

## December 20, 2020

NIC is looking forward to welcoming students this January. WorkSafe BC compliant Safety Plans are in place to reduce the risk of COVID-19 exposure, virtual orientation is organized, and student services are in place to support your arrival. If you are taking courses delivered in a blended format, with some on-campus requirements, you will have a unique safety plan to ensure classroom safety. Watch your NIC email for program-specific safety orientation materials. If you are taking courses digitally, and are not attending campus, your instructor will email you to get you started. If you have not heard from your instructor by the first day of class, contact Student Services 1-800-715-0914 (toll-free in Canada).

With COVID-19 cases rising and [Provincial Health Orders](#) extended, the following safety measures continue to be in place:

Daily entry checks for all onsite students and employees;

Required masks and physical distancing in all public indoor spaces at NIC, including outdoor space if physical distancing requirements cannot be maintained; and

Updated [guidance on potential exposures](#).

Visit our [Safe Start page](#), for more information on program delivery, financial supports and virtual orientation.

Employees looking for the most current travel and work-from-home procedures should visit the [Information for all employees page](#).

## November 27, 2020

As a designated non-health essential service, NIC is continuing to offer programs, courses and services with the current mix of digital and blended learning. With COVID-19 cases rising and new Provincial Health Orders in place, the College has made several changes. This includes:

- Daily health checks are now required for all onsite employees
- Masks and physical distancing are required in all public indoor spaces at NIC. This includes outdoor space if physical distancing requirements cannot be maintained
- New employee travel and work from home procedures
- Updated guidance on potential exposures

For more information on financial support, program and course delivery, mental health supports and the availability of campus services and spaces, visit our [Safe Start page](#).

## June 29, 2020

### **Canada launches initiatives focused on paid student employment**

The Government of Canada has announced the launch of the Canada Student Service Grant, a program that will provide postsecondary students and recent graduates with a one-time payment of up to \$5K to

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Updates filed in reverse chronological order

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volunteer to serve in their communities. Grant amounts will be calculated based on the number of hours worked. A number of other initiatives designed to help young Canadians find paid work placements were also announced, including a \$40M increase in funding to the Digital Skills for Youth program, the creation of thousands of job placements through the Canada Summer Jobs program, Mitacs, and the Student Work Placement Program; \$6.7M in funding for the Computers for School Plus program, and the creation of 5,000 to 10,000 more work-integrated learning opportunities through the Business + Higher Education Roundtable.

For more information about Federal government supports visit [Canada's COVID-19 Economic Response Plan](#).

Need support, but do not qualify for a loan? Contact a [financial aid advisor](#) to learn more about funds available to students.

May 25, 2020

## Fall 2020 Timetable Live

North Island College has posted an updated [Fall timetable](#). The changes to the timetable reflect how classes will be delivered at North Island College this Fall.

Registration for Fall 2020 and Winter 2021 classes opens for continuing students on **Monday June 1st**, new students can register from **Monday, June 8th**. Classes fill quickly once registration opens, you are advised to register as soon as possible.

Please pay your deposit in advance of this date to ensure you are ready to register. Deposits can be paid online through your [myNIC](#) account. [Financial Aid Advisors](#) are available to help access loans and grants.

Please visit our [Course Codes webpage](#) which will help you understand important information about course delivery. We encourage you to make an appointment with an [Educational Advisors](#) who can support your educational and timetable planning or answer any questions you may have about your educational plan. Appointments are available by phone or video conferencing and can [be booked online](#) or by calling 1-800-715-0914 (toll-free in Canada).

North Island College Student Services are available year-round, and you are welcome to contact us to answer any questions. We are happy to have you join the NIC community. Please continue to monitor your NIC email for Orientation and other information.

Kathleen Kuhnert

Associate Vice-President, Student Services and Registrar

May 15, 2020

## Certain Learning in Uncertain Times: Safe, Accessible and Clear Options this Fall at NIC

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Your learning matters at NIC and today we are announcing our safe, accessible and clear options for this Fall.

Making connections and building community through caring and supportive learning is what we have been doing at NIC for more than 45 years. During the COVID-19 pandemic you can continue to count on us to deliver valuable, relevant, and high-quality instruction that will prepare you for success now and after the pandemic.

Many of you are looking to confidently prepare for a new career, explore new program areas or continue your studies. To make learning possible for you during these uncertain times, NIC will deliver its Fall courses and programs in two ways, Digital and On-campus and Digital, giving you clear and certain options.

