Introduction

Starting in 2003, on behalf of the Ministry of Advanced Education and Labour Market Development, BCcampus has issued an annual Online Program Development Fund (OPDF) call for proposals to all of BC's public post secondary institutions. The OPDF invites proposals involving inter-institutional collaboration and partnerships for development of online learning curricula. Development is focused on giving students access to more programs that will help them complete degrees, diplomas and certificates.

The 2003-2008 rounds of the OPDF invited proposals for developing a broad variety of online learning resources including courses, programs, learning objects, tools and technologies. Institutions use the OPDF for academic planning around curriculum development. The results of OPDF development produce online learning credential opportunities for students. Using OPDF grants, institutions and their partners have built out dozens of credentials including full certificates, diplomas and degrees. Curriculum building blocks for further credentials across virtually all academic fields of study have been produced in the form of hundreds of courses, course modules, learning objects, virtual labs and tools.

A poster showing all 2003-2008 OPDF credentials and complete list of curriculum materials mapped to academic fields of study and subject areas can be viewed and downloaded on the BCcampus web site at http://www.bccampus.ca/Assets/2009+-+BCcampus+website+redesign/OPDF-MAP.pdf.

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. SOL*R is an online learning library that allows educators to discover, share, reuse, and remix a growing collection of digital course materials. Through SOL*R, BC's public post-secondary educators can license, contribute to, and use free online learning resources. All resources contributed to SOL*R are available to BC public post secondary educators free of charge, but are licensed to allow intellectual property rights to remain with the original developer. Licensing these materials and storing them in SOL*R make them available for all BC public post secondary institutions to use as components in their own academic program offerings.

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 criteria expressed in the call for proposals.

The 2008-2009 OPDF is the seventh annual round and brings the cumulative total investment in online learning curricula development to $8.25 million.

2008-2009 OPDF Call for Proposals

On April 14th, 2009 BCcampus announced the $1,000,000 2008-2009 OPDF call for proposals.
The 2008-2009 Online Program Development Fund invited proposals in three categories:
1. Courses and Learning Objects
2. Open Textbooks, and
3. Professional Learning Resources

Materials related to the 2008-2009 OPDF call for proposals including the call itself, an application form, and FAQ are all available from the BCcampus web site at http://www.bccampus.ca/Educators/educator-services/apply-for-funding.htm.
OPDF proposals were submitted through to BCcampus by heads of academic affairs at institutions on or before the closing date of May 29th, 2009.

Call Response

BCcampus received a total of 43 proposals in response to the 2008-2009 OPDF call for proposals. The combined request for funding amounted to $3.28 million dollars. Of the 43 proposals there were:
- 28 proposals for courses and learning objects representing a combined request of $2.41 million
- 2 proposals for open textbooks representing a combined request of $140K, and
- 13 for professional learning resources with a combined request of $731K

Proposal Evaluation

Proposals were reviewed by the Ministry of Advanced Education and Labour Market Development and comments provided to the Evaluation Team for consideration prior to the group review.

Proposals were evaluated using a progressive consensus process facilitated by BCcampus. Progressive consensus involves evaluator's independently scoring proposals first, followed by paired review and consensus, culminating in group review and award. Evaluators do not review proposals from their own institution. The eight person 2008-2009 OPDF evaluation team included representatives from University of Northern British Columbia, University of Victoria, Royal Roads University, Camosun College, Kwantlen Polytechnic University, Vancouver Community College, University of British Columbia, and University of Regina.

The evaluation team selected 17 proposals for full or partial award. Ten grants were made for courses and learning objects, 1 for open textbooks, and 6 for professional learning. Nineteen of BC's public post secondary institutions are receiving grants as lead or partner. All development work will be collaborative involving partnerships not only between institutions but with outside organizations too. Twenty-six outside partnerships are involved in 2008-2009 OPDF developments including First Nation Tribal Councils, school districts, BC e-learning companies, national and international universities, associations, foundations, health authorities, and literacy groups. The participation of these partners broadens the expertise involved in development and extends the reach and impact of the resulting curricula to a wide audience. Congratulations to all those involved in these OPDF funded proposals.

