

## May/June 2014 ASDT Update

### Joint Purchasing Consortium forms New Joint Procurement Committee

A new committee comprised of VPs of Finance, strategic procurement specialists, and a senior academic advisor has been established to support the Consortium for a two year term. The Joint Procurement Committee members include:

#### VP, Finance and Administration

- Gayle Gorrill, Chair, UVIC
- Carol Baert, Vice-Chair, NIC
- Gordon Lee, KPU
- Lorcan O'Melinn, BCIT

#### VP, Academic and Provost

- Steve Grundy, RRU

#### Strategic Procurement Specialists

- Mary Aylesworth, SFU
- Bob Munro, TRU
- Dennis Silva, UBC

Over the next few months the newly formed committee will be working on roles, responsibilities, and governance and implementation of the Wave 1 joint procurement opportunities.

### Joint Procurement Consortium Member's Guide

A Member's Guide is being developed to provide important information regarding the consortium including the principles of the consortium, guidelines for members, and agreed procedures for consortium operations. The draft guide will be available for the Sector in July 2014 for input.



## Vancouver Community College Announces Tuition and Fee Payment Changes

Beginning August 1, 2014, [Vancouver Community College](#) (VCC) will no longer accept credit cards for domestic tuition.



For the past few years VCC has been focused on finding efficiencies and reducing their operating costs. One of the costs they carry each year is payments to credit card companies – fees levied for accepting credit card payments, which amount to approximately \$350,000 each year. Reducing this cost was identified as a viable solution to assist in the goal of a balanced budget. These savings will be re-invested in college programs and services for students.

Eleven other peer institutions across the province have already made the decision to eliminate credit card payments – these include UBC, Okanagan College, SFU, Camosun, BCIT.

After August 1, students will still be able to pay domestic tuition and related fees through online banking, debit card (in-person), cash, bank drafts, certified money orders and cheques.

**Congratulations VCC  
on implementing this initiative!**

## Natural Gas Sector Strategy aimed at reducing volatility and providing best value to institutions

The Natural Gas working group is now in full flight having successfully procured an independent consultant to provide advisory services on the BC Natural Gas supply market and support development of the joint procurement strategy.

An initial market assessment report has been developed and distributed to all 25 institutions which identifies the key variables and trends influencing Natural Gas pricing within the BC marketplace.

A sourcing strategy workshop hosted at BCIT on June 18 workshop was well attended by 18 PSIs with over 25 individuals from the Facilities Management, Procurement and Finance departments across the Sector. The session shared the latest market intelligence with participants and reviewed the key considerations and joint procurement levers which can be deployed to reduce volatility and provide best value to institutions.



A final report is expected in early July which will provide recommendations to the sector and next steps to implement sector-wide commercial process(es) and enable the Sector to negotiate new natural gas supply arrangements effective this September.

## ASDT Wave 1 Leads Implementation Planning Kick-Off

The implementation kick-off session for the ASDT Wave 1 Opportunities was held May 1 with Langara College hosting the event.

The purpose of this session was to formally launch the implementation phase and establish a common understanding of the approach, scope and schedule of the opportunities to be implemented by the leads and the sector teams.

To support the success of the leads, the ASDT Collaboration Office introduced toolkits to support the teams in the areas of implementation, change management, communications and benefits tracking and reporting.

The session was a great success, and the teams are well underway on behalf of the sector. Thanks to everyone for their continued support and commitment to this sector-led collaborative initiative!

## What are the Wave 1 Opportunities available to the sector?

A description of each of the Wave 1 opportunities can be found on the next pages of this update.

