners on developing an annual Research Plan. Project areas focus on topics impacting student transfer, mobility, access, and admissions. Research findings help to shape our shared understanding and inform policies and processes that better support post-secondary student journeys.

## BC TRANSFER STUDENTS PROFILE AND PERFORMANCE (2013/14-2017/18)

by Plaid Consulting



“  
*While the educational journeys of transfer students differ from those of direct entry students in a number of ways, most performance trends seen in data from direct entry students are echoed in data from the transfer student population.*  
”

[Report](#)  
[Infographic](#)  
[Summary \(2-Minute Read\)](#)

### FAST FACTS BC TRANSFER STUDENTS

**36%** Transfer students constitute more than 1/3 of all students admitted in a year at the 6 universities (on average).

**48.6** Transfer students carry (on average) 48.6 credits - equivalent to more than 1.5 years of full-time study.

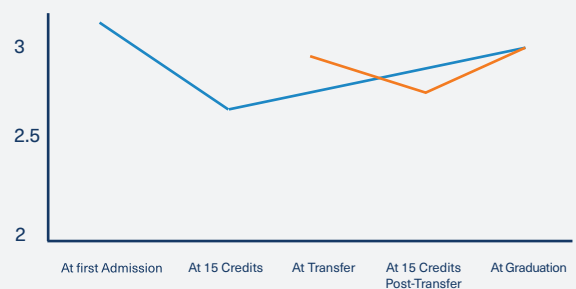
**72%** Transfer students admitted in the 2013/14 academic year completed a baccalaureate degree by the end of the 2017/18 academic year.

### HOW DO TRANSFER STUDENTS PERFORM?

Transfer student perform as successfully as direct-entry students, overall.

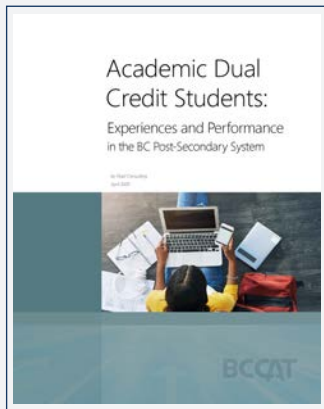
#### Typical GPA Trends during Studies

— Transfer Students  
— Direct Entry Students



# ACADEMIC DUAL CREDIT STUDENTS: EXPERIENCES AND PERFORMANCE IN THE BC POST-SECONDARY SYSTEM

by Plaid Consulting



by Plaid Consulting

[Report](#)  
[Infographic \(4-Pages\)](#)  
[Summary \(2-Minute Read\)](#)

36%

Continued to post-secondary education.

56-64%

Undertook post-secondary programs relating to their ADC courses.

41%

Continued to the post-secondary institution where they had taken ADC courses.

27%

Continued to a different post-secondary institution.

22%

Completed 1 or more post-secondary credentials

## MICRO-CREDENTIALS: TRENDS IN CREDIT TRANSFER & CREDENTIALING

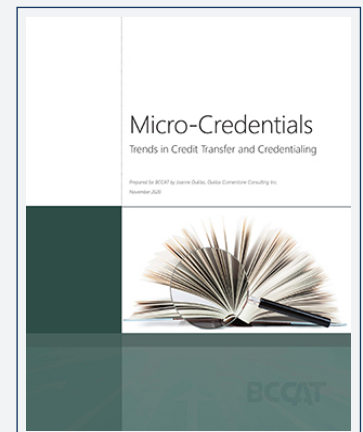
by Joanne Duklas



*Overall, 41% of surveyed Canadian institutions reported having plans to adopt micro-credentials in the near future.*



[Report](#)  
[Infographic](#)  
[Presentation Video](#)  
[Summary \(2-Minute Read\)](#)

