

ELMSD Policy Changes in Response to Budget Pressures – Questions and Answers

Service Provider/ Training Institute Perspective

Why was this cap implemented so quickly?

- In September 2009, 11,300 more British Columbians were receiving regular Employment Insurance benefits than were in the preceding two months. Claimant numbers increased 12.8 per cent from August to September 2009 and by 131 per cent from September 2008 to September 2009. These numbers indicated an increasing demand for training and skills development services, which fed into provincial budget forecasts, indicating that without immediate cost saving measures, the Skills Development program would exceed its budget.
- The tuition cap will ensure the long term sustainability of the Skills Development program. In addition, it is good budget management to ensure clients contribute to their education, the most effective training is chosen for the client, and the EI budget is managed fairly for all clients.

Why did you choose \$4,000 for the Skills Development tuition cap and \$500 for the apprentice training cap?

- These numbers were based on the average tuition funding for the Skills Development program. The tuition average was \$4,308. The apprentice training average was \$616.

I understand you are facing budget pressures, but I think you should have explored alternatives. Are you opening to hearing other ideas?

- We did explore a number of alternatives, and other measures were instituted which would not have an impact on clients. In the meantime, we are engaging stakeholders in discussions about this policy change and welcome feedback.