

Transcript for The Launch of B.C.'s ABE ZTC Project (Plus What's Next!)
BCcampus webinar held on March 9, 2022
Facilitators: Krista Lambert, Carolee Clyne and Melanie Meyer

KRISTA LAMBERT:

All right. So hi, everyone. Thank you all for being here today. My name is Krista Lambert and I'm a project manager at BCcampus working on adult basic education programs. And I'm joined today by Carolee Clyne and Melanie Meyers who are my colleagues at BCcampus and you'll be introduced to them more in just a little bit.

So today I'm extremely grateful to be joining you on the traditional and unceded territories of the Tsawwassen and Musqueam First Nations. And of all the Halkomelem speaking people who have been stewards of this land since time in memoriam.

There's a couple of housekeeping items that we want to start with. First, This meeting is being recorded. If you do not wish to be recorded, please keep your camera off and your microphone muted. Please remain muted throughout just to limit any background noise during the presentations. And there'll be an opportunity to ask questions at the end as well. I will try to leave a few minutes at the end when we will turn off the recording. If you'd like to ask questions verbally and do not wish to be recorded. You can do so at that time. And if you'd like any closed captioning, you can find that in the toolbar at the bottom of zoom. And if you need assistance today during this webinar, please drop a message into chat or private message, Pat or Abigail for help.

So welcome. To begin, I'd like to start with just a brief orientation and definitions so that we're all on the same page and understand some of the initialism that are coming your way. So first let's talk about who BCcampus is if you're not aware or you haven't attended one of our webinars before. We are an organization that supports all the post-secondary institutes in BC, we evaluate, facilitate, and collaborate on complex and innovative education projects. And our main areas of focus are on open education, educational technology and teaching and learning practices.

And as I just mentioned, there are a lot of initialism that are related to this project. And if you work with me long enough, you'll realize I have initialisms for almost everything. So this is the perfect project for me. And I realized they're called initialisms and were not acronyms. But I always say that I'm the project manager of acronyms, but it's really initialism. So let's first talk about OER, and this stands for Open Educational Resources.

OER are almost always licensed with a Creative Commons license, you can see a picture here. And I will get into the nuances of each of these licenses, but they allow content creators to share their work under specific terms. Most notably attribution. And then a few different nuances with each of these.

OER that utilize Creative Commons open licenses are best described by what we call the five R's. So they allow users to reuse content in its unaltered original format. In a variety of ways. Allows users to retain copies of the content for their personal archives or reference, allows users to revise. So content can be modified or altered to suit specific needs. Remix content so that it can be adapted with other similar content to create a whole new piece of content, and then redistribute so the content can be shared with anyone else in its original or altered format.

The OER for this project include open textbooks, open courses, open test bank open answer key open H5P, and open the media.

The benefits of OER for students is that they will always have day one access to resources. The resources are available and a lot of different format such as PDF, Word docs, or e-reader formats. And they will have access to materials in perpetuity without having to pay a fee. And studies show that learning outcomes for students are the same or better when OER are used in their courses.

The benefits of OER for faculty is that they have editing control for instructional resources. They're often peer reviewed. The resources are flexible and can be adapted for specific course. And the quality has been studied to be shown as often the same as or better than a traditional publisher textbook.

Alright, let's talk about ABE. And I assume if you're here that you probably do know what ABE stands for, but there might be a few.

So ABE stands for adult basic education. In B.C. ABE have been tuition free since September 2017. And ABE provides access to courses and skills training ranging from basic literacy through to provincial level, an adult secondary school completion. So ABE program support learners to achieve one or more of the following goals. High school graduation, further education, employability skills, and management skills. These courses are offered in 18 public post-secondary institutes and all 60 of B.C.'s school districts.

And the question I get asked quite frequently is how is this tuition-free and the current B.C. government once again, made this program tuition-free. And as part of the budget for our domestic students in ABE Program [...]

And finally our last definition. What does ZTC.

So as ZTC stands for Zero Textbook Cost. And this came out in US community colleges a number of years ago as a way to limit financial burden on students because they would not need to pay for textbooks for a course. So courses that are ZTC can also be packaged together into credentials to make ZTC degrees, diplomas or certificates. And then the US of course, Z, it's pronounced "zee". So there's rolls off the tongue a little bit better, ZTC. And so in BC we have over 10 bad ZTC programs offered at schools across the program in certificates, diplomas, and

degrees. So at all three levels. And we defines at ZTC and BC as using open educational resources and, or library resources. As long as students aren't paying for a textbook in a course, we could consider it as ZTC.