1. **Digital** – With digital courses and programs, you will be able to learn wherever you have access to a computer and the internet. You will not need to come to campus to complete these courses. Instead, you will have a schedule of activities and assignments to do. Instructors will use a range of free software for delivery of their teaching and NIC will support you with using them.

Some digital classes will meet live online with their instructor on specific days and times. There will be other classes where the schedule is more flexible and you will interact online with students and instructors at different times to complete activities and assignments. Most courses will begin in September and end in December, but some will also start throughout the year.

Courses and programs offered this way include University Studies Arts and Sciences, Business, Tourism, Office Administration, Adult Basic Education, Fine Arts, and Digital Design and Development.

2. **On-campus and Digital** – In these courses, you will do much of your learning digitally (see above) but you will also come to campus for required hands-on learning in NIC's first-rate labs, shops and studios. Practicums and other work placements will continue to be held at community locations. Rigorous safety measures, including high cleaning standards and physical distancing requirements, will be in place on campus and only small numbers of students will be in class at any one time. You will need access to a computer and the internet to take these courses and programs.

Courses and programs offered this way include Trades, Technology, Health, Human Service programs and lab-based Sciences.

We know not everyone has easy access to a computer and the internet. NIC students near a campus can access our computer labs and laptops for loan are available through the Library. Financial support is available for those who qualify.

To help you make the best choice for you, the [Fall 2020 Program Delivery Overview](#) describes how each of NIC's programs will be delivered. On May 25, go to [www.nic.bc.ca](http://www.nic.bc.ca) to access the

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updated [timetable](#) with the new delivery method for each course. As of today, May 15 the timetable will show as pending while we update it.

Registration will begin on June 1 for current NIC students and on June 8 for new students.

We are all here to support you. Reach out for help navigating the process. If you have timetabling, registration or financial aid questions, book an appointment with an Educational Advisor or an International Student Advisor through the [online booking system](#) or call 1-800-715-0914 (toll-free in Canada).

### May 13, 2020

The Canadian government announced today (May 13) that The Canada Emergency Student Benefit (CESB) will officially be launched on May 15. The CESB provides financial support to post-secondary students, and recent post-secondary and high school graduates who are unable to find work due to COVID-19.

This benefit is for students who do not qualify for the Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB) or Employment Insurance (EI).

The CESB will be available from May to August 2020 to students who are Canadian citizens or permanent residents, and who are enrolled in a post-secondary education program leading to a degree, diploma, or certificate; or who ended their studies no earlier than December 2019. Click [here](#) for more details

From May to August 2020, the CESB provides a payment to eligible students of:

**\$1,250** For each 4-week period, OR

**\$2,000** For each 4-week period, if you have dependants or a disability

[Contact us about CESB: Canada Emergency Student Benefit \(CESB\)](#)

How to contact the CRA with questions about CESB

### May 5, 2020

Welcome to the Spring term. We are happy that you are continuing your studies with NIC through an alternate delivery method. This email contains some important information to support your start-up and to help you have a successful term. Please keep it on hand as a reference throughout the term and *reach out to us as needed*. Please continue to monitor your NIC email regularly and check the FAQs posted below.

### Term Start-up Reminders:

**Student Services and Registration** are available through telephone and email. You may contact us via [questions@nic.bc.ca](mailto:questions@nic.bc.ca) or by calling 1-800-715-0914 (toll-free in Canada).

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**Services for International Students** are available through telephone and email. You may contact us via [study@nic.bc.ca](mailto:study@nic.bc.ca) or by calling 250-334-5021 (please leave a voicemail and someone will return your call).

**Add/Drop period:** This is a time you can add/drop courses in your timetable. This means last day to add is the last day to register in any additional classes this term, and last day to drop is the last day to drop and receive a refund.

**The add/drop period runs as follows:**

7-week Spring Intersession - May 4 - May 8

14-week Spring term - May 4 - May 13

**Tuition & Prerequisites:** Tuition and prerequisites for your courses are due on first day of the Term, Monday, May 4. If you are experiencing financial hardship, please contact an Educational or Financial Aid Advisor to discuss options. Appointments are available by phone or video conferencing and can be made [online from the NIC website](#) or by calling 1-800-715-0914 (toll-free in Canada). If you have questions about prerequisites, please contact Student Services directly 1-800-714-0914 (toll-free in Canada).

