

For Immediate Release

## **BCCIE WELCOMES PROVINCIAL FOCUS ON INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION**

VANCOUVER, BC - September 23, 2011

The British Columbia Council for International Education (BCCIE) celebrates the Premier's support for international education as announced this week in "The BC Jobs Plan: Canada Starts Here". International students are a cultural and economic bridge to our major trading partners and a major economic driver in all regions of the province.

BCCIE has been working with the provincial government and stakeholders for several months to refine objectives and strategies for the further success of international education across BC. Over the past three years, BCCIE has worked collaboratively with government, with BC's trade officers overseas and with colleagues across the BC education system to position BC as Canada's leader in international education. We will continue to work with government as the details of this ambitious and exciting initiative emerge more fully formed and are implemented.

The many successes of our colleagues in both the public and private K-12, post-secondary and English language sectors have helped make us a leading destination for learners from around the world. We have been pleased to lead Team BC education delegations to key international student markets like China, India, Korea, and Brazil, and have been proud to administer and promote the province's Education Quality Assurance (EQA) Designation. Currently a total of 97 public and private institutions are approved for the EQA Designation, which indicates that they have met or exceeded provincial government recognized quality assurance standards and offer consumer protection.

The government's increased commitment to international education marks a welcome evolution for the sector and we look forward to working with government, our stakeholders, and international education partners in achieving these ambitious targets.

International students spent nearly \$1.8 billion in BC in 2009-10. Over 94 000 international students from K-12, post-secondary and English language sectors chose BC for their studies last year. To find out more, view the April 2011 report, "Economic Impact of International Education in British Columbia" here: <http://www.bccie.bc.ca/about/publications/economic-impact>.

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### **About the British Columbia Council for International Education**

The BC Council for International Education (BCCIE) is a not-for-profit Society committed to advancing the international education interests of the province of British Columbia. BCCIE is a leader in the successful development, promotion and maturation of international education in British Columbia. Through consultation and liaison with the provincial government, the direction of the Board, and broad engagement with the diversity of sectors representing international education, we support our mission through four key strategic goals. BCCIE provides coordinated leadership for BC's diverse international education sectors; provides marketing support by positioning BC as the leading quality destination for international learners; provides effective training, service and communication to and for BC educators; and promotes a culture of quality and excellence in the internationalization of BC's education system.

### **About Education Quality Assurance**

BCCIE administers the Education Quality Assurance (EQA) Designation on behalf of the Province of British Columbia. EQA is BC's provincial brand of quality for all sectors of private and public post-secondary education. EQA is Canada's first and only provincial brand of quality for post-secondary education. It helps parents, counsellors, agents and officials support students to choose a quality post-secondary institution for their overseas studies, and allows international students to easily see which BC institutions have met provincial government recognized quality assurance standards and offer consumer protection.

### **For more information:**

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