Dr. Tony Bates UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA



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Dr. A.W. Bates,

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Tony Bates has been responsible since June 1995 for developing distance education programs and flexible delivery of credit and non-credit programs at the University of British Columbia, in conjunction with faculty and program directors. This includes the development of innovative off-campus programming using technology delivery.

He has been a member of the University's Centre for Educational Technology Steering Committee, which develops policy recommendations for the applications of educational technology at UBC. He is also Chair of UBC's Advisory Committee on Distance Education. He is responsible for the design and monitoring of cost-benefit analysis for the Canadian National Centre of Excellence program on Telelearning, and is also project leader for the Federal Office of Learning Technologies project examining the impact of new technologies on adult learners.

Previously he was Executive Director, Strategic Planning, Research, and Information Technology at the Open Learning Agency of British Columbia, where he worked from 1990 to 1995. Prior to that, he was Professor of Educational Media Research at the British Open University, where he worked for 20 years, as one of the founding members of staff.

His research groups at the UKOU and OLA published over 350 papers in the area of distance education and the use of technology for teaching. He is the author of five books, including his latest, "Technology, Open Learning and Distance Education", published by Routledge, which shared the Charles A.Wedemeyer Award for the best book on distance education published in 1995. Also in 1995 he was awarded the degree of Doctor Honoris Causa by the Open University of Portugal. His new book, 'Restructuring the Academy for technological Change' is being published by Jossey Bass in 1999.

He has worked as a consultant in over 30 countries. His recent consultancies include work for the State of Indiana and the State of Maine Higher Education Commissions on academic technology planning, and work for the American Productivity and Quality Centre on best practice for faculty instructional development. He has been involved in building distance education partnerships between UBC and Monterrey Tech in Mexico, and UBC and the Universities of Queensland and Melbourne in Australia.

His leisure activities include golf (18 handicap), squash, ski-ing and flying (he has a student pilot's licence). He is married, with two sons, one of whom is a computer software engineer, and the other is a post-doctoral medical researcher.

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