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Ministry of Advanced Education and Labour Market
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Industry Canada

NIC BREAKS GROUND FOR \$8.2M TRADES TRAINING CENTRE

COURTENAY – Construction is set to begin on a new \$8.2-million skills development and trades training centre at North Island College, following an official groundbreaking today by provincial, federal and college officials.

“This new skills development and trades training centre will help students acquire skills that remain in demand, and keep B.C. working for the future,” said Moira Stilwell, Minister of Advanced Education and Labour Market Development. “This partnership with the federal government and North Island College demonstrates what can be achieved when we all work together.”

“I am thrilled to see that North Island College has been able to break ground so quickly on this new trades training centre,” said John Duncan, MP for Vancouver Island North. “The investments the Government of Canada and Province of British Columbia have made into this new facility will provide significant short-term economic stimulus and create jobs for people in this region.”

At 1,765 square metres, the skills development and trades training centre will house carpentry and multi-purpose workshops, a covered open work area, washroom and offices, and three trades training classrooms, with an additional unfinished space that can remain flexible for future expansion. The centre is expected to be completed and opened by September 2010.

“We are working to find solutions that help people in the Comox Valley succeed in reaching their educational goals,” said Don McRae, MLA for Comox Valley. “This project is creating local jobs now and helping people gain the skills they need for future employment.”

The skills development and trades training centre at North Island College is part of the federal government’s two-year, \$2-billion Knowledge Infrastructure Program whose goal is to repair and expand research and educational facilities at Canadian post-secondary institutions.

This is one of 29 projects at post-secondary institutions across the province funded through a joint federal-provincial investment of \$433 million. The total investment in these projects is \$455 million including contributions from institutions. This project is also part of an overall \$14-billion capital infrastructure program supported by the Province that will create up to 88,000 jobs and help build vital public infrastructure in every region of B.C.

“The Skills Development Centre will address a very real need,” said North Island College president Dr. Lou Dryden, noting the importance of the facility to the North Island College region. “The North Island region has been impacted by the economic downturn in forestry, sawmill and pulp and paper operations, and many displaced workers are looking to retrain to acquire skills that remain in demand to secure their careers for the long term. NIC will now have the capacity to provide this much-needed training.”

Canada’s Economic Action Plan sets out to stimulate the Canadian economy over the next two years and to improve Canada’s long-term competitiveness through \$12 billion in new infrastructure investment, which includes the \$2-billion Knowledge Infrastructure Program.

For more information on the provincial government’s three-year job creation plan, visit www.gov.bc.ca/infrastructure. For more information about the federal Knowledge Infrastructure Program, visit www.ic.gc.ca/knowledge-infrastructure.

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