



Our Ref. 148165

November 7, 2025

Sunni Nishimura
Executive Director
8888 University Drive
Burnaby BC V5A 1S6

Email Address: sunnin@bceln.ca

Dear Sunni Nishimura:

On behalf of the Ministry of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills (the Ministry), thank you for your service to the people of British Columbia and for the efforts BC Electronic Library Network (BC ELN) made over the past year.

The purpose of this letter is to communicate BC ELN's 2025 Accountability Plan for the 2026/27 fiscal year (the Plan). The Plan will provide BC ELN's mandate, strategic priorities, accountabilities, and reporting requirements. The Accountability Plan is included as an Attachment, Schedule A.

The post-secondary education sector constitutes a system with shared responsibility for ensuring that British Columbians have a clear pathway to high-quality education and skills training opportunities needed to fully participate in society. Within this system, BC ELN is mandated to:

- Develop, promote, and maintain system-wide mechanisms that allow post-secondary libraries in British Columbia to equitably meet the expanding information needs of the province's learners, educators, and researchers at the lowest possible cost.

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Additionally, as appropriate, BC ELN policies and programs should be informed by the provincial government's priorities, including: growing the economy by creating good jobs across British Columbia, reducing costs for families, strengthening health care, making our neighbourhoods and communities safer, taking action on climate change, and advancing reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples.

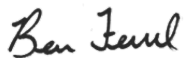
The Minister of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills has issued mandate letters to public Post-Secondary Institutions outlining actions to support Government priorities. The letters can be found here: [Mandate Letters - Post Secondary Institutions](#).

In fulfilling its mandate, BC ELN is encouraged to consider, where appropriate to its planning and operations, government and Ministry-specific priorities articulated in the public Post-Secondary Institutions' mandate letters.

The Ministry remains committed to working with BC ELN to ensure regular, ongoing communication regarding BC ELN operations and strategic initiatives in support of its mandate. As part of this communication, BC ELN will provide the Steering Committee and the Ministry with: Quarterly Financial Reports, an Annual Operating Budget, and an Annual Work Plan. The purpose of these reports is to outline how BC ELN will advance strategic priorities outlined in the Accountability Plan, demonstrate robust organizational governance, and inform planning for the next fiscal year. Reporting should include information that illustrates the value to the province, as well as alignment with government priorities where appropriate.

If you have any questions regarding the reporting requirements, please contact me by phone at 778-698-9760 or via email at Ben.Ferrel@gov.bc.ca.

Sincerely,



Benjamin Ferrel
Executive Director
Digital Policy and Business Transformation Branch
Ministry of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills

Attachment:

Schedule A: BC ELN 2025 Accountability Plan for FY2026/27

pc: Chris Rathbone, Assistant Deputy Minister
Post-Secondary Policy and Programs Division
Ministry of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills

Christina Neigel, Steering Committee Chair
BC Electronic Library Network

SCHEDULE A
BC ELN 2025 Accountability Plan
For FY2026/27

Purpose:

This Accountability Plan (the Plan) is provided to the British Columbia Electronic Library Network (BC ELN) by the Ministry of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills (the Ministry) to establish the mandate, strategic priorities, accountabilities, and reporting requirements for BC ELN. The Plan will be reviewed annually in the context of available funding and to ensure it continues to reflect Government priorities and system needs.

BC ELN will report to the Ministry and the BC ELN Steering Committee, on all deliverables and in accordance with the reporting requirements set out in this Plan.

Mandate:

The mandate of BC ELN is to:

- Develop, promote, and maintain system-wide mechanisms that allow post-secondary libraries in British Columbia to equitably meet the expanding information needs of the Province's learners, educators, and researchers at the lowest possible cost.

Additionally, as appropriate, BC ELN policies and programs should be informed by the provincial government's priorities, including: growing the economy by creating good jobs across British Columbia, reducing costs for families, strengthening health care, making our neighbourhoods and communities safer, taking action on climate change, and advancing reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples.

BC ELN has the following core lines of business:

1. Negotiating electronic resource licenses on behalf of partner libraries;
2. Facilitating resource sharing;
3. Coordinating online learning support services; and,
4. Developing shared services.

Strategic Priorities:

Consistent with its mandate and in alignment with its core lines of business, BC ELN is accountable for delivering on the following priorities in the 2026/27 fiscal year:

1. Work with the Ministry to collaborate on and adopt a robust, efficient long-term administrative model to ensure the sustainability of BCELN services.
2. Collaborate with the Ministry and other post-secondary organizations on the implementation of Ministry strategic initiatives including the ongoing implementation of the B.C. Post-secondary Digital Learning Strategy to enhance access to high-quality technology-enhanced learning and post-secondary experiences across B.C.
3. Continue working towards lasting and meaningful Reconciliation with Indigenous people by ensuring BCELN's mandate and core business activities are in alignment with the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act and by supporting specific commitments in the Action Plan (Actions 1.8, 1.9 and 4.5 in particular).

Accountabilities:

BC ELN will:

- Prepare fiscal reports and fiscal plans.
- Engage with Steering Committee/All Partner Libraries in a regular strategic planning process and on annual work plans.
- Maintain regular, ongoing communication with the Ministry regarding BC ELN operations and strategic initiatives.
- Manage records in accordance with records management best practices and relevant obligations.

Initiatives undertaken by BC ELN that are in addition to the deliverables set out in this Plan must be:

- In alignment with BC ELN's mandate and core lines of business; and
- Reviewed by the Executive/Steering Committee and/or the Ministry.

Reporting Requirements:

The organization's reporting requirements include:

- Annual submission of a work plan to the ministry to deliver on BC ELN's multi-year Strategic Plan.
- Submission of Annual Operating Budget to the Ministry in June.
- Preparing quarterly financial budget reports to be reviewed by the Ministry.
- Preparing other reports as requested by the Ministry.
- Informing the Ministry of key appointments/contracts.
- Preparing updates for the Ministry regarding public outreach and communications.
- Reporting in a timely manner any issues that may significantly affect the operations, reputation, and/or budget of BC ELN.