So now that we have all the stuff omission, by the way, let's put them all together and learn about the ABE that ZTC, in BC. Lovely.

So following announcement of funding from the mystery of events and skills training in spring 2018, that ABE is that ZTC project kicked off in summer 2018 with the gathering of the steering committee of adult educators from across the province, this group was able to help us identify possible pathways for learners towards various levels of ABE certificates and top subjects that would benefit from open educational resource. And when we say top subjects, this ranged from high enrollment to the textbook is very expensive too. Those are the two most common barriers that we faced. So we identify those pathways and then we prioritize the order for subjects for development based on need and based on the offerings of those courses. And we issued our first call for proposals in late fall 2018. From that call, we're able to start six projects for a range of English and math courses. And by the end of that oh, sorry. And then shortly after that, in February of 2019, we issued our second call for proposals. And at the end of that, we had funded grants which resulted in 25 new and adapted resources for ABE.

So a quick summary of the resources we have available. You can see on the screen the subjects for books that were created. There were 40 total resources available, 25 which were an updated or created as part of this project. We have we have all levels of English, Math, and Computer Studies, as well as education and career planning in the area of science, we have an intermediate science course which Mel will talk about all that later. Biology, physics, and chemistry. And unfortunately, we never had any proposals for the social sciences, so there's definitely room for some future development there. Together these resources align to create Zero Textbook Cost pathways at all four of the ABE, certificate levels in BC, fundamental, intermediate, advanced, and provincial, meaning that a student can complete a BC adult graduation diploma, aka, an [...] I don't think it's called that anymore, but I know that it's very common nomenclature. Without having any costs associated with purchasing a textbook. A requirement for the, of the projects was that the resources needed to align with the learning outcomes in the ABC. Abe, sorry, in the in the ABC, in the BC, the ABE articulation handbook. And for those of you who are not familiar with resource, Melanie will drop a link to the most recent version of the handbook into chat. So all of these resources. Our fully adaptable and customizable.

They are openly licensed with a Creative Commons license. They're free. And for any of the textbooks, we offer them in print from the SFU print shop and more on print in a little bit.

So let's talk about where you can find these resources and there's two ways to go about it. So the easiest way is to visit our ABE pathway page where we've created a list of resources available for each of those levels and a link to the resources. The URL is: bit.ly/ABEpathway The

ABE must be capitalized. And Melanie can drop that link into the chat for you. And the links to the resources on this page.

Will they go, Oh sorry. Sorry. You can also find these at open.bccampus.ca And if you go into the collection, you can find a specific adult basic education category. And there's five subcategories. So computer studies, education and career planning, English, math, and science. And you can also just search for textbooks using the search box on that page.

So when you click into a list name for a resource and you find will textbook you want. This is what the listing looks like. At the top, you have the title and author and when the book was first posted and when it was last updated. And a description of the resource on the right-hand side. You'll find it how to access books or how to access the book. Readability is for all the formats that allow you, sorry, readable is for all the formats that allow you to view the book digitally. So online or a PDF or e-reader format. The edit, editable link takes you to the formats like HTML and word. Buy a hardcopy is where you go to order print copy from the SFU bookstore. And then in supplementary materials is where you find ancillaries and other materials that are useful for instructors. In this case, for this book, It's a link to the course pack resource for the reader. And if there are ancillaries particularly with answer keys. We have a form setup where instructors will be verified before they are given access the materials. If there are things like PowerPoint slides or supplementary lab guide that didn't require just an instructor access and can be accessed by students. Those would also be available in that link. In the middle of the page is where you can find information about adopting the book and reporting our adoption. There should be a link for link being dropped into chat that explains the process for adopting an open textbook and has a ton of resources to support you in that. And then once you adopt textbook, please report the adoption to BCcampus and let your colleagues know that you are using an open resource in your course. And I'd like to pause briefly to reinforce, re-emphasize the importance of reporting adoptions. If you are someone know are using these resources in any capacity, please let us know how we know which resources are being used and can figure out students savings which this week at BCcampus over the last ten years, we announced that we have saved students \$30 million using open educational resources, which is really staggering. Number. That's \$30 million, back into students pockets. And it allows us to secure more funding for additional resources. When we know that these resources are being used, we can identify most used resources for creating additional ancillaries that go with the book or perhaps binding future adaptations that go with the book. But if we don't know that it's being used, we can't we don't know and it wouldn't be targeted necessarily for future granting opportunities. And then at the bottom of the page here is where you can find the Creative Commons licensing information. And this particular book is licensed using a CC BY license, which means anyone can use this work or adapt it as long as they attribute the original authors. So under readable, if you were to click through and read this book online, and that's usually the top link. It will take you to press books.

