



**Bow Valley  
College**

# **Rotary Club of Calgary Downtown**

**2020/21 Interim Investment Report**



## OUR SUCCESS IS THANKS TO YOU

Thank you! Your support makes a difference. This is a year to celebrate Rotary Club of Calgary Downtown's generosity, and the tremendous impact you have made on the lives of Bow Valley College students. Our vision is that we open doors and open minds by creating opportunities for students, employees, employers, and communities, and help shape the future of college education. Our mission is to include all students, to challenge our thinking, to remove barriers and to provide opportunity. Your generous donation to support student success makes this possible.

As Alberta's largest comprehensive community college, Bow Valley is at the forefront of preparing students to become our future leaders, employers, and employees. We remain committed to ensuring that access to post-secondary education remains attainable for all Albertans so that they have the skills and work-integrated learning opportunities to be employable right at graduation.



Bow Valley College is committed to expanding access for adults of varied social, cultural, economic, geographic, and academic backgrounds. We serve a unique demographic: the average age of our students is 31 years old, 68% of our students are women, and they come from 115 countries around the world. Our student population is diverse and includes newcomers to Canada, international students, single parents and Indigenous students. As an access college, we have a special focus on creating educational opportunities for immigrants, Indigenous peoples, international students, persons with disabilities, older workers, at-risk youth, and the unemployed and underemployed. Our curriculum and support services reflect the diversity of our students. We emphasize small classes, high-quality instruction, applied learning, focused work experience, and extensive student support services. Your generous investment and commitment to this shared vision enables us to strengthen our commitment to student success – thank you!

## YEAR IN REVIEW

2019/20 proved to be quite the year! In November 2020, Bow Valley College installed its sixth President and CEO, Dr. Misheck Mwaba. Dr. Mwaba has held the role of Vice President, Academic at the College since 2017. During his time at the College, Dr. Mwaba has consistently demonstrated the importance of delivering quality education for our students while forging strong relationships throughout the business and post-secondary communities. He is a strong advocate for academic excellence in teaching and learning, as well as in research and innovation. He brings an experienced and thoughtful lens to the key issues facing post-secondary institutions today - accessibility, quality and fiscal sustainability.

### THANK YOU!

*Our donors are crucial to everything we do at Bow Valley College. We are committed to our community and to industry, and this commitment begins with our students. With your help, we create and inspire transformative learning experiences for our students, equipping them for success in Calgary and our regional communities!*

*Bow Valley College has grown tremendously in recent years. Our commitment to foundational and career programs allows us to meet our students where they are: re-igniting their careers, seeking personal learning fulfillment, and contributing to our economy with the skills needed by our businesses and industries. **Your generous help and dedication is critical not only to the success of our students, but in also helping our communities thrive and prosper.** You help transform lives and transform communities!*



*Photo of Dr. Misheck Mwaba, Bow Valley College's President and CEO*

*We are grateful for your commitment to ensuring access to education through awards, bursaries, and program support. Thank you for your gifts to Bow Valley College, and for your dedication to student success. You are a key part of our team, and your contributions make a difference.*

## BY THE NUMBERS

In March 2020 our focus, along with the world's, shifted as the COVID-19 pandemic took hold. Our Bow Valley College community adapted quickly, and we transitioned seamlessly to a virtual teaching and learning environment. Now, on any given day, more than 9,000 students take 1,500 classes taught by 600 instructors, entirely online. In March 2020 we saw a significant increase in requests for financial support from our students. We quickly created the COVID-19 Response Emergency Financial Need Bursary Fund with support from our Student's Association, donors and local foundations. We provided over \$60,000 to over 200 vulnerable students, helping to reduce their burden so that they can continue to focus on online learning and pay for basic needs.

Despite the challenges brought by 2020, we are proud of our students and proud of our accomplishments. Thank you for the integral role you have played in our success.

