

University College of the Fraser Valley announcement Premier Gordon Campbell

July 15, 2004

Check Against Delivery

It was 1974 when we initially started Fraser Valley College. The population of this region was 130,000 people. It's doubled in the last 30 years. We've watched as there have been many changes in this community in the last 30 years.

I think it's time to think about another change: to set our vision a little bit higher, to reach a little bit higher so that we can deliver to the next generation of British Columbians a sense of promise and excitement that we all inherited from our parents.

When you look at this community, you know that it's a young population: 41 per cent of the people that live here are under 30 years of age. That's why it's so critical that we think of providing them with the tools they need to pursue their goals, to pursue their dreams, to follow the path that will lead them to a sense of confidence and, I think, a sense of accomplishment in their lives.

We have announced, as a government, last February that over the next five years we would be creating 25,000 new advanced education spaces. That's the largest expansion of advanced education facilities that we've seen in the province in the last four decades. It's important we do that because we know that the key to everyone's future is a good education and an opportunity to pursue their interests.

So today, I am really pleased to be here to tell you all that we will be adding 1,700 new spaces to the University College of the Fraser Valley by 2010. That's a 32 per cent increase in the number of student spaces.

Those spaces will be allocated to campuses in Abbotsford, Chilliwack, Hope, Mission and Agassiz. There'll be spaces that will go directly to computer science and technology programs. They'll build on the excellent programs you already have in nursing and allied health care, to help deliver quality health care close to home.

They will build on the aerospace training facilities that you've. There is an industry where jobs are expected to double in this decade, alone. The University College of the Fraser Valley has been a leader in this, since they established Canada's first aviation degree in 1996. We'll be able to build on that.

We'll be able to build on the agricultural program, ensuring a bright future for a region that accounts for 60 per cent of B.C.'s farming revenues.

There'll also be 170 new teaching spaces and administrative jobs established by 2010.

I am pleased to say as well that we will be launching a planning process. We have provided approval-in-principle for the planning to begin for a relocated campus in partnership with the city, University College of the Fraser Valley, and the Justice Institute of B.C. It has a potential right here to provide not only a new home for the University College of the Fraser Valley in Chilliwack, but also for Fraser Valley educational campus that will be second to none. The opportunities for that are only limited by your vision.

I know from my experience that your vision is expansive. Your vision is a vision that embraces the future with excitement and with confidence. And with the \$11-million program that we believe will be available for capital investment to support this project, we are on the verge of turning this former military base into an exceptional campus of learning and economic activity in the Fraser Valley.

So today let me say to you again: it is because of you, it is because of your leadership, it is because of your community's commitment that we are able to announce another step in the stage of building a truly exceptional institution of learning, taking full advantage of all the assets that you have in this community. You have for generations shown leadership. You continue to show leadership.

On behalf of all the people of British Columbia let me say thank you for that.

Let's build a future that our children will always say they've got pride in.

Thank you very much.