

June 25, 2025, at 5:30 p.m.  
Room 5025, Broadway Campus

## ATTENDANCE

### Board Members

Mahin Rashid (Chair, Board/HRC)  
Jeffrey Yu (Vice Chair/Chair, FAC)  
Chi Lo  
Christie Sparklingeyes  
Dilraj Sandhu  
Harleen Kaur  
Jennifer Cummins  
Joey Hartman  
Libby Davies  
Michele Guerin  
Paul Yeung  
Seung Oh

### Senior Team & Staff Resources

David Wells	VP, Academic & Applied Research
Ian Humphreys	VP, Admin & International Development
Kate Dickerson	VP, People Services
Jane Shin	VP, Students & Community Development
Elmer Wansink	AVP, IT & CIO
Clayton Munro	AVP, Student & Enrolment Services
Tannis Morgan	AVP, Academic Innovation
Jamie Choi	ED, Finance & CFO
Surinder Aulakh	ED, Safety, Security & Risk Management
Charnelle McClure	ED, Marketing & Communications
Deborah Lucas	EA, Board of Governors
Moira Gookstetter	ED, VCC Foundation

### Guests

Ajay Patel President & CEO  
Natasha Mandryk Chair, Education Council/GC

Frank Cosco President, VCCFA  
Deanne Bates Chief Shop Steward, CUPE Local 4627  
Melissa Chirino Organizer - Advocacy and Governance, SUVCC

**We acknowledge that Vancouver Community College (VCC) is located on the traditional and unceded territories of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səliłwətał (Tsleil-Waututh) peoples who have been stewards of this land from time immemorial.**

## 1. CALL TO ORDER, LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT & OPENING REMARKS

M. Rashid called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m. with regrets from C. Sparklingeyes

J. Hartman presented the land acknowledgement and reflected on her time as a board member and the shared accomplishments, as an outgoing member, especially the work of the board on Indigenization, decolonization and reconciliation.

### Chair and President's Opening Remarks:

M. Rashid opened by highlighting National Indigenous Peoples Day on June 21 and noted that Jessie Williams would speak about Indigenization at VCC later in the meeting. She thanked Board members P. Yeung and N. Mandryk for attending the Jun 6 Student Awards ceremony and gave special thanks to H. Kaur and M. Guerin for delivering greetings on behalf of the Board. She emphasized the important role of donor-supported awards in student success.

Looking ahead, Convocation will be held on Jul 3, 2025, with a record number of graduates expected. M. Rashid and J. Yu will be attending.

The Government Mandate Letter has been received and will be discussed later in the meeting. M. Rashid acknowledged ongoing sector challenges and shared that Board Chairs across B.C. are working

collaboratively on advocacy to address funding and policy issues. She reaffirmed the Board's commitment to supporting sustainable solutions.

A. Patel updated the Board on a recent meeting with Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) in June, focusing on three key issues affecting international education: rising visa refusal rates, new requirements aligning programs of study with labour market needs via CIP codes, and ongoing federal and provincial policy developments. Institutions across B.C. continue collaborative advocacy efforts to address these challenges.

At the provincial level, the government is reviewing responses to federal caps on international student numbers, with advocacy focused on improving pathways for international students through programs like the Provincial Nominee Program.

The President also reflected on recent events showcasing VCC's strong programs and community partnerships. Minister Anne Kang visited the Broadway Campus to see the progress of the new Centre for Clean Energy and Automotive Innovation, reaffirming provincial support. The Jewellery Art & Design Student Exhibition highlighted exceptional student work and industry engagement. VCC co-hosted the Fair in the Square with the Central City Foundation, celebrating local community connections. Culinary Arts and Food Service Management students held a Community Partner Brunch to thank hospitality partners. VCC is preparing to celebrate 50 years of Asian Culinary this fall. The Downtown campus hosted the Tooth Trolley event, where Dental students provided approximately \$35,000 in services to local children in an educational and supportive setting.

He closed his remarks by thanking and recognizing the entire college community for coming together and supporting one another during these challenging times.

