

---

## NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release  
2006AE0005-000042  
Jan. 30, 2006

Ministry of Advanced Education  
Irving K. Barber British Columbia Scholarship Society

### **AWARD HELPS STUDENTS TRANSFER IN POST-SECONDARY SYSTEM**

VERNON – The Irving K. Barber B.C. Scholarship Society and the provincial government today announced final details of a new program designed to award \$5,000 to exceptional students transferring from one B.C. public post-secondary institution to another to finish their degrees.

“All regions in our province have top-notch colleges, and because B.C. has one of the best transfer systems in North America, students who start their education at smaller institutions, for example, are able to complete their degrees at our world-class universities,” said Advanced Education Minister Murray Coell. “The Irving K. Barber B.C. Scholarship program, named for one of our most generous donors to post-secondary education, will help students enjoy the best of both worlds as they pursue their educational goals.”

The Province is funding the scholarships through a \$15-million endowment, previously announced by Premier Gordon Campbell at the University of British Columbia Okanagan. In conjunction, a commitment by Slocan Forest Products founder Ike Barber of \$12.25 million to UBCO to create a school of arts and sciences and a learning centre interface at UBC was also announced.

“Ike Barber’s legendary commitment to our province’s future – through his support of research and education – is helping us achieve our goal of becoming the best-educated jurisdiction anywhere in North America,” said Campbell. “This scholarship will recognize our students’ excellence and give them more opportunities to complete the degrees they need to pursue their dreams and contribute to society.”

Barber’s philanthropy also includes multi-million-dollar gifts that have established a learning centre and a diabetes research endowment fund at UBC Vancouver, a human islet transplant laboratory at Vancouver Hospital in partnership with UBC, and an enhanced forestry laboratory at the University of Northern B.C.

“People in B.C. are fortunate that they have such a wide variety of excellent public post-secondary institutions to choose from,” said Barber. “This scholarship encourages students to pursue the high quality – and highly affordable – option of starting their studies at a college closer to home, while rewarding their outstanding accomplishments, both in the classroom and in the community.”

The program is open to undergraduate students who have completed two years at a B.C. public community college, university college or institute, and must transfer to a B.C. degree-granting institution to complete their degrees. On average, 4,000 students transfer from B.C. colleges, university colleges, and institutes to B.C. universities each year. Students also transfer to colleges, university colleges, and institutes to take their degrees.

“Students from the Okanagan and all over the province are going to benefit from this scholarship opportunity,” said Tom Christensen, MLA for Okanagan-Vernon. “Community institutions like Okanagan College are a great example of the kind of local college where students can get a great start on their post-secondary education and then move on to complete a degree in another region of B.C.”

The fund, which is being administered by the Irving K. Barber B.C. Scholarship Society, has now generated the income to begin awarding scholarships to students transferring to university in the 2006-07 school year. Five regional committees of the society will adjudicate applications based on academic achievement and contribution to school and community. The applications are available at [www.bcsap.bc.ca](http://www.bcsap.bc.ca).

1 backgrounder(s) attached.

Media contact: Paul Woolley  
Communications Director  
Ministry of Advanced Education  
250 952-6508  
250 213-1171 (cell)

Frank Gelin  
Chair  
Irving K. Barber British Columbia Scholarship Society  
604 412-7791  
604 230-1056 (cell)

For more information on government services or to subscribe to the Province’s news feeds using RSS, visit the Province’s website at [www.gov.bc.ca](http://www.gov.bc.ca).