A summary of the grants awarded is listed in the following table.

2008-2009 OPDF Awards

	Title	Partners	Outcome
1	Inter-professional Pain Management Preparatory Module	University of British Columbia, College of Health Disciplines, University of Victoria	Develop a preparatory open access learning module that supports incorporation of pain management content into any health and human service curricula. Module will provide students with an understanding of the pain

			epidemic, types of pain, mechanisms and physiology of pain, history of pain, communicating about pain, and the experience of pain.
2	First Nation Shellfish Aquaculture General Management Certificate – Blended Program	Vancouver Island University, Nuu chah nulth Tribal Council, Naut'sa mawt Tribal Council	Develop three online courses, AQUA 552 Introduction to Shellfish Culture Concepts, AQUA 553 Shellfish Growout Systems, and AQUA 565 Shellfish Tenure Application Process and Federal Permitting for British Columbia. These three courses develop foundational knowledge and skills needed in the shellfish industry and are blended with other courses into a First Nation Shellfish Aquaculture General Management Certificate.
3	ET³ E-Text for Tutor Training*	Camosun College, North Island College, Vancouver Island University, Literacy Victoria, READ Victoria, Bridges for Wormen, Bella Coola Valley Learning Society, Port Alberni Literacy Society, Literacy Central Vancouver Island, Parksville Community Adult Literacy Project	A partnership with three post secondary institutions and seven community literacy organizations to create an open textbook to support volunteer tutors working with adult literacy workers. Open textbook will provide tutors with an understanding of adult learning theories, andragogical practices, and tutoring best practices.
4	Biogeoclimatic Ecosystem Classification Learning Objects	Selkirk College, Thompson Rivers University, Ministry of Forests and Range	Develop 23 learning objects supporting use of the Biogeoclimatic Ecosystem Classification (BEC) system for mapping and interpreting ecosystems for resource management projects such as forest development plans, environmental impact assessments, and conservation planning. Resources will cover the hierarchical classification used in the BEC, soils, forest succession and disturbance regimes in ecosystems, biogeoclimatic zones in BC, and virtual field simulation of ecological classification scenarios for the forest regions of BC.
5	Online Graduate Course: Perspectives on Population and Public Health Practice*	Simon Fraser University, Vancouver Coastal Health, Public Health Association of BC	Develop an online graduate course as part of an eventual 22 credit graduate Diploma in Public Health. Course will use practice and case-based learning to help students bring a population health perspective to public health problems.
6	Practical Nursing: Online Delivery Option*	Vancouver Island University, Camosun College, North Island College	Develop initial 6 courses (phase 1 and phase 2) of a Practical Nursing Online Certificate. Courses will also be used as online courses for Practical Nurse Access Program and Generic Practical Program. Seven courses are; Professional Issues I, Professional Issues II, Pharmacology, Health Promotion/Prevention, Gerontology, and Acute/Chronic Care. Content from previous OPDF grants for two courses; Biology and Anatomy and Physiology will be reused in this program.
7	Online Development Instructor Skills Workshop	Vancouver Community College, BCIT, Capilano University, Douglas College, Kwantlen Polytechnic University, University of British Columbia	Develop a 20-25 hour workshop that helps instructors get up and running teaching web-based courses. Workshop will provide participants with instructional design principles for online teaching including; instructional objectives online, using webquests, using BOPPPS to develop an active lesson plan, evaluating prior knowledge, using online and Web 2.0 instructional aids, student participation online, online questioning techniques, giving feedback in an online environment.

