

FACT SHEET: ECONOMIC IMPACT OF CAMOSUN COLLEGE

What role does Camosun College play in the provincial and local economy? The results of this study demonstrate that Camosun is a sound investment from multiple perspectives. Students benefit from improved lifestyles and increased earnings. Taxpayers benefit from an enlarged economy and lower social costs. And the community as a whole benefits from increased job and investment opportunities, higher business revenues, and an eased tax burden.

Camosun stimulates provincial and local economy

- The Camosun Service Area economy receives roughly **\$61.0 million in regional income** annually due to Camosun operations and capital spending.
- About 11% of Camosun's students come from outside the region, bringing with them monies that would not have otherwise entered the local economy. The expenditures of Camosun's out-of-region students for books and supplies, room and board, transportation, or other personal expenses generate roughly **\$7.7 million in regional income in the Camosun Service Area**.
- Camosun activities encourage new business, assist existing business, and create long-term economic growth. The college enhances worker skills and provides customized training to local business and industry. It is estimated that the present-day Camosun Service Area workforce embodies around **4.0 million credit hour equivalents (CHEs)** of past and present Camosun training.
- College skills embodied in the workforce of the Camosun Service Area where past and present students are employed yield a cumulative of **\$748.0 million in added regional income**.
- Altogether, the Camosun Service Area economy annually receives roughly **\$816.6 million in income** due to the past and present efforts of Camosun. Clearly it is accurate to describe the college as an engine of economic growth.

Camosun leverages taxpayer dollars

- The provincial and local community will see **avoided social costs amounting to \$11 per year for every credit earned** by Camosun students, including savings associated with improved health, reduced crime, and fewer welfare and unemployment claims.
- This translates to **\$2.8 million worth of social savings** to the Province of British Columbia each year as long as students are in the workforce.
- Students benefit from higher earnings, thereby expanding the tax base and reducing the tax burden on provincial and local taxpayers. When aggregated together, students generate about **\$31.6 million annually in higher earnings** due to their Camosun education.

Camosun generates return on investment

- Provincial and local government allocated around **\$56.0 million in support of Camosun** in fiscal year 2006.
- For every dollar appropriated by provincial and local government, taxpayers will see a **cumulative return of \$4.80** over the course of the students' working career (in the form of higher tax receipts and avoided social costs).

Camosun returns \$4.80 for every dollar of taxpayer financial support.

- Provincial and local government will see a **rate of return of 16%** on their support for Camosun, which compares very favorably with private sector rates of return on similar long-term investments.

Camosun increases students' earning potential

- A total of **17,406 credit and non-credit students** attended Camosun in academic year 2005-2006. As many as **86% of these students stay in the region** initially after they leave college and contribute to the local economy.
- Studies demonstrate that education increases lifetime earnings. **The average annual earnings of a student with a one-year certificate are \$35,700**, or 35% more than someone without a high school diploma or GED, and 13% more than a student with a high school diploma. **The average earnings of a student with a diploma are \$40,700**, or 54% more than someone without a high school diploma or GED, and 28% more than a student with a high school diploma or GED.
- Students will see their annual income increase, on average, by about **\$121 per year for every credit completed** at Camosun during the analysis year.
- Throughout his or her working career, the average Camosun student's discounted lifetime earnings (i.e., future values expressed in present value terms) will increase **\$4.70 for every education dollar invested** (in the form of tuition, fees, books, and foregone earnings from employment).
- Students enjoy an attractive **15% annual rate of return** on their Camosun educational investment, and recover all costs (including wages foregone while attending) in **9 years**.

Students see their annual income increase by \$121 per year for every credit completed at Camosun.