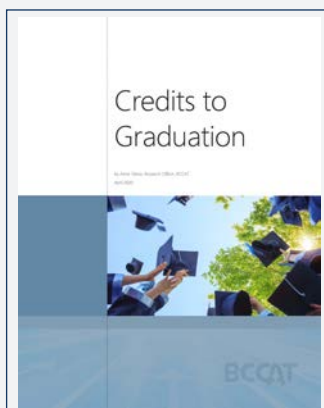


## CREDITS TO GRADUATION

by Anna Tikina, BCCAT



*While transfer students graduated with a somewhat higher number of credits than the direct entry students, the overall small differences reflect a high alignment of articulated courses.*

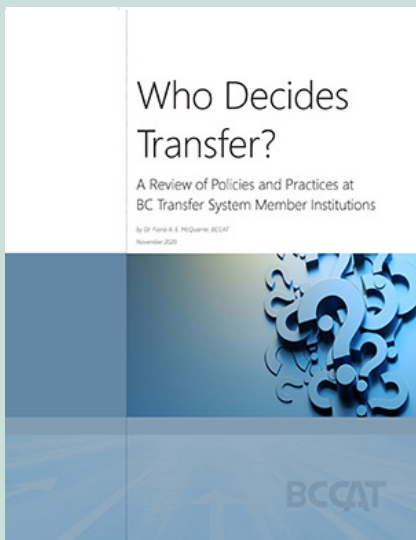


[Report](#)  
[Newsletter \(4-pages\)](#)  
[Summary \(2-minute Read\)](#)

# FAST FACTS MOBILITY RATES AND TRANSFER CREDIT

- Over 15% of all students in academic programs at BC public post-secondary institutions transfer to another BC public post-secondary institution each year (about 55,000 students annually).  
Source: Student Transitions Project
- Almost ¼ of transfer students enter research universities via private BC Transfer System institutions.  
Source: Transfer Students Profile & Performance Report
- On average, transfer students make up over ⅓ of the annual admissions at BC's Research-Intensive Universities.  
Source: Transfer Students Profile & Performance Report
- 400,000+ credits are recognized for transfer by BC public PSIs each year.  
Source: Transfer Credit in the Central Data Warehouse Project
- Transfer students carry (on average) 48.6 credits - equivalent to more than 1.5 years of full-time study.  
Source: Transfer Students Profile & Performance Report
- Over 70% of transfer students admitted to BC Research Universities completed a baccalaureate degree within 5 years, with a Grade Point Average comparable to those who entered university directly from high school.  
Source: Transfer Students Profile & Performance Report

## OTHER REPORTS OF INTEREST:



### WHO DECIDES TRANSFER?

*A Review of Policies and Practices at BC Transfer System Member Institutions*

by Fiona McQuarrie, BCCAT

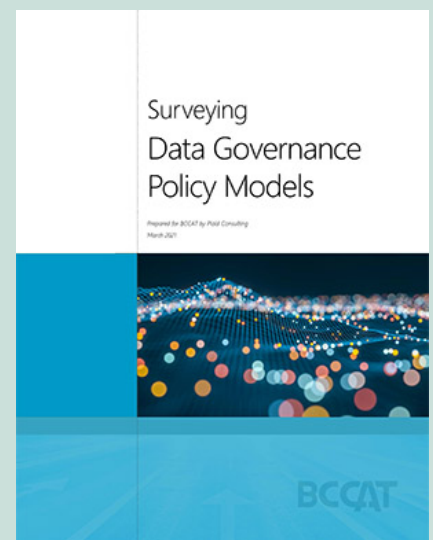
[Report](#)



### BLOCK TRANSFER & DEGREE PARTNERSHIPS

by Paul Merner & Michael Bennett

[Report](#)  
[Summary \(2-Minute Read\)](#)



### SURVEYING DATA GOVERNANCE POLICY MODELS

by Plaid Consulting

[Report](#)  
[Infographic \(4-Pages\)](#)  
[Summary \(2-Minute Read\)](#)



# COLLABORATION

## *Connecting with post-secondary partners to expand access and mobility*

BCCAT works together with post-secondary partners to advance student access and mobility within BC and across provincial and international borders. This includes collaboration with institutional partners, sector groups, and organizations within BC, and across the world.

