



Party platforms on post-secondary

PARTY	POLICY & FUNDING AREA
	FUNDING
Green	No amount specified but a commitment to increase funding for more student spaces
Liberal	\$47 million more for 2005-06 announced in BC Budget 2005, but no new funding identified in platform document
NDP	\$65 million more for 2005-06 (to also cover 2% tuition freeze replacement funding)
	TUITION POLICY
Green	Reduce tuition fees by 5% per year – moving towards free post-secondary education
Liberal	Throne speech commitment to legislate tuition increases linked to inflation
NDP	Roll back and then freeze tuition fees at 2004 levels
	STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE
Green	Use half of current student loan funding to convert to bursaries and scholarships Loan forgiveness of 50% if grad works in BC for five years following completion of studies.
Liberal	Student aid funding frozen in 2005-06 and loan reduction only for educational programs that are two years or longer
NDP	\$30 million more annually to restore grant program for students in years 2 to 4
	TRADES & APPRENTICESHIP
Green	Statement of support for expanding industry training and apprenticeship programs
Liberal	Budget 2005 continued a funding freeze in the area of trades training Platform document does not identify any new funding or specific targets for more apprentices
NDP	\$20 million more in 2005-06 to support a doubling of apprenticeships in four years
	RESEARCH FUNDING
Green	\$10 million research and development fund for pilot projects to promote advanced technologies
Liberal	No new initiatives announced beyond research program and funding commitments during term of government
NDP	No new initiatives or funding identified in platform document
	NEW AND NOTEWORTHY
Liberal	Commitment to maintain Knowledge Network as a public broadcaster – reversing earlier announcement about intention to privatize the network
NDP	Commitment to expand spaces and funding in Adult Basic Education and English as a Second Language programs