8	Facilitating Learning in Synchronous Environments	Royal Roads University, University of Northern British Columbia	Develop a new 3 credit, 12 week online course that provides educators with enhanced skills and knowledge on how to facilitate learning using synchronous technologies in face-to-face, blended, and online learning environments. Enhances educator skill in designing and delivering learning activities using synchronous learning to produce real-time learning activities that stress active learning and community-based engagement.
9	Web-based Associate of Science Program Development*	North Island College, College of the Rockies, Thompson Rivers University Open Learning, Kwantlen Polytechnic University, Vancouver Island University, Tatlayoko Think Tank an e-learning company	Develop remote web-based science lab and increase repertoire of science lab exercises across more fields of study. Develop 4 web-based science courses as part of continued build out of a multi-institutional Web-based Associate of Science program.
10	e-Studio – Community Engagement	Emily Carr University, Dr. Peter Aids Foundation	Develop an undergraduate 3 credit course that will be a pre-requisite for students engaging in 200/300 level community project curriculum, both in a facilitated class and as interns in Emily Carr's co-op program. Prepares students for working with vulnerable or marginalized communities. Addresses ethics of representation, dialogic relationships in partner with others and methods of collaboration and team work.
11	Digital Tattoo Project	University of British Columbia, University of Victoria, Thompson Rivers University	Continue develop a web site and tutorial videos that provide information and guidance to students and others on managing their digital identity and online interactions. Tutorial develops digital literacy related to use of settings, tools and strategies to ensure privacy when desired, and awareness of rights and responsibilities as creators of digital content on the web.
12	Embedding Critical Thinking Opportunities into Distributed Learning Environments: Developing Objects as "Tools for Thought" Part II*	University of British Columbia Okanogan, Cool School, HuStream Technologies, Critical Thinking Consortium	Develop 6 learning objects and an overview supporting video that help instructors and students use five categories of intellectual tools – 1. Background knowledge, 2. Criteria for judgment, 3. Critical thinking vocabulary, 4. Thinking strategies, and 5. Habits of Mind. Developed materials can be used across wide range of fields of study and subject areas.
13	Early Childhood Care and Education Diploma Online Development	Camosun College, Vancouver Island University, The South Island Partnership, Coast Salish Employment Training Society	Develop first 5 of sixteen courses in phase one work toward an online Early Childhood Care and Education Diploma expected to take three years to develop. Courses are designed to provide learners with the knowledge skills and values to create rich early learning experiences and environments that reflect the latest knowledge on how to support young children's early learning development. Students who complete all required courses for the Diploma are eligible for Provincial certification as an Early Childhood Educator with specialization as Infant and Toddler Educators and/or Special Needs Educators.
14	Case Studies in Innovative Educational Technology Use	University of Victoria, Simon Fraser University, Vancouver Island University, Royal Roads University	Develop an open access web-based series of case studies that profile instructors who use educational technologies in effective and innovative ways. Includes 10 case study videos from expert instructors, 15-20

			video snapshots of technology use demonstrating innovative pedagogy in practice, online assessment tools, a workshop series and other aids.
15	Interpersonal Communications for Housing Managers Online Course*	Vancouver Island University, Nicola Valley Institute of Technology, First Nations National Housing Managers Association	Develop one course to be added to the existing courses Introduction to Property Management, and the Finance for Housing Managers online course resulting tin three of five courses leading to a certificate in First Nations Housing Managers Training.
16	Building a Pedagogical Culture for Online Education*	Simon Fraser University, University of Victoria, Capilano University, Kwantlen Polytechnic University, Thompson Rivers University, Vancouver Community College, Athabasca University, University of Brazil, Beijing University of Posts and Telecommunications, Montclair State University	Development of professional learning materials on use of web notation as an online pedagogical practice including why annotate and how to annotate. These materials will help teachers to better engage learners in online discussion forums and also help learners understand the dynamics, roles and responsibilities of online discussion.
17	BC Video Net: Advancing Inter-institutional Professional Development with Videoconferencing in BC's Higher Education and First Nation Communities*	Vancouver Island University, Inter Tribal Health Authority, Kwantlen Polytechnic University	Develop a searchable, interactive and user-contributable map of video conferencing sites in BC. Create 6 educational digital videos demonstrating how videoconferencing can be used for First Nations community development and education.

Note: * represents only partial funding of full proposal request

Thanks to all those who submitted proposals and congratulations to the 2008-2009 OPDF winners.

All public announcements and news releases associated with your grant must be coordinated through Kim Van Bruggen Acumen Communications Group, e-mail kim@acumenpr.ca, phone 250-727-7464 who will work with the BC's Public Affairs Bureau. It is preferred that announcements be held until September.

Representatives of all projects receiving a grant will be invited to an OPDF orientation day at the end of September beginning of October.

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.

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