

# Survey of Non-Transitioning Fraser Region Grade 12 Graduates of 2003/04

## Overview of Results

*The survey was conducted March through May, 2006. “Non-transitioning” meant that the 2003/04 graduate did not enter a BC public postsecondary institution in 2004/05. The Fraser Region is the Lower Mainland, Richmond to Hope, excluding Vancouver and the North Shore.*

*Stratified sampling resulted in 2,136 responses, with response rates ranging across school districts from 61% to 84%. Because the survey was a sample and not a census, the 2,136 responses constituted 31% of all non-transitioning students. Students from independent schools were not surveyed because their contact information was not available.*

*Combining the following survey results with data from the provincial Student Transitions Project, we learn that **approximately 80% of all secondary school graduates of the Fraser Region in 2003/04 pursued some form of further education by May 2006:***

- 64% registered in a BC public postsecondary institution
- 8% registered in a BC private institution
- nearly 4% left BC to attend other Canadian or American institutions
- 2% sought additional secondary school upgrading
- roughly 1% attended other institutions

### View and Experiences in High School

Percentage saying the following were true most or all of the time:

|     |                                                       |
|-----|-------------------------------------------------------|
| 89% | I enjoyed my friendships in school                    |
| 83% | I got on well with teachers                           |
| 82% | I felt my work was graded fairly                      |
| 75% | I wanted to pursue further education after graduation |
| 61% | I was satisfied with my grades                        |
| 60% | I completed my homework on time                       |
| 52% | I was a motivated student                             |
| 50% | I was interested in what I was learning in class      |
| 50% | I had a clear academic direction                      |
| 46% | I took challenging courses                            |
| 6%  | I had a difficult time learning course material       |
| 3%  | I had some failing grades                             |

Percentage using each source of advice about further education:

- 56% Parents or guardians
  - 23% Guidance counselors
  - 10% Teachers
  - 4% Did not receive any advice
  - 2% Friends
  - 2% Sibling
  - 1% Don't know/don't remember
  - 2% Other
- 62% Attended an information session put on by a postsecondary institution
- 66% Felt they received adequate information about further education options

Academic performance:

- 69% Average grade in English 12 (or equivalent course recognized for university eligibility)
  - 66% Average grade in Math 12 provincial exam
  - 28% Took English 12 and at least three other academic Grade 12 courses
- Average grade in the best four academic courses was 76%

## Activities Since High School

Main activity in past six months (first half of 2006):

- 49% Working full-time
  - 26% Going to school full-time
  - 8% Working part-time
  - 7% Working and studying part-time
  - 3% Going to school part-time
  - 7% Other
- 80% Somewhat or very satisfied with their main activity
- 43% See themselves doing their main activity for one more year or less

Of the 1724 respondents who were working for pay:

- 64% Worked 31 or more hours per week
  - 17% Retail salespersons and clerks
  - 8% Food counter attendants, kitchen helpers and related
  - 7% Food and beverage servers
  - 6% Construction trades helpers and labours
  - 5% Grocery clerks and store shelf stockers
  - 4% Shippers and receivers
  - 4% Cooks
  - 4% Carpenters
  - 45% Other occupations
- 
- 16% \$8 or less per hour
  - 47% \$9 – 12 per hour
  - 37% \$13 or more per hour

Where do you see yourself in five years?

- 53% Working in another job
- 20% Attending school
- 12% Working or promoted in current job
- 9% Don't know
- 6% Other

87% Education is important in achieving your future goal

### **Of the 57% who took Further Education:**

That is, entered a public postsecondary institution in BC after at least a one year delay or entered any other institution at any time.

Institution attended:

- 28% BC private institution
- 10% Public institution in another province
- 10% Kwantlen University College
- 8% Secondary school or other upgrading
- 8% Douglas College
- 8% BCIT
- 7% University College of the Fraser Valley
- 21% Other

62% Still attending

### **Of the 43% who Did Not Enroll:**

84% Seriously considered enrolling in further education, of which:

- 35% Applied somewhere, of which:
  - 71% were accepted

Of the 65% who haven't applied yet:

- 53% Intend to apply within a year

Main reasons for not applying yet:

- 24% Unsure of what I want to do
- 23% Financial reasons
- 13% Procrastinating, not ready, irresponsible, etc

Main reasons for not attending:

- 47% Application too recent (haven't heard, will start soon)
- 14% Financial reasons
- 13% Changed mind about goals
- 11% On a waiting list
- 14% Other

## Perceptions of Postsecondary Education

Percentage agreeing or strongly agreeing with the following reasons for delaying further education:

|     |                                                         |
|-----|---------------------------------------------------------|
| 87% | I want to earn money right now                          |
| 61% | I am concerned about paying for my education            |
| 53% | I would prefer to do other things right now             |
| 46% | I want a break from school                              |
| 45% | I seem to be doing well without further education       |
| 45% | Attending school is inconvenient at this time           |
| 34% | I don't know what and/or where to study                 |
| 34% | I am concerned about finding a job when I finish school |
| 22% | I do not enjoy school                                   |
| 15% | I am not certain I would succeed at school              |
| 12% | I will lose touch with my friends                       |
| 5%  | I was discouraged from studying by family and friends   |

Estimated cost of full-time tuition for one year in BC (excluding books and living expenses):

|     |                  |
|-----|------------------|
| 16% | Up to \$3,000    |
| 33% | \$3,001 – 7,000  |
| 22% | \$7,001 – 10,000 |
| 5%  | Over \$10,000    |
| 23% | Don't know       |

Estimated proportion of all new jobs in Canada that require postsecondary education:

|     |                               |
|-----|-------------------------------|
| 17% | Less than 40% of all new jobs |
| 29% | Half of all new jobs          |
| 51% | 70% or more of all new jobs   |
| 3%  | Don't know                    |

Worst thing about continuing your education in the near future:

|     |                                                                  |
|-----|------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 52% | Financial hardship                                               |
| 9%  | Time required, interferes with other activities                  |
| 8%  | Nothing                                                          |
| 6%  | Deciding on program, fear of wrong choice                        |
| 5%  | Lack of interest, not liking what you studied, not liking school |
| 4%  | Fear of failure                                                  |
| 4%  | More education might not help, can't get employment              |
| 3%  | Increased workload, stress                                       |
| 2%  | Negative family or social impacts                                |
| 2%  | Transportation                                                   |
| 1%  | Relocation                                                       |
| 4%  | Other                                                            |

Best thing about continuing your education in the near future:

|     |                                                            |
|-----|------------------------------------------------------------|
| 60% | Better job or career opportunities                         |
| 28% | New skills, knowledge or credentials                       |
| 3%  | Getting education out of the way, succeeding faster, etc.  |
| 2%  | Increased self-esteem, respect, personal development       |
| 2%  | Better quality of life (more secure, able to travel, etc.) |
| 1%  | Social possibilities                                       |
| 4%  | Other                                                      |

## Demographics

46% Female

3% Aboriginal

85% Still living in same community as high school (half those who moved are still in Lower Mainland)

81% Living with parents

### Father's education:

10% Less than high school graduation

28% High school graduation

38% Some postsecondary

24% University degree

### Mother's education:

7% Less than high school graduation

34% High school graduation

39% Some postsecondary

20% University degree

### Home language:

85% English

3% Punjabi

3% Chinese, Mandarin, Cantonese

2% Korean

1% Spanish

7% Other

### Postsecondary state as of May 2006:

2% Opposer

29% Postponer

2% Rejected applicant

2% Pending applicant

9% Accepted applicant

6% Former registrant

35% Active registrant

15% Completed registrant