

## STRACHAN ANNOUNCES \$5 MILLION MATCHING FUND PROGRAM FOR BCIT



*Making it public. The Honourable Bruce Strachan talks to the press about BCIT's \$5 million matching grant.*

### SPECIAL REPORT

THE HONOURABLE BRUCE STRACHAN, MINISTER OF ADVANCED EDUCATION, TRAINING AND TECHNOLOGY, HAS ANNOUNCED A \$5 MILLION MATCHING GRANT PROGRAM FOR BCIT TO PURCHASE NEW EQUIPMENT, CONSTRUCT NEW FACILITIES AND FUND NEW RESEARCH INITIATIVES AND SPECIAL PROJECTS.

"The new program," he said, "will match financial contributions from the B.C. Government with approved private sector cash and gift-in-kind donations for equipment, capital projects and special initiatives. We anticipate that individual and corporate donations will refocus on meeting BCIT's emerging needs under a challenging new mandate." The mandate, given to BCIT in 1988, was to be an innovative and flexible advanced technology enterprise focusing on those initiatives that increase the level of entrepreneurial activity within the province.

The grant, which is the first of such matching grants made to a college or institute in B.C., is based on the highly successful Universities Matching Program created in 1988.



The announcement came last week during an address to more than 500 advisory committee members brought together for the first time in BCIT's history. Strachan thanked the committee members for giving freely of their time and expertise in helping BCIT deliver relevant education consistent with the needs of industry.

"Your efforts have launched BCIT's reputation as a leader in the innovation and application of advanced technology. Excellence comes from the heart and from the mind. Excellence is people and you are a good example of that. That's what makes BCIT such an excellent institution."



Calling it "fantastic news", President John Watson thanked the government for approving the matching fund program. "These are long term investments in the future of this province. BCIT must provide sophisticated new laboratories and equipment to meet the ongoing training needs of its students."

Watson laid the groundwork for BCIT's new capital fundraising campaign by introducing the advisory committee members to another concept in partnership. Referring to BCIT and industry's long collaboration, he asked them to "consider an expanded kind of partnership — fiscal partnership."

"The announcement is a vote of confidence in BCIT from the provincial  
*cont. over . . .*



government and a signal of encouragement for our fundraising efforts," says Marilyn Wright, Director of Development.



"The fact that the announcement was made to our industry advisory committees will have a great reverberating effect throughout the corporate community. It is a great start to BCIT's fundraising campaign, due to start within the year." Marilyn Wright anticipates that BCIT's fundraising efforts will exceed \$5 million.

BCIT staff whose contacts with industry have or could lead them to donations of cash or gifts in kind, are asked to contact Marilyn Wright in the campus Development Office located in the Administration Building. Her local is 8773. Marilyn is busy laying the groundwork for BCIT's fundraising campaign internally with staff and externally with supporters of BCIT and the 12 member Development Council. The Council, comprised of representatives of the business community, acts as a key link between BCIT's fundraising efforts and industry.

**The Board of Governors recently approved a list of priority capital equipment needs** submitted by departments during the capital budget planning session. That list will be used by a committee chaired by Brian Gillespie, Vice President, Education to **determine which gifts are eligible for the matching grant program.** Out of the \$5 million that can be raised, \$4 million is slated for capital equipment and \$1 million for, as yet, unspecified projects.

During the month of April information meetings will be held to let staff know the plans for private sector fundraising to meet the \$5 million goal.

**Photos — Ian Cameron**

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