



NEWS RELEASE
For Immediate Release
February 19, 2002

BCTIA AND UNIVERSITIES PLEASED WITH HIGH TECHNOLOGY COMMITMENTS

The British Columbia Technology Industry Association and The University Presidents' Council of BC have jointly welcomed today's budget announcement regarding provincial commitments to the "Doubling The Opportunity" initiative which will double the number of graduates in computer and electrical engineering and in computing sciences over the next five years.

George Hunter, President of BCTIA and Don Avison, President of TUPC were both very pleased with the result. Hunter indicated that "making progress in this area has been a priority for BCTIA for many years. We simply have not been producing sufficient numbers of graduates from our excellent universities and that will now change."

Don Avison stated that "Double The Opportunity" had resulted from an outstanding collaboration between the universities and BCTIA and that government had taken the leadership necessary to make it happen."

Avison and Hunter indicated they look forward to working closely with the Ministry of Advanced Education in the coming weeks to make certain that progress can be achieved rapidly.

**Contact Information:
Don Avison, TUPC
250-480-4839**

**George Hunter, BCTIA
604-683-6159**