Questions or feedback, please email the ASDT Collaboration Office at:  
[AVED.ASDTOffice@gov.bc.ca](mailto:AVED.ASDTOffice@gov.bc.ca)



### This update distributed to:

- Presidents
- VPs of Finance and Administration
- Procurement Professionals
- ASDT Steering Committee
- ASDT Joint Procurement Committee
- BCAIU, RUCBC, and BCC Presidents
- ASDT Wave 1 Leads and Teams
- Post Secondary Employers' Association

### *Wave 1 Kick-Off Session*



## WAVE 1 Project Overviews

### **Credit Card and Reduced Merchant Fees**

Project Lead: Barry Coulson  
[bcoulson@langara.bc.ca](mailto:bcoulson@langara.bc.ca)

Focused on revenue recovery in the form of reducing or removing the fees paid by PSIs associated with the convenience of accepting credit cards as payment for tuition and ancillary services. The project includes leveraging the collective purchasing power of the sector to achieve more favourable merchant rates and expanding non-acceptance of credit cards for domestic tuition.

### **Vending Services**

Project Lead: Cameron Roy  
[Cameron.roy@ufv.ca](mailto:Cameron.roy@ufv.ca)

This opportunity involves securing higher vending machine commissions by maximizing volumes through joint procurement and collaboration among PSIs. This opportunity will also work with the vendor community to identify new business opportunities to expand institutional revenue streams and meet the needs and demands of students.

### **Natural Gas**

Project Lead: Xavier Serrano  
[xserrano@uvic.ca](mailto:xserrano@uvic.ca)

The Natural Gas project seeks to reduce the cost of natural gas by leveraging the economies of scale across the sector to define a common approach to demand management and consolidating the total volume of natural gas purchases and to negotiate optimal supply arrangements.

### **Travel Management Services**

Project Lead: Rand Sanghera  
[rand\\_sanghera@bcit.ca](mailto:rand_sanghera@bcit.ca)

The travel project builds on existing collaboration within the sector to direct a larger portion of total Travel spend through joint procurement channels and collaborative agreements to reduce costs, increase choices and visibility of best value options, improve demand management and enhance risk management.

The Travel project involves implementing a clear travel management policy in each institution that includes guidance on travel spending for air travel, hotels and rental cars. This project will also rationalize the number of travel management suppliers in order to consolidate spending (1-2 providers in total) and negotiate a contract with the travel management provider(s)

### **Office Supplies**

Project Lead: Deb Peterson  
[dpeterson@okanagan.bc.ca](mailto:dpeterson@okanagan.bc.ca)

The office supplies project seeks to find cost savings in office supply procurement and to find increased efficiencies for the procurement and delivery of office supplies using a regional approach.

The team will be preparing to consolidate spend and go to market as a sector, but will first evaluate the results of the provincial RFP for office supplies to confirm best value and approach to meet the needs of the sector.



### **Electrical Supplies Pilot for Trade Consumables**

Project Lead: John Braybrook

[jbraybro@uvic.ca](mailto:jbraybro@uvic.ca)

This project will determine the feasibility and potential benefits of a collaborative approach in the purchase of maintenance, repair and operations supplies used in support of facilities operations and trade teaching programs. The Electrical supplies sub-category will serve as a low risk pilot for the Sector to build experience and capabilities in preparation for a longer term, higher return initiative to consolidate the \$19M of total category spending across standard MRO supply categories such as electrical, mechanical, plumbing, HVAC, etc.

### **Purchasing Card (P-Card)**

Project Lead: Barry Coulson

[bcoulson@langara.bc.ca](mailto:bcoulson@langara.bc.ca)

This opportunity is aimed at consolidating volumes to leverage greater rebates and employ a more strategic approach to the use of Purchasing cards.

### **Library - Copyright Permission Service**

Project Lead: Allan Bell

[allan.bell@ubc.ca](mailto:allan.bell@ubc.ca)

UBC Library has had a successful Rights and Permissions Service in place since September 2012, and is now offering a shared permissions service to post-secondary institutions across BC. The goal of the service is to support local institutional Copyright Leads and Officers (CLOs) by providing efficient permissions processing so they can focus on other copyright services deliverables.

### **Library - Digital Resources and Institutional Repository Network**

Project Lead: Anita Cocchia

[anitac@eln.bc.ca](mailto:anitac@eln.bc.ca)

A province wide network of institutional repositories providing access to faculty and Student research output across post-secondary institutions (PSIs), supporting the management of institutional digital resources, and showcasing BC as a hub for knowledge creation across Canada and around the world.