

## Introduction

Starting in 2003 BCcampus has issued an annual Online Program Development Fund (OPDF) Request for Proposals (RFP) to all of BC's public post secondary institutions. The OPDF call for proposals emphasizes inter-institutional collaboration and partnerships for development of online learning resources. Development is focused on giving students access to more programs that will help them complete degrees, diplomas and certificates.

On May 29<sup>th</sup>, 2008 BCcampus announced the \$1,000,000 2008 OPDF call for proposals. This years OPDF brings the cumulative total investment in online learning resource development through the OPDF over the years to \$7.25 million. The announcement included distribution of the RFP, application form, and OPDF FAQ. Closing date for OPDF proposals was set as October 24<sup>th</sup>, 2008. These materials are available from the BCcampus web site at:

<http://www.bccampus.ca/EducatorServices/CourseDevelopment/OPDF/CallForProposals.htm>

Earlier rounds of the OPDF invited proposals for developing a broad variety of online learning resources including courses, programs, learning objects, tools and technologies. The for-credit online course category has been the most popular and was kept again this year as one of the categories in the 2008 OPDF RFP. The 2008 Online Program Development Fund invited proposals in three categories:

1. Courses
2. Learning Objects
3. Professional Learning Resources

The Professional Learning Resources category acknowledges the importance of ensuring faculty and staff at all BC public post secondary institutions have opportunities to develop expertise in the use of education technology for teaching and learning. BCcampus is committed to supporting the development of professional learning resources that enhance teaching and learning capacity and experiences in the public post secondary system.

All OPDF developed learning resources become accessible across BC's public post secondary system for sharing and reuse through the BCcampus Shareable Online Learning Resources (SOL\*R) repository <http://solr.bccampus.ca>. Out of 346 total proposals received in the 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, and 2007 rounds of the OPDF, 91 were selected for funding to develop 284 courses, 63 course modules, 150 learning objects, and 19 virtual labs & tools. Summary descriptions of all these development projects are available on the BCcampus web site at:

<http://www.bccampus.ca/EducatorServices/CourseDevelopment/OPDF/FundedOPDF.htm>. Many of these projects have completed their development process producing online learning resources that are now in operational use and available for sharing and reuse by others through SOL\*R. Over 900 educators across BC's public post secondary system have established SOL\*R accounts and are now accessing and reusing these resources.

All OPDF funding goes directly to public post secondary institutions and they are encouraged to partner. In addition to emphasizing inter-institutional partnerships, the OPDF encourages BC public post secondary institutions to partner with outside agencies including BC e-learning companies, not-for-profits, and professional associations. Partnerships add needed expertise and maximize the number of students using the online learning resources produced.

OPDF evaluation and award is done by independent professional peer review against a set of criteria expressed in the request for proposals. An eight member evaluation team drawn from across BC's public post secondary was formed for 2008 OPDF evaluation.

## 2008 OPDF Results

BCcampus received a total of 41 proposals in response to the 2008 OPDF call for proposals. Of that total 19 were for the courses, 13 for learning objects, and 9 for professional learning resources. The combined request for funding amounted to \$2.4 million dollars. Institutions committed to provide \$1.4 million dollars of matching in-kind funding. Twenty-four of BC's 25 public post secondary institutions participated as lead or partner in at least one proposal with over 90% of the 2008 OPDF proposals involving partnerships. Eighty three percent of the proposals involved partnerships with other post secondary institutions. Fifty one percent of the proposals involved partnerships with outside organizations including associations, non-

profit groups, societies, school districts, First Nation groups, federal government agencies, private sector companies, and higher education institutions outside of BC. This extensive range of partnerships broadens the reach and benefits of OPDF development activities across sectors and beyond. BCcampus extends a special thanks to everyone who participated in these proposals.

Proposals were evaluated using a process of independent review proceeding to group consensus and award November 13-14, 2008 by a team of eight reviewers including representatives from University of Northern British Columbia, Thompson Rivers University, University of Victoria, Royal Roads University, North Island College, Camosun College, College of the Rockies and University of British Columbia.

The evaluation team selected 20 proposals for award.