This year, a major focus of collaborative projects and activities was on the impact of COVID on student transfer and mobility.



- Ongoing collaboration with [EducationPlannerBC](#) on research, policy and technology initiatives supporting post-secondary access, inclusivity and diversity, and educational pathways in BC.
- Collaboration with [BCcampus](#) and articulation committees to share resources on alternate ways to offer lab components of Science courses, including providing access to an inventory of available educational resources for online labs (by discipline).
- Facilitation of discussion and enquiry on issues related to micro-credentials, particularly relating to admissions and transfer.
- Guidance and support for the work of the [Student Transitions Project](#) as it looks at how STP data may inform future analysis of the impact of COVID-19 on student retention system-wide in BC.



- Meeting regularly with provincial counterparts across Canada, particularly Alberta and Ontario, to compare developments on educational policy and practice accommodations to mitigate impact on mobile students for years to come.

- Participating as an active member of the [Pan-Canadian Consortium on Admissions and Transfer \(PCCAT\)](#) and CATCan (a network of Canadian transfer counterparts).

- Participating in the work of the [ARUCC national network](#) to create a digital data exchange network across Canada. In 2020, ARUCC launched [MyCreds](#), a national, web-based, bilingual credential wallet for post-secondary learners and graduates. This network has been designed to support Canada's post-secondary community and has become increasingly pertinent as many institutions are adapting to maintain transcript exchange capacity while working remotely.



# IT TAKES A COMMUNITY...

We've all heard that "it takes a village to raise a child". It's also true that it takes a community to support educational pathways for learners, within and across regions. We extend our sincere appreciation to all of our post-secondary partners, including those who participate within BC's post-secondary transfer community, and our inter-provincial and global partners as well.

Special thanks and very best wishes also go to the following outgoing members of the Council for their valuable contributions to the work of the Council throughout their membership terms:

- Tami O'Meara (Dept. Head, Student Access & Support & Counsellor, Selkirk College)
- Carolyn Russell (Executive Director, Global Engagement, University of Victoria)
- Steve Roe (previously Dean of Academic & Professional Programs, Northern Lights College)



Last but not least, we wish to offer hearty congratulations to Jim Hamilton (Council Co-Chair and President of Okanagan College) as he retires after 41 years of work in education and over 16 years serving as a college president.

This past year included formal recognition of his contributions over that time. Westbank First Nations honoured him in a virtual blanketing ceremony for his work and commitment towards reconciliation. This was followed in early 2021 by the University of British Columbia conferring on Jim the degree of Doctor of Laws, *honoris causa*, for his service and contributions as one of the province's longest serving academic leaders.

Jim will continue to lead and support the Council going forward, but we hope this new chapter brings fresh adventures, replete with grandchildren, dogs, and fishing.

## LINKS FOR INFO:

- |                               |   |
|-------------------------------|---|
| News & Resources              | <a href="https://bccat.ca/about/news">bccat.ca/about/news</a>   |
| Publications Search           | <a href="https://bccat.ca/search/publications">bccat.ca/search/publications</a>   |
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| About Committees              | <a href="https://bccat.ca/about/committees">bccat.ca/about/committees</a>   |
| BC Transfer System            | <a href="https://bccat.ca/system">bccat.ca/system</a>   |
| Articulation Committees / JAM | <a href="https://bccat.ca/articulation">bccat.ca/articulation</a> & <a href="https://bccat.ca/articulation/jam">bccat.ca/articulation/jam</a> |
| Annual Review                 | <a href="https://bccat.ca/about/annualreview">bccat.ca/about/annualreview</a>   |
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| System News                   | <a href="https://bccat.ca/systemnews">bccat.ca/systemnews</a>   |
| Engage e-newsletter           | <a href="https://bccat.ca/about/engage">bccat.ca/about/engage</a> - don't forget to subscribe!  |