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And if you scroll down, just pass the black background, you'll see the table of contents for the book.

So now I just want to talk briefly about print. All of the books are available in print. We use the SFU print shop for all of our books, they ship worldwide. And you might have more effective printing solutions, more local to you. Maybe your school has a print shop.

But we have found that it's, it's been quite boops, it's been quite cost-effective. So here's the adult literacy fundamental reader, the previous book that I just showed. For print, it costs \$4 for black and white copy and \$9 for color. And to give you an idea, it's about 60 pages. And then in this final example of this advanced math algebraic textbook, the black and white version is \$20 and the color version is dollars. And this textbook is about 550 pages long and very colorful. So you can see that it's about, yeah, three times the cost for a color version versus black and white version.

So finally, maybe you're not sure yet about these resources and want to explore more. And so we do have a great opportunity for you to BCcampus if you're located in BC, Alberta, or Saskatchewan or the Yukon. We offer paid reviews on our open resources. There's a rubric and structure for you to follow and we offer a \$250 honorarium for approved reviews. I personally think reviews are really great way to dip your toe into the OER pond. You'd probably have to review commercial textbook before you do that. And we'd expect the same for a open textbook. And so doing a review allows you to look at both the quality and the alignment with the learning outcomes for your course and share those thoughts your colleagues who are also considering adopting the resources. These reviews are published on our sites with each book listing and there'll be a green tag that says reviewed. And reviews can be found at the bottom of the listing page, which is that first white page that I showed you. Currently about half of our ABE resources are peer reviewed.

And so this sums up what our reviews look like for a particular book.

So let's talk about adopting an open textbook. So first you'll find the book in our collection in the ways I just described. If changes are needed, maybe you need to arrange chapters are localized content. You can very easily do that in press books and we have a lot of resources and support for you at BCcampus to do that. And if you have questions, please let us know because we really want to guide you and help you through that process. And please please, please, please. I cannot emphasize this enough once you adopt a book. Please report the adoptions to BCcampus and let your colleagues know. So now I'd like to turn it over to Carolee Clyne the regional rep for BCcampus. And she's going to talk about some of the new and exciting things that are coming up with the ABE resources.

CAROLEE CLYNE:

Thanks Christa. It's great to have this interest in the ABE collection. My name is Carolee Clyne and I'm joining you today from the traditional and unceded Dakelh territories where I now live, work and play and appreciate their hospitality and generosity. I come to this work from a perspective of the Universal Design for Learning. We're enabling multiple ways to content remains a perspective that I look at resources to provide. As I'm located in the north central part of the province, I also look to see if these resources can be used offline. Traditionally, options for offline include providing print copy or taking the print PDF version in a digital form. Both offline options provide content in a predominately text format. And text in itself can be a barrier for some learners, especially those learning to decode language. The key objectives of open education in UDL look to reduce barriers. Learners should have options to receive content in multiple ways to foster the recognition without additional costs. One solution in the works with the ABE collection is to provide audio recordings of ABE readers, The intro to the computer studies and possibly some of the science resources. If we have time and money, these audio files will be added to the visual images of the pages to provide the learners with the opportunity to hear the words as they follow the pages in an easy to play video format. Even the words will be used. It will be done in a sans serif font to ensure to reduce the barrier that the texts can provide for some learners. This delivery approach with the combined audio and visual will be made available for download for to allow learners to take these home to review in their own settings. Value in this option was driven home when I had the opportunity to work with ABE instructors from CNC, Burns Lake campus where they would use a USB storage to share the print PDFs. Some of their learners would be, many of their learners would be unable to connect from home due to the lack of services and connectivity with rural settings. With these new formats becoming available for the download, that same tool of USB can help deliver both audio and combined audio and visual resources, reducing the barriers conductivity, and provide learners with more opportunities to support their learning needs where they are. Providing these formats are all part of providing OER in multiple ways, and including offline options to better serve the broad geography that makes up British Columbia. As conductivity remains a challenge. to have any infrastructure to sustain and remote settings, as well as the ongoing cost. Expanding our ABE collection to include more options for offline is part of the future view for these resources to benefit a broader group of learners. These resources will also become available in the near future through the collaborative platform, which is created by learning inequality. And this is aimed at providing, contributing to OER to serve the global community as well. Thanks Krista, next to Mel.