Proposals selected for award, partnering institutions, dollars awarded, and outcomes are outlined in the following table:

### 2008 OPDF Successful Proposals

	Title	Partnering Institution(s)	Outcome
1	eStudio—Digital Arts / New Media Online	Emily Carr University, University of Northern British Columbia, North Island College, Donat Group	Develop 4 online studio art courses - Interactivity—Web Art, Making Art for Mobile Devices, Social Software as Compositional Tool, and Citizen Journalism. These undergraduate courses contribute to fulfilling BFA degree and certificate requirements.
2	Learn Together Collaboratory: Building Effective Online Collaborative Communities Phase 2	Vancouver Island University, Educational Technology Users Group (ETUG), University College Institute Professional Developers (UCIPD), Northern Educational Developers Network	Enhance and extend development of the Learn Together Collaboratory ( <a href="http://www.ltcollaboratory.org">http://www.ltcollaboratory.org</a> ) a BC based professional development network that supports networking, sharing, collaboration, communication and partnerships for the enhancement of teaching and learning in higher education. Phase I was funded in the 2007 OPDF.
3	Learning Objects for Environmental Trades Pre-Training	Thompson Rivers University, British Columbia Water and Waste Association, Indian and Northern Affairs Canada – BC Region	Create 8 media rich open educational resources to prepare learners for training in environmental management (especially the water industry) but adaptable to a range of courses in science, physical education, career education and general literacy and numeracy.
4	Medical Office Assistant Certificate Program – Phase II	Camosun College, Capilano University, College of New Caledonia, College of the Rockies, Douglas College, Vancouver Island University, North Island College, Northern Lights College, Northwest Community College, Okanagan College, Selkirk College, Thompson Rivers University, University of the Fraser Valley, Vancouver Community College	Develop 5 online courses – Medical Terminology III Pharmacology and Specialties, Clinical Procedures, Clinical Practice, Manual Medical Billing, Medical Billing Computerized. Phase I of this program was funded in the 2007 OPDF and these remaining 5 courses complete the development of a provincial online medical office assistant certificate program supporting the growth and demand for assistants in the health care industry.
5	Mountain Writers' Project, Course Expansion at Selkirk and College of the Rockies	Selkirk College, College of the Rockies	Develop 3 fully online courses Sport Literature, Eco-Poetics, and Travel Writing that contribute to the

			development of a mountain writer's collective and develop creative writing talent over the BC interior (and beyond).
6	Electronic Passports of Participation: A Provincial Approach to Encouraging and Recognizing Faculty Professional Development	University of Northern British Columbia, Vancouver Island University, Simon Fraser University, Camosun College, University of British Columbia	Design and develop a passports of participation system and registry that records and celebrates participation in professional development events.
7	Instructional Video Series in Post-Secondary Teaching: Art of Teaching – Inquiry Learning	Vancouver Island University with Vancouver Island Educational Developers Alliance (Royal Roads University, University of Victoria, North Island College, Camosun College)	Publish and disseminate an instructional video on The Art of Teaching to all BC post secondary institutions. Write, film, develop and publish a second Art of Teaching video on Inquiry-based Learning.
8	Finance for Housing Managers Online Course	Vancouver Island University, Nicola Valley Institute of Technology, Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation	Build out a curriculum for a certified First Nations Housing Managers Program including the development of an online course Finance for Housing Managers.
9	Introduction to the English as a Second Language Classroom: Online Multimedia Learning Resource	Vancouver Community College, University of British Columbia, MOSAIC	Develop four videos to be used in Teaching English To Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) teacher training programs throughout BC.
10	Learning Objects for Introductory Statistics: Visualizing Patterns in Data	Simon Fraser University, Athabasca University, Hebei University (China)	Develop 10 interactive learning objects that teach difficult statistical concepts such as – standard deviation, standardized scores, skewness, correlation, linear regression, sampling distributions, standard error, confidence intervals, multiple regression, and chi-square distribution.
11	Development of a 3D Interactive Simulation to Support Applied Engineering Education	University of British Columbia, Emily Carr University	Develop an integrated virtual learning environment and simulation to teach undergraduate, graduate and professional learners to program and operate an advanced Computer-Numerically-Controlled machine used in manufacturing industries to fabricate complex components based on information from 3-D computer aided design software programs.
12	Web-based Associate of Science Program Development Year 2	North Island College, College of the Rockies, Thompson Rivers University, Kwantlen Polytechnic University, Vancouver Island University, Tatlayoko Think Tank	Phase two development of a Remote Web-Based Science Laboratory that provides for the use of remote sensing and control technology mediated lab exercises. Develop lab exercises for four courses (biology, chemistry, physics, geology) and fully develop 2 online courses (physics, geology). All developments contribute to the build out of an entirely web-based Associate of Science degree program.
13	Soil Parent Material and Landscape Development: From Reality to Virtuality	University of British Columbia, Thompson Rivers University, University of Northern British Columbia	Develop a virtual web-based teaching tool on soil landscapes and associated parent materials to be used in at least 23 soil, agriculture, forestry, and natural resource management courses across BC and beyond.
14	Embedding Critical Thinking	University of British Columbia	Develop 8 learning objects for critical