**No Show:** Your instructor will contact you no later than the first week of the term (normally before or on the first day your class was scheduled). Please engage with your instructor so they know you are an active participant in this class. If the instructor is unable to make contact or see activity in the class, you may be at risk at being identified as a no show and removed from the course if there is a waitlist.

**Waitlists:** If seats become available in a class, waitlisted students will be automatically registered into their course(s) and a notification email will be sent to their NIC email. Students with course time conflicts or account restriction will be contacted by Registration to clear the conflict or restriction prior to registering in the waitlisted section. Waitlists will be maintained with waitlisted students registering, in order, until Wednesday, May 6 for the 7-week intersession and Monday, May 11 for the 14-week Spring term. After these dates, qualified students will be able to register for any section with available seats up to the last day to register for the term (Friday, May 8 and Wednesday, May 13).

**Permission to Register late:** After the last day to register, students wishing to register late will require permission from faculty. You may contact the instructor directly to request permission to register. If approved, the instructor will advise registration staff that you have their permission to register, and the registration staff will contact you to facilitate registration.

**Exam period is suspended:** There will be no formal exam period for Spring term. Evaluation of learning will take place during the scheduled instruction period.

**Key Dates & Last day to withdraw without academic penalty:** Please check [Key Dates](#) on the NIC website to be aware of your last day to withdrawal without academic penalty. Remember to make an appointment with an Educational or Financial Aid Advisor prior to withdrawing to understand implications to your program or your student loan, if applicable.

**Academic Standing and Progression Policy 3-37:** NIC students are expected to be in good academic standing by maintaining a GPA of 2.0 in any academic term. Programs that are cohort based may have

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specific academic standards requirements and procedures. Please visit the link to access the progression policy at [www.nic.bc.ca/about-us/the-nic-commitment/policies-procedures/](http://www.nic.bc.ca/about-us/the-nic-commitment/policies-procedures/).

## Ongoing Support Services:

**NIC Learn Anywhere** [webpage coming soon] NIC will be launching a new webpage with resources to support students who are new to learning remotely through an online or digital platform. Resources will include practical tips on technology, how to be a successful learner, student rights and responsibilities and much more.

**Library Research Help** is available by telephone, by email, and chat. An appointment can be booked online at [library.nic.bc.ca/researchhelp](http://library.nic.bc.ca/researchhelp).

**Library & Learning Commons** has NIC faculty writing and math support to provide you with formative feedback on classwork: [Writing Support](#) or [Math Support](#). See Library and Learning Commons services and hours at: [library.nic.bc.ca/home](http://library.nic.bc.ca/home).

**Student Technical Services** are available to support you with technology such as Blackboard LEARN, myNIC and more: [library.nic.bc.ca/studenttech](http://library.nic.bc.ca/studenttech).

**Financial, Educational or Indigenous Advisors** are available through phone appointments on each campus and appointments can be booked online at [NIC Educational Advising Appointments](#).

**Elders in Residence** are here to support Indigenous Students. Contact information can be found at: [Elders in Residence | North Island College](#).

**Counselling Services** are available on each campus through telephone, email and video appointments and can be booked online at: [www.nic.bc.ca/student-services/counselling/](http://www.nic.bc.ca/student-services/counselling/). If you need counselling support outside of regular office hours, please go to <https://here2talk.ca/home> or call the Vancouver Crisis Line at 1.888.494.3888.

**Department of Accessible Learning** supports are available on each campus. Contact information can be found at: [Accessible Learning Services](#).

**Student Employment Services** are available to support students with their employment needs via telephone/Skype. Students can book their appointments online, register for employment-related events, and access resources via [CareerCentral](#).

For a list of all these services and some additional community resources, please [click here](#).

This is a lot of information, but remember if you have questions, call 1-800-715-0914 (toll-free in Canada) Monday - Friday, 9am - 4pm. We are here for you and wish you all the best in your studies this term.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Kuhnert

Associate Vice President, Student Services & Registrar

April 30, 2020

## Student federal financial aid update

Parliament passed the \$9 billion in assistance for students. The bill is now with the Senate and is pending the passage of legislation. The updated bill includes some changes from the government's initial announcement of support, including:

Key points:

- Students would be eligible for \$1,250 a month from May - August
- Students caring for dependents or those with a disability will be eligible for up to \$2,000 a month
- The benefit is available also to students who have jobs but are making less than \$1,000 a month
- A special grant program will give students who volunteer over the summer a stipend of \$1,000 to \$5,000, depending on the hours they work
- Students who collect emergency financial aid will be required to confirm that they're looking for summer work
- The government is taking steps to match students with employers who need to fill labour gaps

[More details](#) on the debate in the House:

Government resource page: [Canada's COVID-19 Economic Response Plan](#)

April 22, 2020

## Federal Government announces \$9 billion for post-secondary students

The Federal Government has announced [\\$9 billion in new financial supports for post-secondary students and recent graduates](#) to provide support for those affected by COVID-19.

