



# MEDIA RELEASE

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## **Kwantlen Student Association Commends more Inclusive Application Process**

**SURREY, BC** – The Kwantlen Student Association (KSA) commends the decision by the BC Registrars Association to move towards more inclusive language on post-secondary applications. Including a non-binary option when selecting gender on application forms will make the application process more inclusive and flexible. Inviting students to identify as trans on their application will allow institutions to collect information about supports and services that may be needed on campus.

**“Being able to express one's true gender is an important part of self-reflection and self-acceptance”** said Joseph Thorpe, Queer Students Representative at the KSA. **“Having more inclusive language on applications not only showcases BC's commitment to an inclusive learning environment, but it allows students applying to validate their own identity in their application. This is an important step to have LGBTQ2+ students feel welcome on campus.”**

Because this information was not previously collected, there are no reliable numbers on whether trans and non-binary students are being excluded from post-secondary education. However it has been demonstrated that trans and non-binary students are significantly more likely to report not feeling safe on campus. Learning about where institutions need to improve is the first step. Making education safer for everyone is crucial, and this change will allow for progress in that direction.

We are excited to see these changes roll out at different institutions in February and going forward. We hope to see this trend towards inclusivity expand to other processes in the university. Allowing students to use their preferred name on academic records, ensuring that restrooms and residences are gender neutral, and providing trans-specific counselling and healthcare services on campus are other steps that can make education more inclusive.

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The Kwantlen Student Association represents over 18,000 students enrolled at the four Metro Vancouver campuses of Kwantlen Polytechnic University.