## A BOLD NEW DIRECTION!

As we move into 2021, we are excited to share with you a revitalized, bold and dynamic new brand for Bow Valley College. Our College remains dedicated to practical, focused education that can help people get to work, but we've grown! Our new brand allows us to position ourselves as top of mind with our students and supporters like you as Alberta's top community college and a destination of choice for post-secondary education. Our commitment to supporting students and equipping them with industry leading employment and life skills remains our top priority.

Our goals remain the same! To support students on their own timelines, empower them with employment and life skills and to help them achieve their goals quickly. Our new brand showcases our progress and our successes. Bow Valley College has always prided itself on its authenticity; we don't have to try to be different, we just want people to know who we are. Our new brand acknowledges our proud history as a vocational college and celebrates our exciting future, with programs in every career or industry you can imagine

### ABOUT OUR STUDENTS

**17,792** – students enrolled, making us Alberta's largest comprehensive community college

**86%** - graduation rate

**88%** - graduates who are employed in their field

**95%** - students satisfied with their education

**68%** - female students

**31** – average age of our students

**150** – languages spoken by students



*"We want people to know Bow Valley College is here to help. In addition to the students we serve every day, we know that collectively, those students can positively impact Alberta's recovery and economic growth and diversity," says Mario Siciliano, VP External. **"We know the province will continue to grow and prosper. And we're excited to do our part to help."***

## **ROTARY CLUB OF CALGARY DOWNTOWN – THANK YOU!**

As you have seen, your generosity makes a real impact in the lives of our students. Your support helps students overcome barriers, and your investment in our students helps transform lives by enabling access to a high-quality, life changing education. We are grateful for your investment in Bow Valley College and your commitment to student success. Your support helps make success possible. Thank you!

Access to financial support through awards created a 25% growth in our student financial supports in the past 10 years, thanks in large part to the generous support of donors like you. Today, we are able to distribute a minimum of \$850,000 in bursaries and student awards every single year, equipping our students with the financial supports needed to complete their education.

Thank you, Rotary Club of Calgary Downtown, for your gift of **\$15,500** in support of the Rotary Club Adult Literacy Bursary and Adult Literacy Workshops. Since 1999, Rotary Club of Calgary Downtown has given **\$300,315** to support Bow Valley College students – thank you for your support! Your impact is real, and our students benefit from your generosity and commitment.

### **Award Terms of Reference**

Rotary will provide 18 literacy bursaries in the amount of \$500 each, with 6 bursaries awarded each trimester. Bursary awards are based on nominations by instructors with the following criteria:

- Available to Calgary campus students
- Full or part-time students registered in a Basic Literacy program (grades 1-9)
- Financial need and commitment to continue education.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we were unable to gather in person and celebrate our bursary recipients. We know you look forward to meeting your student recipients, and we look forward to celebrating their accomplishments, and the generosity of Rotary Club Calgary Downtown at our annual School of Foundational Learning Awards. We are eager to be able to celebrate in person again as soon as it is safe to do so, and we hope that the thank you letters included this report will help provide some connection to our students, as they share their deep gratitude for the bursaries they received. Thank you for your support!

## Literacy Workshops

Adult literacy extends beyond reading and writing to an expanded set of foundational skills that support literacy learning. These include skills such as digital literacy, time management, self-advocacy, communication, critical thinking/analytical skills, and life skills. Our adult literacy learners face multiple barriers due to gaps in these areas. For example, they may have difficulty booking tutoring support or library resources because these are accessed online. Or they may not know how to advocate for additional supports if they are struggling. Often gaps in these foundational skills impede learner success much more than academic abilities or prior learning.

To address these gaps, Bow Valley College partnered with Rotary Club of Calgary Downtown to develop and pilot of series of 5 half-day workshops to foster skill development in foundational learning and life skills to support learner success. The workshops could be delivered as a standalone series or faculty could opt to embed some, or all, into their courses. Workshops would be offered to learners free of charge as part of their normal program of study.

The benefits to this are significant for our students and include:

- Improved capacity for the department/faculty to support literacy learning success.
- Reduced barriers for literacy learners resulting in improved outcomes in courses.
- Skills development that supports increased capacity for learners to participate in their community.