## **2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA & CONSENT AGENDA**

**MOTION:** THAT the VCC Board of Governors approve the June 25, 2025, public meeting agenda; and approve/acknowledge receipt of the following items on the consent agenda:

- 2.1 Minutes: May 28, 2025, Public Meeting
- 2.2 EdCo Chair Report to BoG
- 2.3 Course Deactivations
- 2.4 Concept Paper - Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Mechanic Foundation Program
- 2.5 2026 Board Meeting Schedule
- 2.6 Board Correspondence & Activity
- 2.7 News and Events
- 2.8 VCCFA Report

**Moved, Seconded & CARRIED (Unanimously)**

## **3. CONSTITUENCY REPORTS**

### **3.1 CUPE Local 4627**

No report.

### **3.2 Student Union of Vancouver Community College (SUVCC) – Presented by M. Chirino, SUVCC Organizer - Advocacy and Governance**

M. Chirino provided an update to the Board on recent advocacy efforts of the Student Union of Vancouver Community College (SUVCC). She shared that the SUVCC had made a submission to the provincial Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services, in alignment with other student associations across B.C., two key priorities were highlighted; the need for a more accessible, needs-based financial aid system, and a recommendation for the provincial government to fund at least 75% of institutional operating budgets.

### **3.3 Vancouver Community College Faculty Association (VCCFA) – Presented by F. Cosco, President**

F. Cosco presented the Vancouver Community College Faculty Association (VCCFA) report, expressing appreciation for the Board's leadership during the ongoing sector-wide financial crisis, also, thanking outgoing members for their service. He acknowledged the College's advocacy efforts, both locally and

nationally, and commended President Patel and VCCFA Vice-President Taryn Thompson for their representation during recent meetings in Ottawa.

#### **4. EDUCATION COUNCIL (EDCO) REPORT – Presented by N. Mandryk, EdCo Chair**

##### **4.1 Affiliation Agreements x 4: Canadian College/ Cornerstone International Community College of Canada/ ILAC Education Group (ILAC International College & Tamwood College)/VanWest College**

For approval, EdCo presented four new educational affiliation agreements with Canadian College, Cornerstone International Community College of Canada, ILAC Education Group (ILAC International College & Tamwood College), and VanWest College. These agreements enable block transfer into VCC's Bachelor of Hospitality Management program, supporting student pathways and program sustainability. The agreements were unanimously approved by EdCo and presented to the Board for joint approval.

In response to Board questions, it was confirmed that agreements follow a standard renewal cycle of 5–7 years, with termination clauses in place. VCC maintains over 100 such agreements, primarily with B.C.-based institutions, though some international partnerships exist. These agreements are designed to align with VCC's academic standards and support long-term program viability.

**MOTION:** THAT the Board of Governors approve:

1. Affiliation Agreement between VCC and Canadian College.
2. Affiliation Agreement between VCC and Cornerstone International Community College of Canada (CICCC).
3. Affiliation Agreement between VCC and ILAC Education Group (ILAC International College and Tamwood College).
4. Affiliation Agreement between VCC and VanWest College.

**Moved, Seconded & CARRIED (Unanimously)**

##### **4.2 REVISED: Computer Systems Technology (CST) Program**

EdCo recommended joint approval of significant revisions to the Computer Systems Technology (CST) Diploma to better align with industry trends. The revised program reduces credits from 76 to 60 over four terms, with a focus on web and mobile application development. Fourteen new courses were developed, and PLAR (Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition) options were added to support entry for experienced professionals.

EdCo approved an exception to standard procedure to allow implementation to proceed in time for the fall intake, while the affiliated agreement with the Canadian College of Technology and Business (CCTB) is being updated to reflect the revised curriculum.

**MOTION:** THAT, on the advice of Education Council, the Board of Governors approve the change in credits for the Computer Systems Technology Diploma program to 60 credits, and the creation of 14 new courses as identified in the program content guide.

**Moved, Seconded & CARRIED (Unanimously)**

##### **4.3 NEW: Construction Electrician Foundation Certificate**

The Construction Electrician Foundation Certificate is a new program developed in response to high labour market demand and long provincial waitlists. It prepares students for entry into the electrical trade with a focus on construction, following SkilledTradesBC curriculum and offering a pathway to first-year apprenticeship. The program is set to launch in January 2026.

Board members inquired about student interest, industry support, and tuition. Administration confirmed strong demand, including over 200 expressions of interest, and noted that tuition would be brought forward separately.

