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## INFORMATION BULLETIN

For Immediate Release  
2004MAE0013-000263  
April 26, 2004

Ministry of Advanced Education

### **PUBLIC COLLEGE, INSTITUTE LEGISLATION STREAMLINED**

VICTORIA – Government introduced amendments today that will streamline legislation governing the province’s public colleges, university colleges and institutes, and also formalize the B.C. Institute of Technology’s unique mandate as a polytechnic institution for British Columbia.

During a review of public post-secondary education legislation, the Ministry of Advanced Education, in consultation with BCIT, determined that there was some overlap between the Institute of Technology Act, which governs BCIT, and the College and Institute Act. Amendments introduced today will repeal the Institute of Technology Act and place BCIT under the College and Institute Act, eliminating that overlap. At the same time, the College and Institute Act will be amended to:

- Clarify the discretionary powers of institutional boards by clearly identifying matters that require bylaws, such as reimbursement of expenses for board members, conflict of interest for board members, powers and duties of presidents, as well as tuition and other student charges. The amendments will provide boards with the autonomy and flexibility to govern other matters through bylaws or resolutions, as they deem appropriate.
- Clarify that boards will be able to authorize their presidents to appoint, promote and remove staff (within the context of collective and other agreements), rather than making recommendations to boards on these matters. This would allow boards to act as appeal bodies in these matters.
- Formalize recognition of BCIT’s unique role and mandate, under the amended College and Institute Act, as a public polytechnic institution for the province.

Institutional boards will continue to operate within the financial and accountability frameworks established by government.

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