

## **Micro-Credentials: Competencies at the Core**

### **Welcome and Opening Remarks**

**BCcampus: February 22, 2023, Session 1**

**Host: Ross McKerlich**

**Speakers: Pauline Terbasket, Chad Doerksen, Amanda Coolidge, and Michelle Buchholz**

ROSS MCKERLICH:

Alright, so I'm going to get started for the day and introduce myself. My name is Ross McKerlich. I'm a project manager for BCcampus and I've been working in the area of micro-credentials for about two years now, a little bit over two years. It's been really fun and exciting work and it's great to see things grow in the sector here. And so in this case, the current focus of today is about competencies, particularly competencies at the core of micro-credentials. And it is something a little bit on the unique side. In the post-secondary world where we're used to learning outcomes as a common language but competencies are a bit different. And so that's what we're gonna be focusing on today. And so I just wanted to mention by the way, that the session will be recorded and it'll be available afterwards as an OER, actually including all the materials. So in terms of the PowerPoints and all the other materials that come along with it. And so that's gonna be great. But in terms of privacy the chat is not recorded. But if you do appear on screen in a physical way, then it will be recorded. And so also I just wanted to mention that captioning is available on-demand just by clicking on the bottom. And it's show captions, show captions. And just wanted to acknowledge, by the way, there's a good team behind us here, Paula and Kelsey and Declan. And so they are behind the scenes making this work. So thank you for that. And so I'm going to actually don't even have to operate my slides. Kelsey's doing that for me. So thank you, Kelsey. Alright, ready for the next one, Kelsey, that would be great.

I just wanted to start the day off well, in terms of a territory acknowledgment. And I'm gonna do one for BCcampus because BCcampus has offices on the Tsleil-Waututh, the Squamish, the Musqueam and the Saanich. the Esquimalt and Songhees Nations of the Lekwungen speaking peoples. And so we're privileged to live, work, and learn in these places. And through our work, we're learning to incorporate Indigenous epistemologies into our actions, understandings, supporting decolonization, reconciliation, and Indigenization to advocate systemic changes in the post-secondary environment of B.C. I'd also like to acknowledge that I am joining you from the Syilx, Okanagan Nation, where I'm privileged to live, work, and play. I do work remotely for BCcampus from Kelowna, British Columbia. And it is a beautiful place to live, work, and play. And I acknowledge these lands that I am on. I was actually at Big White on the weekend, which is also part of the Syilx Okanagan Nation. And that's definitely very, very nice to play. I'd also like to welcome Pauline Terbasket, executive director of the Okanagan Nation Alliance to provide a welcome to the territory from her. So welcome.

PAULINE TERBASKET:

[Gives greeting in nsyilxcən language of the Syilx] I'm just enjoying the introductions in the chat and the wide and broad range of participants here today. I want to thank the coordinating

team, the partnering organizations for the kind invitation for myself to welcome you all to this important conversation on competencies on the core. I introduce my name and my nsyilxcən language and appreciate the acknowledgement Ross just provided for everyone in terms of the importance of Indigeneity in our work, the Indigenizing of our work wherever you are. And so I would also encourage you and invite you, as you introduce yourself in the chat to think about the lands in which you've come from and live and reside as Ross has so gracefully provided in terms of acknowledging the Indigenous peoples who also have resided, worked, and played on the lands since time immemorial. For the Syilx, Okanagan people, the nsyilxcən-speaking people in the southern interior of British Columbia and northern Washington State. The language, as one of our Elders would say, is as far as the breeze carries it. And there's words in our, in our language that say that. And trying to translate that into English is very, very difficult. And this translation of this work as core competencies is in terms of increasing and providing new ideas and innovation in learning for not only ourselves today but our future learners is really important in understanding this conversation and this, and this way in which we will support each other and the future that we lead, actually that we impact. And I provide those words and these feelings and perspectives in a way that has been passed down to me about Indigenous worldview. Indigenous ways of knowing as we reference and bring in our Elders and our cultural Knowledge Keepers and the wisdom and the knowledge and the skills that result in understanding values. And thus, our conduct and behaviours with one another. That's our relationships. And these, this understanding that I have today and sharing this with you as educators, as doers, as learners, as movers and shakers out there. And making things and making contributions in your learning organizations, in your learning workspaces. Micro-credentials can have a space for that, is the space for that conversation. I look forward to all of the insights and the perspectives that will be shared by the keynote today. I also appreciate all the leadership in this circle today that have joined this important and paying attention to this, to this topic, to this subject, and to the world in which I know that we all want to create and have as those that have done that before us. We understand that when we have also another concept called [...]. That's when we bring, when we bring everything that is behind us forward, that we are all here together, that we all have gathered here together. Witecheap [...] We have all come to this place in this space to be with one another, to share with one another. And I just once again acknowledge all that have joined today. And from all the beautiful places on these beautiful lands in which we must have connection and acknowledge how important it is to bring together our partnering organizations. To have the government, through the Ministry of Education provide the support and ongoing dialogue that is needed for our institution, for learning institutions. So this innovation, this work can continue to evolve and transform our societies. So for the Syilx people, in my best way that I can be in this work. And we can all step up to contribute to this conversation. The government has definitely here in British Columbia through the United Declaration on Indigenous Peoples, wanting to integrate and support that principle of Indigenous engagement and leadership. So I want to acknowledge that as well. From our, from our home to yours, limləmt for providing me this time to share some perspective and words for a very successful day today, a very beautiful day today. Limləmt.