The supports include:

- the proposed Canada Emergency Student Benefit, which would provide financial support for current students, students starting in Fall 2020 and recent graduates. Eligible students would receive \$1,250/month from May-August, or \$1,750/month for eligible students with dependents or disabilities.
- the new Canada Student Service Grant, which will help students gain valuable work experience and skills during the pandemic and provide up to \$5,000 for their fall education.
- doubling the Canada Student Grants for full-time and part-time students.
- \$75.2 million in additional supports for First Nations, Inuit and Metis nation students.

NIC will share more as details they become available.

### Statistics Canada Survey

Statistics Canada is asking post-secondary students to complete a survey on the impacts of COVID-19. The [survey](#) is open until May 1, 2020.

April 17, 2020

## Free 24/7 counselling service available for NIC students

A new, free mental health counselling and referral services for post-secondary students has been announced by the Provincial Government. Here2Talk provides free, confidential, single-session services by app, phone or online chat, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Chat sessions with a trained counsellor can be accessed by downloading the Here2Talk app or visiting: [here2talk.ca](http://here2talk.ca).

Students can also speak to a counsellor by phone, toll free at 1-877-857-3397

Students can also access NIC counselling services and other community resources: [www.nic.bc.ca/student-services/counselling/](http://www.nic.bc.ca/student-services/counselling/).

April 9, 2020

## Message to Students About Graduation

North Island College has made the difficult decision to postpone our June Graduation ceremonies due to the recommendations of the Provincial Health Officer related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Although June is still several weeks away, planning for the ceremonies takes considerable time and organization. For this reason, we needed to make a decision based on current Provincial Health Officer guidelines, which prevent large gatherings and require social distancing of 2 metres.

Please remember to apply for your credential in order to have it mailed to you. See NIC's [Graduation webpage](#) for information on how to do this.

NIC will still be acknowledging in writing all of our [Award](#) recipients in June. This includes two awards that are currently open for nomination until May 15th : [President's Community Engagement Award](#) and the [Lieutenant-Governor's Silver Medal Award](#). We invite all who meet the requirements to complete the nomination form. See [myNIC](#) announcements for further information.

The College is considering alternate graduation ceremony dates and formats. We would like to hear from you, our graduates, before we make any decisions. Please share your views by completing a very [short survey](#) **before April 30**.

Please continue to check the NIC website as well as your NIC email regularly for updates. If you have questions, please email [questions@nic.bc.ca](mailto:questions@nic.bc.ca).

Sincerely,

Kathleen Kuhnert

Associate Vice President Student Services & Registrar

April 7, 2020

## Message to Students About Spring Term

North Island College is looking forward to Spring term starting on May 4th. All courses will be delivered in digital format. If you are registered for Spring, your instructor will contact you directly to provide more details on how your class will be delivered digitally.

We expect all learning materials, including textbooks will be available to order on-line.

There are a variety of methods instructors are planning for delivery, including, but not limited to, email, Blackboard Learn, Website/Blogging (Wordpress) and web conferencing (BlueJeans, Zoom, etc.).

Students will require access to a computer with internet to successfully engage in your coursework.

Please be aware that prerequisites and fees are due at the start of the term, May 4th (see [Key dates](#)).

Fees can be paid by the following:

- [PayMyTuition](#) – PayMyTuition is a payment processor that allows for international payments. With PayMyTuition, you can make tuition payments from any bank, in any country, with any currency at better than bank exchange rates. Payment through PayMyTuition is fast, simple and cost effective. Please go to the link for a step-by-step guide on how to make a payment with PayMyTuition.
- [myNIC](#) - Credit Card payments can be made by accessing your myNIC account: Self Service > Students > Financial Information > View Account and Make Payments
- Online Banking - You can set up "North Island College" as a payee at your Financial institution. Your account number is your seven-digit student ID number. Note that it can take up to three business days for these payments to be processed.
- If you require further assistance with how to pay your tuition, please contact Student Services by calling 1-800-715-0914 (toll-free in Canada) during regular office hours Monday - Friday (8:30 - 4:00) and someone will assist you.