	Opportunities into Distributed Learning Environments: Developing “Objects” as Tools For Thought	Okanagan, Cool School, Critical Thinking Consortium	thinking competencies such as attributing causal connections, drawing warranted inferences from statistical data, interpreting visual images, critically reading and responding to historical documents and participating in critical thoughtful dialogue. Objects can be embedded in a range of courses.
15	Culturally Diverse Learners – Video/DVD Project	Thompson Rivers University	Develop a set of four professional learning videos around cultural differences and learning environments dealing with academic integrity/writing skills, group work/communication, participation/learning styles, and assessment strategies.
16	2010 Open Education Resources Legacy Project	Capilano University, LinkBC (a network of 20 post-secondary tourism and hospitality programs across British Columbia)	Capitalize on the 2010 Olympic and Paralympics Winter Games by developing a 2010 open education resources portal that includes 40-60 discussion starter instructor resources (e.g. The Sustainability Agenda for the 2010 Games, Games Impact on the Accommodation Sector, etc.), an online info-exchange hub for games related student opportunities dialogue and collaboration, and an olympic and paralympics games online information bank. This work will be actively maintained and further developed by UK partners for the 2012 games in London.
17	Learning Modules: Effective Video-casting Practices with Aboriginal Learners	Vancouver Island University, Inter Tribal Health Authority	To develop four videos as part of best practice guidelines and resources that support effective videoconferencing instruction focused on serving Aboriginal learners. Products will include high definition video clips for delivery over video conferencing equipment, an interactive flash module using video footage for delivery over the web, and a low definition vodcast compressed as MP4 for mobile devices.
18	BC OpenSim	University of Northern British Columbia, College of the Rockies	Put in place an open source OpenSimulator platform server providing BC post secondary institutions with access to rent-free, robust open virtual worlds hosted in BC but able to link to other virtual worlds via an open simulator online index (OSGrid).
19	Toward Open Education: Resources and Frameworks for Interaction	University of British Columbia, College of the Rockies, University of Victoria	Develop a set of professional learning resources that promote the development and reach of Open Educational Resources that engage educators and students. Resources will address context of open education movement, policy, instructional considerations, and technical considerations.
20	Online Course Development – Low Residency MAA	Emily Carr University, University of Northern British Columbia,	Develop online curriculum for a low-residency graduate program Masters of

		North Island College, Donat Group	Applied Arts Degree (MAA). Six semester program comprises two intensive summer residencies in Vancouver and four online distance semesters. Courses to be developed include: Seminar in Research, Interactivity, Interactivity Project, Graduate Seminar, and Thesis Writing.
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Thanks to all those who submitted proposals and congratulations to the 2008 OPDF winners. Please coordinate news releases associated with successful projects with Kim Van Bruggen Acumen Communications Group, e-mail [kim@acumenpr.ca](mailto:kim@acumenpr.ca), phone 250-727-7464. Representatives of all projects receiving a grant will be invited to an OPDF orientation day in January 2009. BCcampus is pleased to support the growing importance of online learning initiatives at all BC public post secondary institutions. OPDF projects improve access and provide student choice everywhere in the province.

For additional information contact:

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