Work has begun planning and preparing for these workshops, which are set to launch in late February 2021. Details of the 5 planned workshops are outlined below, and workshop results/testimonials will be shared during our next reporting period.

Workshop Name	Outcomes	Activities	Discussion Points
Digital Skills for Learning	By participating in this workshop, the learners will: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify 3-4 ways that digital literacy skills enhance learning</li> <li>Outline how digital learning tools are used in the learning environment</li> <li>Select three digital skills support resources they will pursue following the workshop</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Digital Learning Mind Map (a group discussion on the ways in which digital literacy is used for learning)</li> <li>Strategies for digital learning (the students) will participate in an interactive instructor-led presentation on strategies and best practices for digital learning)</li> <li>Digital Learning Resources (as a group, the students will undertake an online scavenger hunt of BVC resources that relate to online learning).</li> </ol>	<p>Digital skills are needed for work, learning, and life.</p> <p>Technology can greatly enhance our learning if we understand how to use it effectively.</p>
Advocating for Yourself as a Learner	By participating in this workshop, the learners will: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Apply the concept of self-advocacy to identify 8-10 general ways they can advocate for themselves as a learner (facilitated discussion).</li> <li>Reflect on, and identify, 2-3 unique and specific personal learning needs and generate 1-2 ideas for how they can advocate for these needs.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>What is self-advocacy? (instructor will give a statement on the definition of self-advocacy, and students will discuss how they can work to accomplish and achieve self-advocacy for themselves)</li> <li>Advocating for myself (students complete a worksheet exploring their needs and identify ways to advocate for themselves)</li> </ol>	<p>Our learning takes place in an environment involving many parts (yourself, your instructors, peers, family, institution).</p> <p>As a learner, you may not have control over all these parts, but you can advocate for yourself in this environment.</p>
Managing Tasks and Time	By participating in this workshop, the learners will: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Create a work breakdown structure (format flexible) for a school assignment that includes subtasks, sequence, and time estimates.</li> <li>Design a realistic and attainable weekly schedule (format flexible) using time blocking that considers school, personal, and other commitments.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Estimating task time (using a sample assignment, students will plan the steps needed to complete the assignment, the time required on each step and schedule time to complete the tasks)</li> <li>Weekly schedule (instructor will share an example of a weekly schedule and explain the contents, explain the concepts of prioritizing, and the learner will create their own schedule with time blocks for work, learning and life)</li> </ol>	<p>We all have many activities in our lives that we need to juggle (school, work, personal life, family). Using strategies to manage your tasks and time can help you become more efficient, to plan for the unexpected, reduce stress, and improve learning success. Time management tools will help you plan and make choices about your learning and life.</p>
Maintaining Healthy Balance for Learning	By participating in this workshop, the learners will: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recognize how personal/life wellness underpins success in learning.</li> <li>Apply the results of a personal life-balance assessment chart to develop 3-5 specific, achievable, and relevant actions for restoring/maintaining life balance.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Life Balance Chart (instructor outlines that we all have areas of our lives that are important or significant to us. The student completes a life-balance wheel to personally assess balance amongst personal priorities. Categories include emotional, physical, intellectual/learning, spiritual, family/relationships, social/community/friends, financial, life purpose).</li> <li>Restoring Balance (the learner reflects on their Life Balance Chart. For areas out of balance, they identify 2-3 concrete actions to restore balance that are specific, achievable, relevant).</li> </ol>	<p>Personal wellness is an important ingredient in learning success. Studies show that we learn best when we are living a healthy and balanced life. This means we give adequate time to the activities that express your values and priorities. What are some values and priorities of participants? How do they make time to focus on these values and priorities? How do they maintain balance?</p>
Learner Financial Bootcamp (in partnership with Learner Success Services)	Budgeting and understanding how to stretch your finances are a vital part of student life. In this three-hour workshop, participants will learn about budgeting, banking, and credit.	TBC – still under construction	TBC – still under construction

## OUR STUDENTS THANK YOU!

We are grateful, but don't just take our word for it. Our students are grateful too! In Fall 2020 Bow Valley College awarded **12 Rotary Club Literacy Bursaries**. As you will see, our Rotary Club Literacy Bursary recipients are diverse, and face diverse challenges when completing their education. Thank you for your generosity!