MELANIE MEYER:

Thanks Carolee. Good morning, everyone. I'm Melanie Meyers and I lead our open course and findability project at BCcampus. And I'm grateful to be joining you from Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc within Secwepemcúlecw, the traditional territory of the Secwépemc people. And I'm going to share some information about some amazing new ABE resources coming soon for instructors. So just a bit of background at first, that the summer in summer 2020, BCcampus began creating a collection of open courses to help instructors and course developers in creating and updating their courses. Right now, the collection contains several first and second year full courses that are openly licensed, which means they're free to use, customize and share

just like the textbooks that Krista described. And this is a screenshot of our new site at that will be launching soon. First with our open course collection and then with our open textbook collection added. We'll be talking a bit more about this new collection in the session this afternoon where we look at where we started with the BCcampus textbooks and how it's going. So hopefully you can join us this afternoon as well. So essentially, the open course collection, it's a curated selection of course materials developed by educators in BC that can be accessed by others in BC or anywhere. And it's for use in the classroom. In an institutional learning management system or other teaching and learning platforms that you may use. And each component of every course in the collection goes through a quality assurance process to ensure it's appropriate and valid for instructors in BC. So the courses are reviewed by instructional designers using a rubric that includes important aspects of design. Things like accessibility, equity, diversity and inclusion, and UDL. So we've taken what we've learned from the Open Textbook project and apply that to the open course project to ensure quality.

Next slide please. So all of the materials in the collection are in editable formats, such as Microsoft Word or Excel or press books. And the courses include all of the resources instructors would need to teach a course. So everything from syllabus, lesson plans, assignments, activities, marking, rubrics. And the focus of the materials is really on the educator. So the collection isn't where students would go to complete courses or access their course content. Instead, it's a repository that's full of those teaching materials that instructors can use to customize their own route for their own teaching needs are for their classroom. And this is especially helpful in situations where instructors may find out that they're teaching a course maybe a week or a few days before that course starts. And they need to quickly develop a course. And is also great in a situation where, you know, you may already have a course that you've been offering and you're looking for new ideas and ways to do your course differently or offer your course differently. So maybe you're looking for some specific activities and just to update some aspects of your course and you're looking for some inspiration and you can go to the course collection for that. We often talk about the value of OER for students in their cost savings and so on. But just like open textbooks, we don't spend as much time talking about benefit to the instructors. And there are many benefits and what, what the benefits are in this cases, it really brings, even to experienced educators, it bring some new tools, some new approaches that fit with their current curriculum. So as I mentioned before, really just looking at doing things differently. And yes, I see that I will provide the link to the current open course collection in the chat. And that right now does not contain the ABE courses that I'm going to speak about, but there are other ones that may be of interest to you there. And again, you don't have to use the course materials there for a specific course. You may take things from those courses that are available in the collection right now. For example, there's business courses and management course. It has case studies. And perhaps you would like to use those case studies to incorporate in another course that you're teaching.

Next slide. So we're really pleased. We have 3 ABE courses coming to the open course collection this year. We have intermediate, general and Applied Science, which is developed by Christine Miller from TRU. And it was, and it is still currently available in our open textbook Collection. Christine is updated it to include other instructional of resources, including a

