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## NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release  
2004MAE0007-000173  
March 17, 2004

Office of the Premier  
Ministry of Advanced Education

### **NEW UBC OKANAGAN TO HELP ADD 5,500 STUDENT SPACES**

KELOWNA – Government will add 5,500 new spaces for post-secondary students in the Okanagan by 2010 by establishing two new institutions in the region: a new University of British Columbia, Okanagan, and a bigger, better Okanagan College that will expand university transfer, trades and other applied training options.

“For the first time ever, the people of the Okanagan will have their own full university, directed by an independent senate to meet the unique needs and priorities of the Southern Interior,” Premier Gordon Campbell said today. “The Okanagan will become home to one of the world’s great learning universities with all the enormous assets and research capability that it has to offer. We’re also establishing a bigger and better Okanagan College that will offer top-notch programs, including more access and training to prepare tradespeople for the many careers opening up as our economy grows.”

The new institutions are expected to pump \$500 million a year into the region through growth in students and staff, as well as spinoffs from research. By 2010, government will invest \$100 million in capital funding, plus \$52 million in added operating funds – creating more than 2,000 new jobs. UBC will also contribute funding from its own resources towards developing the campus in Kelowna.

The new university and college are part of the Province’s commitment to add 25,000 public post-secondary spaces by 2010, and to help ensure that any high school graduate with a 75 per cent average gets access to a B.C. university.

The newly formed Okanagan College will offer expanded training options at what is currently Okanagan University College’s KLO Road campus in Kelowna, as well as at the existing campuses in Revelstoke, Armstrong, Vernon, Salmon Arm, Summerland, Penticton Oliver and Osoyoos. Students planning to take applied and college-oriented programs through Okanagan University College in September 2004 will see an immediate benefit – a \$1,000 reduction in their tuition.

“In regions with a separate college and university, college tuition is typically lower than at the university,” said Shirley Bond, Minister of Advanced Education. “We want Okanagan students to have that distinction right away, even while the transition into two separate institutions is still underway.” Tuition for university-track students will remain the same.

The North Kelowna campus of Okanagan University College will become the base for UBC

Okanagan, with the first students entering in September 2005. UBC will work with Okanagan College to expand university-level programming in the regional centres as well.

“People in the Okanagan have been telling me for years they wanted a full-fledged university and thrilled we are able to make that commitment today,” said Kelowna-Lake Country MLA John Weisbeck. “This is a dream come true for me and many people who have worked a long time to see this happen. Having UBC Okanagan together with Okanagan College will bring incredible opportunities for our young people and the future of this region.”

“The new UBC Okanagan campus will be developed by people in this region, for people in this region,” said Brad Bennett, former chair of the Okanagan University College board of governors. “We will have an independent senate that will develop the new campus’s admissions and academic mandate, and guaranteed seats on the UBC board of governors.” Bennett has been appointed chair of the regional advisory committee that will determine the programs and research that will best serve the Okanagan region’s specific needs.

An advisory group will also be appointed to guide the development of Okanagan College and ensure the region’s needs for applied, developmental and trades training are met. It will be chaired by former Okanagan University College board member Norm Embree.

-30-

For more information on AchieveBC visit <http://www.achievebc.ca/>.

1 backgrounder(s) attached.

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## BACKGROUNDER

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### UBC OKANAGAN AND OKANAGAN COLLEGE

The provincial government is working to add 25,000 new post secondary student spaces by 2010 to increase student access and opportunities across B.C. The new University of British Columbia, Okanagan and a separate Okanagan College are key components.

- Okanagan University College, which currently has 6,600 student spaces in university and trades, technical and applied programs, will be transformed into two separate institutions: UBC Okanagan and Okanagan College.
- By 2009-10, the number of student spaces in the region will increase by 5,500 to a total of 12,100, compared with Okanagan University College's current total of 6,600 seats:
  - UBC Okanagan will accommodate the equivalent of 7,500 full-time students in undergraduate, graduate and PhD programs.
  - Okanagan College will have 4,600 student spaces in developmental, university transfer, trades, technical and applied programs, and will be B.C.'s second-largest college outside the Lower Mainland.