**MOTION:** THAT, on the advice of Education Council, the Board of Governors approve the new Construction Electrician Foundation Certificate credential, creation of ten courses as named in the program content guide, and program implementation.

## **5. FINANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE (FAC) REPORT - Presented by J. Yu, FAC Chair**

### **5.1 Chair's Report**

The Finance and Audit Committee (FAC) met on Jun 12, 2025, and approved contract awards for fire alarm system replacements at both campuses, a priority roof replacement at the Downtown campus, and the implementation of the Identity Governance and Administration (IGA) project. The Committee also approved contract value increases for the Banner system and AWS Cloud Data Centre services.

The Committee received a cyber security update, with data indicating that targeted training may be having a positive impact, as more users are successfully identifying phishing attempts.

### **5.2 TUITION: ENGLISH AS AN ADDITIONAL LANGUAGE (EAL) – 2 COURSES**

FAC recommended tuition fees for two new English as an Additional Language (EAL) courses, focused on health career readiness. Although these 40-hour, zero-credit courses will be tuition-free for students per Ministry guidelines, a tuition value is required for planning and reporting purposes.

Funded by a Ministry initiative, the courses support EAL students pursuing high-demand health programs. Ministry funding will cover instructor salaries for eight sections offered between Fall 2025 and Summer 2026. After this funding ends, the courses will be integrated into the regular developmental education plan and continue to be tuition-free, replacing other EAL courses without adding new costs.

**MOTION:** THAT, on the recommendation of the Finance and Audit Committee, for the English as an Additional Language Health Careers courses, ELSK 0580 and ELSK 0780, the Board of Governors approve tuition of \$381.48 per course, effective September 1, 2025.

**Moved, Seconded & Carried (Unanimously)**

### **5.3 TUITION: Computer Systems Technology Diploma**

FAC recommended tuition fees for the Computer Systems Technology Diploma program, which has been updated to meet current demands in both domestic and international markets. The program has been shortened from 79 to 60 credits to improve student retention and reduce program length. While the per-credit tuition rate remains unchanged, the total program tuition has decreased to reflect the reduced credit load.

This adjustment aligns with Ministry requirements and maintains the program's financial sustainability. A board member inquired whether the revised credit count makes the program more comparable to similar offerings at other institutions, which was confirmed.

**MOTION:** THAT, on the recommendation of the Finance and Audit Committee, the Board of Governors approve the following tuition for the Computer Systems Technology Diploma, effective September 2026:

Domestic tuition: \$168.08 per credit for 60 credits = \$10,084.80 total

International tuition: \$620.10 per credit for 60 credits = \$37,206.00 total

**Moved, Seconded & Carried (Unanimously)**

## **6. GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE (GC) REPORT - Presented by N. Mandryk, GC Chair**

### **6.1 Chair's Report**

The Governance Committee (GC) met on Jun 4, 2025. The committee discussed the implementation of recommendations out of the annual board self-evaluation. In addition, they commenced the review of Board Governance Bylaw G.2.0 and the committee's Terms of Reference. These discussions will continue at their meeting in the fall.

## **7. HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE (HRC) REPORT - Presented by M. Rashid, HRC Chair**

### **7.1 Chair's Report**

The Human Resources Committee (HRC) met on May 30, 2025, and approved the annual Executive Compensation Disclosure Statement, for submission to government. The statement discloses all compensation accrued and paid to the President & CEO and the next 4 highest ranking/paid executives with an annualized base salary of \$125k or greater during the fiscal year. Each institution's disclosure statement is publicly available on the Public Sector Employers' Council's website by Sept 30, 2025.

## **8. INDIGENIZATION AT VCC**

J. Williams presented an update on VCC's continued commitment to Indigenization, emphasizing it as an ongoing journey rooted in relationship-building, respect, and Indigenous worldviews—not a series of one-time events.

The college fosters shared spaces of belonging where Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities learn together. Indigenization is embedded into curriculum, leadership, and community practices through the inclusion of Indigenous voices, teachings, art, and ceremonies.

Over the past year, VCC hosted numerous events, including cultural performances, hands-on learning (e.g., drum making, cedar weaving), and knowledge-sharing led by Elders and Knowledge Keepers. Highlights included the June 19 National Indigenous Peoples Day celebration and the Indigenous Partners Appreciation Luncheon.