Fall 2020 Rotary Club Literacy Bursary Recipients	
Hamna Kashif	Helen Woldetensay
Najwa Alawad	Salah Moahmed
Erika Rosa De Lima De Barros	Ma Del Rocio Tavares Martinez
Yousra Youser	Thanh Cuong Tran
Sheila Jacobs	Diana Diab
Rafoat Rasulova	Nicole Heavenfire

Dear Sir/Madam,

Thank you for providing me with a scholarship at Bow Valley College. It is an honour to be this year's recipient of the Rotary Club Literacy Bursary – Fall (264).

I am currently doing my upgrading courses at Bow Valley College. My future goal is to get admission in the Information Technology (IT), so I can help the Deaf & Hard of Hearing community. I like to read books about computers. I like to play badminton. I chose Bow Valley College because my friends told me that it is a very good college. After getting admission, I really found all the services and teachers helpful. I am a special deaf & hard of hearing girl, and even they accommodate me with all the requirements which I required.

**I am really very happy and thankful for this College. Finally, I am grateful for this award and I will use it for my education purpose.**

Thank you,

Sincerely,

Hamna Kashif

Hi,

Thank you for establishing a scholarship at Bow Valley College. It is an honour to be this year's recipient of the Rotary Club Literacy Bursary - Fall (264).

My goal is to finish my upgrading and become med wife assistant and help myself and my community.

**I arrived in Canada 3 years ago coming from Eretria to find success here and have a better life. I'm working hard to be a better person so I can thrive.**

Thanks again for this award and I really appreciate.

Thanks,

Helen

To Whom It May Concern,

Thank you for establishing a scholarship at Bow valley college. It is an honour to be this year's recipient of the Rotary Club Literacy Bursary - Fall (264)." I am very pleased and appreciative to be informed that I was nominated.

Let me tell you about myself; I am currently majoring in upgrading. I plan to pursue my career in teaching with the long term goal of becoming a teacher again. Now, I am in grade 11 and expect to graduate in June 2021 and then major in a program at Bow Valley College.

I am from Syria, and I have been in Canada for four years. I have six kids. Balancing between my kids and my studies has been challenging, but I am nailing it. I am super eager to pursue my career again regardless of all the difficulties I faced and still face, such as the language and timing. I choose Bow Valley college because it offers many resources and programs that help students achieve their goals. It's also a very friendly place, and it feels like home plus it provides easy transportation. **Bow Valley college always gives a generous hand to help the immigrants students and works hard to improve and direct them in the right way, and the staff is fantastic and super helpful.**

By awarding me the Bow Valley college Rotary Club Literacy Bursary, you have reduced my financial burden, which allows me to focus more on my studies without worrying about the money for a bit. I hope one day that I will help other students pursue their academic goals in the same way you are helping. Thank you so much for your generosity.

Sincerely,

Najwa Alawad

To Whom It May Concern,

Thank you so much for establishing a scholarship at Bow Valley College. It is an honour to be this year's recipient of the Rotary Club Literacy Bursary - Fall (264).

I am studying the upgrading program to achieve my goals. My goals are to improve my English skills and study Automotive Services Technician at SAIT.

I am from Syria. I am married and I have two children. My interests are learning new languages and watching soccer games. **I chose this academic institution because I found it has a high quality of Education.**

Thank you again and I am very grateful for your assistance.

Sincerely,

Salah Moahmed



Photo taken before the COVID-19 pandemic.

To Whom It May Concern,

Thank you for your munificent investment and for establishing a scholarship at Bow Valley College. I am sincerely honoured to have been selected as the recipient of the Rotary Club Literacy Bursary – Fall (264).

