

**NEWS RELEASE**

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**November 24, 2009  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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**NIC and NIEFS Sign Partnership Agreement**

North Island College President Dr. Jan Lindsay and Nickie Polson, Board Chair for North Island Employment (NIEFS) are pleased to announce the signing of a formal agreement to build, sustain and continuously improve skill development and training services in our communities that will assist people in making successful work transitions.

“There has never been a better time for people to invest in their learning as we prepare for unprecedented changes in who is available to do the work and changes in the skills and occupations that are increasingly going to be needed on the North Island,” said Dr. Lindsay.



**Dr. Jan Lindsay, Nickie Polson and Cheryl O’Connell, NIC’s Director of Continuing Education, signing partnership agreement**

“It is exciting to see community organizations like NIEFS and community colleges like NIC come together to look at how we can better coordinate employment and skill development services. It is something that gives hope to those who have lost employment and those who are seeking a new career in an occupation that will be needed in our communities,” added Nickie Polson.

With offices in Port Alberni, Courtenay, Campbell River, Port Hardy and Powell River, NIEFS exists to assist those in need with the development of skills that will enable them to find and hold employment in an ever-changing world.

With over 800 courses and 70 programs in health care, trades, business, fine arts, tourism, and university studies, North Island College serves northern Vancouver Island

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and the Mainland Coast, enabling the residents of its region to achieve their educational goals, within a supportive and flexible environment.

Both organizations look forward to working together to support individuals and communities as we adjust to change. This Memorandum of Understanding is just one way in which organizations can coordinate planning to increase opportunities for people to learn new and needed skills. It is truly a changing world and these changes demonstrate that it pays to learn!

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