The Lunch and Learn speaker series featured respected Indigenous leaders such as Dr. Gwendolyn Point and Carleen Thomas. These initiatives support identity, belonging, and wellness for Indigenous students and staff, while encouraging reflection and cultural humility among non-Indigenous participants.

Looking ahead, the college remains committed to embedding Indigenous values into daily practices, leadership, and learning across the institution.

## **9. VCC FOUNDATION – Presented by J. Yu, Board Representative, VCC Foundation Board of Directors**

The Foundation is preparing for the public launch of its capital campaign, expected in early Spring 2026. Significant donor commitments are already in place. J. Yu and M. Rashid reminded the board of the goal for 100% participation in the campaign. Further opportunities for involvement will be discussed at upcoming meetings.

He highlighted the recent Alumni Recognition Award event, which celebrated distinguished VCC alumni and supported alumni engagement efforts.

## **10. NEW BUSINESS**

### **10.1 2025/26 Government Mandate Letter**

The board reviewed and discussed the 2025/26 Government Mandate Letter ("letter"), which was received later than in previous years. Although the letter had been formally acknowledged through a consent resolution prior to the meeting, the board chose to delay its return to the Ministry to allow time for thoughtful discussion and reflection.

Members considered how the priorities outlined in the letter align with VCC's strategic direction and operational planning. Key areas of focus and discussion emerged.

Financial sustainability was a central focus. The board noted the letter's emphasis on working efficiently within existing funding frameworks and discussed the recurring expectation to "do more with less."

Members acknowledged the importance of fiscal responsibility while also recognizing the challenges of meeting priorities within constrained resources. VCC's ongoing efforts in program review and financial planning were noted as important strategies that support both sustainability and responsiveness.

The letter's broad, system-wide focus prompted discussion on how institutions can best meet provincial goals while also addressing the specific needs of their local communities. The board emphasized the value of open communication and coordination between institutions and the Ministry to ensure shared understanding and effective implementation.

Members noted that the letter does not explicitly reference GBA+ analysis, gender equity, or international student support. These terms and specific areas had been more prominently featured in previous mandate letters. While the omission was noted, the board reaffirmed VCC's continued commitment to inclusive practices and emphasized the importance of maintaining a strong focus on these areas across institutional planning, reporting, and engagement.

The board recognized alignment between the mandate letter and VCC's work in advancing Indigenous partnerships and reconciliation, particularly in relation to the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act (DRIPA). Established institutional frameworks are already in place to guide this work, and the board confirmed its ongoing support for these efforts.

There was also discussion of the letter's reference to entrepreneurial approaches and innovation. Members acknowledged the potential for institutions to explore new opportunities, such as social enterprise and revenue diversification, within the boundaries of current regulations and oversight.

In closing, the board reflected on its role in guiding the institution through evolving priorities while maintaining a focus on quality, inclusion, and long-term sustainability. Members expressed support for continued collaborative advocacy through the BC Board Chairs network, particularly in advancing dialogue on funding models, institutional flexibility, and shared sector priorities.

The letter would be returned to the Ministry following the meeting, along with a summary of the board's reflections and key discussion points.

### **10.1 Recognition of Outgoing Board Members**

The Board recognized outgoing members Joey Hartman, Libby Davies, and Seung Oh for their exemplary leadership and service. Their commitment to values-based governance was evident through their active participation in board meetings and events, and in their advocacy for the College's mission.

These members played a significant role in advancing the Strategic Innovation Plan and supporting the development of the new building under the Campus Plan. In recognition of their contributions, the Board announced the creation of the VCC Board Leadership Award, a student award to be presented in fall and spring of the 2025/26 academic year. The VCC Foundation will serve as the steward of the award, supporting its administration and alignment with the values it represents. The award will recognize students who demonstrate the leadership and dedication exemplified by these board members.

Personal tributes and tokens of appreciation were shared, with gratitude expressed for their lasting impact on the College and its community.

## **11. NEXT MEETING & ADJOURNMENT**

M. Rashid thanked everyone for their participation.

The next regular public board meeting is scheduled for Sept 24, 2025.

The meeting adjourned at 7:22 p.m.

**MINUTES APPROVED: September 24, 2025**