



Partners in Innovation

Ministry of Labour, Citizens' Services and Open Government

Partners in Innovation highlights how UBC – through its research, community engagement and teaching – is working with and supporting BC's government initiatives. Each edition identifies existing collaborations and new areas of research and discovery that may be of use to Ministers and senior public servants within the ministry.

SCHOOL OF NURSING

The **School of Nursing** at UBC's Okanagan campus offers undergraduate and graduate programs with a focus on the role of nurses in improving the health of individuals, families, and communities. At only six years old, the School already has active international partnerships with schools in Ghana, Zambia, and India. Five nursing faculty were recognized on the UBC Teaching Honour Roll last year, and three faculty were recently awarded Canadian Institutes of Health Research's Meeting, Planning & Dissemination Grants. There are active faculty research programs in health promotion and disease prevention; healthy aging; Aboriginal health; family nursing; health, ethics, and diversity; health care safety; and end-of-life care.

PROJECT HIGHLIGHT

Commuting for Palliative Care

Cancer patients living in rural communities often have to travel for treatment, which requires additional planning and creates additional stress. This stress may now be reduced thanks to the work of **Karen MacKay** and **Raquel Graham**, students at UBC's Okanagan campus. Supported by the former Ministry of Labour and Citizens' Services, Karen and Raquel worked with nursing faculty members **Drs. Carole Robinson, Joan Bottorff, and Barb Pesut** to create an on-line resource to support cancer patients and their family members commuting for treatment. "[It Takes a Team: Families talk about traveling for care for advanced cancer](#)" provides tips to cancer patients and family members living in rural communities. It builds on interviews with patients and family members who have had to travel for cancer treatment and includes checklists as well as their thoughts and advice. This tool can now be found on the websites of the BC Cancer Agency Sindi Ahluwalia Hawkins Centre for the Southern Interior and the Virtual Hospice.



PARTNERSHIP POSSIBILITIES

Employment Impacts of Shifting to a Low Carbon Economy

The move to a green economy has implications for workers throughout the province. The *Just Transition* project led by **Dr. Kenneth Carlaw**, an associate professor in Economics at UBC's Okanagan campus, along with graduate student **Jessie Singer**, is examining what the transition to a green economy might look like in BC and how government may be able to use policy to help during the transition process. The researchers are currently conducting focus groups with workers in the oil, gas, mining, forestry, and construction industries around the province. During the focus groups workers are being asked to describe both their concerns about the future green economy as well as possible opportunities it may create. This qualitative data will be combined with quantitative data on productivity, including output per unit of labour, GHG emission per unit of labour, and total employment in a given industry relative to the labour force in BC, to develop a snapshot of what such a transition may look like in terms of educational and training opportunities and future job security.

Safety Compliance & Gender

Statistically men are more prone to workplace injuries and fatalities and are more likely to engage in riskier behaviour than women. Working with a large, male dominated company, **Hazel Hollingdale**, a graduate student in UBC's Department of Sociology, is interviewing individuals within the company to assess their general attitudes about compliance, and their outlook and behaviour towards occupational health and safety. She will compare interview results with trends in the gendered composition of the workforce and rates of injuries and fatalities. The overarching goal of the WorkSafeBC-funded project is to examine gender as a determinant for safety compliance and to develop guidelines for occupational health and safety policies within male dominated fields. Her work will contribute to the under-examined field of gender's role in safety outcomes.

The University of British Columbia appreciates the generous support and vision provided by the Province of British Columbia. It is through this valuable partnership that UBC is able to maintain its position among world-leading research institutions and attract talented individuals to BC; individuals who help drive the economy in our region and promote innovative thinking through research and application to benefit all British Columbians.