#### **Breakdown of 5,500 new Okanagan seats by institution:**

<b>Institution</b>	<b>04-05</b>	<b>05-06</b>	<b>06-07</b>	<b>3-year total</b>	<b>07-08</b>	<b>08-09</b>	<b>09-10</b>	<b>2010 total</b>
UBC Okanagan	126	728	912	<b>1,766</b>	912	912	910	4,500
Okanagan College	50	190	190	<b>430</b>	190	190	190	1,000
<b>Total</b>	176	918	1,102	<b>2,196</b>	1,102	1,102	1,100	<b>5,500</b>

- Government also considered a proposal that Okanagan University College evolve into a full research university, as Okanagan University.

**Comparison of UBC Okanagan/Okanagan College model vs. Okanagan University model**

<b>Proposed Plan</b>	<b>UBC Okanagan / Okanagan College Option</b>	<b>Okanagan University Option</b>
New Spaces	5,500 new spaces by 2009/10	3,015 new spaces by 2009/10
Research Capacity	\$75 million	\$11 million
Total Economic Benefit	Estimated \$507 million total annual economic impact from both institutions	Estimated \$300 million total economic impact from both university and college program operations and research <i>(note: this is based on the same economic impact model used to calculate the UBC economic impact)</i>
Costs to taxpayers	\$102 million per year in operating grants  \$80 million in university capital funding; potential for up to \$20 million for college by 2010	\$137 million per year in operating grants  \$223 million in capital funding
Confidence in ability to deliver	UBC routinely over-produces student FTEs	OUC has under-produced student FTEs for the past six years.

- Operating grants to UBC Okanagan and the Okanagan College will double by 2009-10, compared with today's grants to Okanagan University College. Their combined grants will be \$102 million; Okanagan University College currently receives about \$50 million.
- Government will invest up to \$80 million in capital development for UBC Okanagan. In addition, UBC plans to use its own resources to build academic research infrastructure, student residences and eventually a research park.
- Upgrades and renovations at Okanagan College will also be undertaken, with further assessment of capital needs to be completed during the transition period. An estimated \$20 million will likely be committed to capital improvements at the college.
- The new institutions will result in an estimated \$500 million in annual economic benefit for the region, more than double the \$117 million benefit from OUC's operations today. When fully implemented, the expansion will generate an estimated 2,100 new direct and indirect jobs.

- A strong partnership between UBC Okanagan and Okanagan College will result in:
  - More programs at the college's KLO Road campus in Kelowna and regional campuses.
  - Efficient credit transfer between the two institutions.
  - Expanded online offerings at the college's regional campuses.
  - New lab-based science courses at the college integrated with UBC Okanagan science programs.
  - Closely linked continuing education studies that respond to community needs.
- UBC Okanagan's affiliation with UBC Vancouver will provide instant international credibility to attract both faculty and research investment.
- Based on the highly successful University of California model, UBC Okanagan and UBC Vancouver will each have an independent senate to set academic priorities for their respective institutions, based on regional needs and priorities. At the same time, they will share a common board of governors, with strong representation from each region.
- UBC Okanagan's new senate with representatives from the region will help determine the education programs offered, in a way that reflects and meets the needs of the Okanagan. These programs will include arts and sciences, health sciences, education, social work, information technology, business, agriculture and First Nations studies.
- Okanagan College will offer a range of community college programming, including developmental programs, industry training, career/technical and vocational programs and university transfer programs.
- During the transition period, Okanagan University College will be governed by a public administrator who will oversee all operations and the transition into two distinct institutions. Two local advisory councils will guide this process. The UBC Okanagan council will be led by former Okanagan University College board chair Brad Bennett; the chair of the Okanagan College council and the full membership of both councils has yet to be confirmed.
- When the transition is complete, Okanagan College will have an independent president and board.

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