I am currently enrolled in the Academic Upgrading program that will afford support to follow up on my education. One of my future goals is acquiring knowledge to pursue my career dream, Special Education. After that, I will use the knowledge, skills, and expertise I acquire during my time at Bow Valley College to contribute to my community.

In my life, I believe that education is crucial to personal accomplishments. Ten years ago, when I left my country (Brazil), I was faced with my first challenge which was to learn a new language, French, and Quebecois culture. I did. However, I wished to learn more about Canada, so I figured out my second challenge, English. **At this time, I met Bow Valley College an excellent school with an extraordinary reputation that has provided for me all knowledge and skills which I was seeking.** This year has been a huge challenge for me since I should manage my life between my online studies, my two special and adorable boys (twins) and volunteering services. Even though I am feeling exhausted from studying until later at night, I find out in my children and at school the motivation to learn and never give up.

For this reason, I greatly appreciate your generosity that inspires me to continue to pursue my education and my career dream. This will be possible because of people like you who believe and understand the importance of education. Again, thank you for your generous investments.

Sincerely,

Erika Rosa De Lima De Barros

To Rotary Club Literacy Bursary,

Thank you for giving the students support to achieve their goals. I am truly honoured to be selected awarded this year.

I am currently taking an upgrading program which is formed of two main subjects, language arts and **mathematics. I am very enthusiastic in this program and my goal is to increase my knowledge. I am excited for learning new things and meet friends.** I am originally from Mexico. I am very proud mother of two, my son and daughter. Finally, I chose Bow Valley College because it is one of the most prestigious institution in Calgary and I am proud of being part of it.

Thank you again,

Sincerely,

Rocio Tavares

To Whom it may concern,

Thank you for establishing a scholarship at Bow Valley College. It is an honour to be this year's recipient of the Rotary Club Literacy Bursary - Fall (264).

I started my studying at Bow Valley College in 2018, and I made it successfully until I finished Level 8. Then, I took upgrading class 4, and I succeeded it. I am still planning to continue my study at Bow Valley College to reach my goal to become an education assistant.

I am originally from Iraq, I got forced to leave my three daughters back there, and I came alone. At that time, my English was poor, so I choose to study at Bow Valley College because it has a great reputation. **I wish that I could reach my goal, so I can build my own life, and get my daughters from Iraq.** Thank you very much to choose my name for this great bursary, I really appreciate it.

Sincerely,

Yousra Youser

To Whom It May Concern,

Thank you for establishing a scholarship at Bow Valley College. It is an honour to be this year's recipient of the Rotary Club Literacy Bursary - Fall (264).

At the time, I am studying highschool upgrading. Next fall, I will enroll in the Information Technology Systems program at Bow Valley College, and I would like to learn Cybersecurity after I finish the first program. I also wish I could work for Bow Valley College after I graduate.

I am a new immigrant, and I have been living in Canada for 2 years with my wife and my daughter, and we are all students. In my country, I had around 13 years of working as a salesman for Tech Data, an international IT company. They have branches office in Canada. I have studied for 2 years at Bow Valley College from LINC to highschool upgrading programs. When I was at LINC classes, I volunteered to assist computer instructors at the computer lab. **I choose Bow Valley College to study because I learn English and Highschool upgrading program here, and I see Bow Valley College has a high education quality.** That means the quality of teaching has also been proving over time. So, I believe Bow Valley College could bring the best educational environment to me in the future.

Finally, I appreciate my instructors who communicate knowledge and help me achieve good academic results. And I would also like to thank the staff of the school who helped us have a favourable learning environment at the school as well as the people who have proposed these prestigious awards.

Sincerely,

Thanh Cuong Tran

To whom it may concern,

It is a great honour to be selected for this year student award, from the Rotary Club Literacy bursary. I am studying LA4-5. My goals are to successfully complete my education.

I am a First Nation student from Tsuut'ina treaty #7 area . I am interested in working with Indigenous Services, Health Canada. I have 4 adult children, I have heard about this academic institution from my friend. She completed her education here, and is a social worker.