syllabus and lecturer manuals. But the course also has PowerPoints, class notes, lab manuals. I think there's three modules, chemistry, biology, and physics. It has quizzes and, and many finalists. Those things are available to instructors upon request. So the full course will be available this spring in the open course collection. And, but you can still find the current materials which Krista also mentioned before us. I'm just going to paste the link there. Those are in the textbook collection right now. So later this year we have two more ABE courses. So we have Christine Miller who also developing an open human biology course. So Christine has already contributed to an open textbook adaptation for this and a set of lecture slides and activities. But she's now adding a lab manual, which has a series of eight labs, which really are meant to reinforce the course concepts and really get the students working on those lab skills and exploration and scientific methods. And it also includes assessments. So she's creating a bank of questions to practice, test questions for students and instructors to use. And that course is being developed to be used in conjunction with Christine's text open textbook, which is human biology and human anatomy and human anatomy and physiology. And the third course, which is in development, is by [...] and it's intermediate level math. So this course also will contain a syllabus, lesson plans, lecture notes, assignments, and exams. And those are all to meet the ABE intermediate math learning outcomes. So this course is being developed in conjunction with the Open Textbook key concepts of intermediate math. So really when it comes to OER, Christine and [...] are both such wonderful advocates and developers of OER. We're so pleased to have their contributions to the open course projects and to see the ABE work continuing in this way. And, and like Krista mentioned a few times, I think if you do end up adopting or adapting one of these courses when they do become available, please let us know. Please let BCcampus know there will be on the new site a way to report those adoptions. If you can do that, we would greatly appreciate it. It's always great to hear about how these resources are being used. So with that, I will hand it back to Krista.

KRISTA:

Thanks so much, I am looking forward to seeing the new Open collection launch later this spring.

So finally, I really want to take some time to thank the ABE community for all their hard work and dedication for the previous 3.5 years of this project. And obviously, long before that, it's been inspiring and challenging and truly a complete joy to work with many of you and learn from you. And I want to give a special thank you to ABE steering committee who truly steered this project. If you are here today, they provided wonderful feedback and suggestions and they jumped right into the project with no hesitation. And I really appreciate those who graciously helped when they were told to do presentations over the last three-ish years. I'm really grateful for all of your experience, candor and friendships. And I want to also thank all of those who authored and edited OER, equated phenomenal work that will continue to make an impact on teaching and learning at ABE program for many years to come. And I'd also like to give a special note and Thank you to the OER production team because this project was really unique and they took on way more than they might have normally in an open development project. And they've been so, so, so supportive of our authors. And finally, I honestly don't think I've ever been happier at work than with working with the ABE faculty and working on these projects.

And so I'm so grateful to have had this opportunity and really excited to see what is to come in the future from this group.

So now we'd like to open the floor to questions if there are any. And then we in a few minutes. If the questions die down, we'll stop the recording. And then at that time, if you have a question that you wish to not be recorded, you can ask it then. So you can feel free to unmute yourself or type into chat. Hang out. Or maybe there are no questions. Which would be also great So the human bio open course. So Mel probably has the completion date on that available. So sorry the question, just for the recording is they want to know when the Human Biology open course will be completed.

MELANIE:

Yeah, Thanks Emily, I guess so. I think Christine's goal is to finish development on that by the summer. So then what happens is it goes through our review process and into our production Queue to go through the quality assurance. And so, you know, hopefully, you know, I can't say for sure, but it would be nice if we could see it in the fall. Yeah.

KRISTA:

But the human biology, some of the resources, the textbooks are available now in that,

MELANIE:

yeah, and I have a link for that, which I will pop in the chat.

KRISTA:

So the question is, will I be able to watch the recording? Yes, we will. I believe the recording gets sent out to everyone, gets registered. So no worries about that. There's also the question about wondering how faculty can share resources to the collection material, sorry, the course materials collection. And we have a suggestion for collection link that those can be sent to actually, Emily, I think I sent you that maybe by email yesterday. But we'll pull it up and also drop it into chat. And we totally welcome suggestions and contributions to the collection. Is [...] in Nova Scotia because that is very far away? Are material made it coast to coast. So how many open textbook are there BCcampus? So for ABE, there's about 40 different resources. Those are not all textbooks, but the majority are like 37 of the 40 would be open textbooks. And overall at BCcampus I believe when I checked earlier this week, there is 380 ish resources in our open textbook collection at this time. Do these resources use a lot of HIP activities? And some of them do, yes, The human biology, but we've been talking about at [...] It has a ton of HIP in it. And there is not a simple repository. I don't believe we have that for BCcampus at the moment. Oh, Clint has a great link for you. The other hack that you can do is if you're in a press book, if you're on the homepage of the textbook and write /HIP. At the end, it will pull up a directory for the book. So you can see all of the HIP resources in a book if they have them and if they don't have them, there will be nothing listed there.