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NEWS RELEASE

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**New award helps upgrading students transition to higher education**

VICTORIA – The BC Scholarship Society, supported through initial funding from the provincial government, has provided 45 Transition Awards worth \$5,000 each to support students progressing from Adult Basic Education (ABE) into full-time post-secondary studies.

*“This Transition Award has helped me pursue my dream to become a dental hygienist. The funds from the Award have been put away for expensive equipment and books that are difficult to afford. Thanks again to the BC Scholarship Society - an amazing organization. If I could tell everyone to apply for this award, I would”* said Transition Award Recipient Abby Boutin.

It’s anticipated that there will be one million new job openings in B.C. over the next 10 years, and that 80% of them will require post-secondary education or skills training. The BC Scholarship Society is helping more people cross the bridge into full-time higher education.

*“We are focused on improving access and affordability so that more people can get the training and education they need to reach their full potential,”* said Selina Robinson, Minister of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills. *“The BC Scholarship Society’s Transition Awards open the door for students to pursue their education full-time, helping them begin their new careers sooner.”*

Since 2006, the [BC Scholarship Society](https://www.bcscholarshipsociety.ca) has awarded over \$30 million to thousands of B.C. students through five different programs including Transfer, ABE Transition, International, Indigenous and Women in Technology. The society is administered by the Victoria Foundation.

*“This is a new award category for us,”* explains Melvin Berg, the chair of the Society. *“It adds another support for those who have been upgrading their education or acquiring the pre-requisites to enter full-time university or college studies. Many of these students are upskilling or undertaking a change in their career paths,”* says Berg.

**Learn More:**

Eligibility criteria and applications for the Transition Award are available at:

<https://www.bcscholarshipsociety.ca/transition-award/about-this-scholarship/>

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