**I am very thankful for this award and I will put it to good use. In today's Covid crisis and the high cost of living, every amount of money is much appreciate. I will buy groceries and pay my wifi and bills.**

Sincerely,

Sheila Jacobs.

To Whom It May Concern,

Thank you for establishing a scholarship at bow valley college. It is an honour to be this year's recipient of the Rotary Club Literacy Bursary - Fall (264).

I am from Palestinian I have two children. **I enjoy every moment I spent in Canada. I am glad to come to Canada to have a better life and for my children in the future.**

The reason why I take academic upgrading to help me to reach my goal to be able to take an accounting course and help me quickly understand to teach my children what they need help in any topic.

I am so glad to be a student at bow valley college.

Sincerely,

Diana Diab



Photo taken before the COVID-19 pandemic.

To Whom It May Concern,

Thank you for establishing a scholarship at the Bow Valley College. I am grateful to be this year's recipient of the Rotary Club Literacy Bursary - Fall (264).

I am currently taking English10-2 and Aboriginal Studies 10 in the High School Upgrading program in the School of Foundational Learning. My goal is to study in the Justice Studies program at BVC and hopefully become a Correctional Officer.

I am from Tajikistan city of Dushanbe and I moved to Canada on August 30, 2005. I have three sons that keep me out of trouble; also, I like to do power lifting, but it is hard with the pandemic. **I decided to attend BVC because as single mother I want to be the best role model to my boys. I hope to inspire them to take their education seriously.**

To close, I am very thankful for this award. It will help relieve lots of stress, and it is proof to show my boys if you work hard you will be rewarded.

Sincerely,

Rafoat Rasulova

To Joanna Tzavaras,

Thank you for establishing a scholarship at Bow Valley College. It is an honour to be this year's recipient of the Rotary Club Literacy Bursary - Fall (264).

The Essential Skills Program, that you run so very well, truly has helped my transition into high school learning with the Aboriginal Upgrading Program offered through Bow Valley College. After completing your program I have gone on to 20-2 courses which I currently am in, English 20-2, Microsoft, Special Programs. Working towards accomplishing My 30-2's in English, Aboriginal Studies and Microsoft courses that I need to go into the Native Addictions Counselling Certificate Program also offered at Bow Valley College.

I am a Cree Dene Mother from Tsuu T'ina, Alberta. I enjoy learning/hearing/seeing all the different diverse cultures here in Calgary, Alberta and anywhere I am able to travel too. My passion is to understand, for my own self, what addictions is from a Western Educational point of view. Then, with that knowledge, to be able to help our Aboriginal Peoples and All Peoples who want the help. I had no knowledge of Bow Valley College and the courses offered, as well as not knowing any instructors or Aboriginal Staff and I felt it was time to pursue my educational goals and took a chance with Bow Valley College and I am truly happy that I took that chance.

**I send my heartfelt gratitude to all of Bow Valley College for all the amazing opportunities offered, truly is an amazing experience for me.** I also send my gratitude of thanks to the instructors to give their time and knowledge and believe in the students who walk into your doors of opportunity. I am truly grateful and thankful to instructor Joanna Tzavaras who believes in equality for all and believes in all her students.

Sincerely,

Nicole Heavenfire

## ONE FINAL NOTE

Bow Valley College continues to be a strong player in the post-secondary sector in Calgary. The support of **Rotary Club of Calgary Downtown** is integral to our mission. You help us to include all students, to challenge our thinking, to remove all barriers, to provide opportunity and to make all learning count. Without the support of Rotary Club of Calgary Downtown, our vision to shape the future of college education by opening doors and opening minds would not be possible.



Donors are integral to everything we do, and we deeply value your contribution and your partnership. **Thank you for your commitment and your generosity.** Our college, our community and our city are better for it.

We invite you to join us on our bold mission to transform college education in Canada. You are a key part of our team and our goal to make all learning count.

Thank you for your contributions.



**Prepared for:**

Rotary Club of Calgary Downtown

**Presented by:**

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