ROSS:

Thank you very much, Pauline, for those words. And Pauline is actually going to be able to stay and learn and participate as well. So we're thankful for that, Pauline. Okay, we have another series of welcomes actually. And in this case, our first welcome is from the Ministry of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills. We have Chad Doerksen, who is the director of Research, Universities and Institutional Policy, and I've been working with Chad for a while now. So Chad, welcome.

CHAD DOERKSEN:

Thank you, Ross. And thanks, Pauline, for the welcome. On behalf of the Ministry of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills, I'd also like to extend a welcome to everyone for attending today's online event. As Ross mentioned, my name is Chad Doerksen and I'm a director with the Strategic Policy and Initiatives Branch at the Ministry and lead for micro-credential initiatives in the province. I'm grateful to be joining today from the traditional territory of the Cowichan Tribes and the Malahat First Nation on Vancouver Island. The province has been working and supporting development of micro-credentials for a few years now. Together with our partners, we've established a micro-credential framework under the development of over 80 micro-credentials so far, and supported several additional initiatives looking to build capacity, support learner pathways, and help to coordinate a provincial approach to micro-credentials. And so just to situate today's session, it sits within that work. And today's session, along with the related work developing the B.C. Micro-Credential Toolkit, was funded in response to research identifying the need to support capacity building in B.C. post-secondary system in the development of competency-based training and assessment. I also wanted to just extend a couple of quick notes of thanks. Thanks in advance to our partners at BCcampus for all the work behind the scenes that went into preparing and planning for today. Project leads Ross and Robin, as well as all the other staff that are helping to support today. And a working group of post-secondary representatives that help to guide the work for today's session as well as the toolkit. And last but not least, the big thanks to the keynote speakers and panel participants that are joining today to share their expertise and insights. Looking forward to learning from you. So yeah, thanks. Thanks again for joining us.

ROSS:

Great. Thank you very much, Chad. And I'd also like to introduce Amanda Coolidge from BCcampus, who will welcome you to this event from us. Hi everyone.

AMANDA COOLIDGE:

Good morning, good afternoon, and/or good evening to everyone joining us today from around the country and globally. My name is Amanda Coolidge and I am the interim executive director at BCcampus. I am located on the traditional unceded territory of the Scia'new First Nation. And the Scia'new people, although a distinct and independent nation or part of a larger Indigenous cultural group, referred to as Coast Salish on Vancouver Island with the broad area that encompasses southern Vancouver Island. As of February 2022, there are over 100 micro-credentials available through B.C. post-secondary institutions. And with over 80% of jobs opening over the next decade, that will require some form of post-secondary education. This

investment in micro-credentials is critical to the success of upskilling or re-skilling people in our province and across the country. This morning in *Academica's Top Ten*, micro-credentials was highlighted once again in an article titled "Approaches to Creating Sustainable Micro-Credentials." In the article it states The future of higher education is workplace applicable, shareable and packaged learning. Micro-credentials are all three. But implementing them requires thoughtful piloting and a universal language that institutions, students, and employers all understand. This is exactly what will be explored in today's events. Before we kick off the proceedings, I would like to extend thanks to the Ministry of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills for the funding and leading the future of micro-credentials in British Columbia. Thank you to all BCcampus staff. Ross, in particular. All of the events staff, marketing and communication, and our wonderful IT support. And a warm thank you to Pauline who welcomed us all this morning in the spirit of generosity and kindness. I look forward to learning alongside all of you today and I hope you enjoy the day ahead.

ROSS:

Great. Thank you so much, Amanda. And it does take a team. And so thank you for mentioning the team as well, because we're altogether in this, we're gonna have a great day. As part of today. As I was mentioning, the recordings and other supporting material will be available afterwards. I'm really excited to have Michel Buchholz, who is a graphic recorder. And she's going to be behind the scenes capturing things in a really creative way. And that's gonna be really powerful. And I just wanted to have Michelle introduce herself and just welcome. We're really excited that you're here, Michelle.

MICHELLE BUCHHOLZ:

Thanks Ross and thank you to Pauline, Chad, and Amanda, and also Ross for opening comments. As Rob said, my name is Michelle Buchholz I'm Wet'suwet'en and Gitxan from northern B.C. I'm currently on the homelands of the unceded territories Musqueam, Squamish, Tsleil-Waututh nations. And so what I'll be doing for all of you today is bearing witness. So similarly to in my nation, we have feast halls What other might otherwise wouldn't be known as potlatch halls. In my nation, we call them feast halls. That's where our governance happens. So that's where our business is done within the feast hall. And within those halls, we would hire witnesses because we're oral communities. Things weren't written down in the way that the Western world does. And so that's what I'm doing for you today, acting as a witness. And I use a mixture of imagery and text to create these images. And so they're digital and I'll be sharing them with you at the end of the day. So if you see me in a breakout room, I'll most likely be drawing, not participating. So I just want to let folks know when I'm around that I'll be doing some drawing and graphic recording for all of you, otherwise known as graphic recording. Thanks so much. I look forward to doing a report back at the end of the day with the visuals.

ROSS:

Great. Thank you. Thank you, Michelle. Thank you for bearing witness to this event. And I can't wait for the end of the day to see that representation.