North Island College recognizes that due to the COVID-19 pandemic, you may be experiencing challenges and financial hardship. If you are concerned about being able to pay your tuition by May 4th, or you may be worried that you don't have the appropriate technology to carry out your classes, please make an appointment with an Educational Advisor or a Financial Advisor as soon as possible and prior to May 4th deadline.

International students facing challenges and financial hardship should book an appointment with an International Student Advisor (ISA). Appointments with ISA's can be booked online or by emailing [ISA@nic.bc.ca](mailto:ISA@nic.bc.ca)

Please continue to monitor your NIC email regularly and check this webpage which will frequently for updates. An [FAQ page specific for international students](#) has been created, please be sure to check this page regularly.

Student Services continues to provide all supports in a remote delivery format. Please [click here](#) to review the list of available supports, including Library & Learning Commons, Counselling, Advising and Student Life support.

If you have questions, please email [questions@nic.bc.ca](mailto:questions@nic.bc.ca) or call 1-800-715-0914 (toll-free in Canada).

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Sincerely,

Kathleen Kuhnert

Associate Vice President, Student Services & Registrar

North Island College

## March 30, 2020

### **Your Learning Matters: Spring and Intersession Offerings Available Digitally (May - August 2020)**

NIC's Spring and Intersession courses and programs will be delivered digitally so your learning can continue during the COVID-19 crisis. Students registered in the two 7-week sessions (beginning May 4 and July 6) and the 14-week term (beginning May 4) will not need to come to campus to complete their courses, participate in labs or take exams. Please watch for an email from your instructor, who will provide specific course information.

If you are a student in trades, technical, health, human services, professional photography and other cohort-based programs, you will receive information about your program completion shortly.

In addition, NIC support services are readily accessible from where you are. These include Advising, Financial Aid, Counselling, Student Employment Services, Office of Global Engagement, Library and Learning Commons, and Accessible Learning services, which are now available by phone and online to all students.

In addition, NIC support services are readily accessible from where you are. These include [Advising](#), [Financial Aid](#), [Counselling](#), [Student Employment Services](#), [Office of Global Engagement](#), [Library and Learning Commons](#), and [Accessible Learning Services](#), which are now available by phone and online to all students.

For more than 40 years, we have been innovators in technology-enabled learning and we bring that commitment to you this spring and summer. During these extraordinary times, you can continue to count on NIC to be part of your learning and life goals.

I encourage you to explore all that we have to [offer](#) this spring and summer.

Yours in learning,

Lisa Domae, PhD

Executive Vice-President, Academic and Chief Operating Officer

North Island College

## March 23, 2020

### **Compression of Learning Experiences: Suggestions for NIC Faculty**

Where possible, North Island College is asking faculty members and instructors to compress or condense courses while continuing to provide ongoing support and care for our students. In cases where compression is not possible, faculty should consider continuity of learning with possible adjustments.

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Compression means focusing on the essentials for the student learning experience and finding ways to end courses when you can. Compression may mean altering or extending the contact hours for teaching students to provide appropriate hands-on learning experiences for those in labs, shops, studios etc. At this point you need to look beyond the ACD, course outline or articulated course components and focus on the essential learning outcomes for student success.

The College is not asking faculty to teach online or shift their courses to an online delivery format. If you wish to use educational technologies to engage students, virtually communicate with your class or extend the learning experience using online tools, you are welcome to explore those avenues – but do so only when you feel comfortable and capable.

Instructors should examine student learning accomplishments so far in their courses and determine if there are enough demonstrations of learning outcomes to fulfill the core components of the course. In some cases, there may be enough evidence of learning (assignments already graded, students submitting work etc.) to make an informed decision in providing a final grade. In other cases, there may be more instruction or evaluation required to complete your assessment of student learning.

Not all ideas listed on this page will work for all disciplines, courses or learning experiences. Some learning may have to happen at another time or timings extended. You are encouraged to chat with your colleagues, chair, or dean and/or reach out to the Centre for Teaching and Learning Innovation [ctli@nic.bc.ca](mailto:ctli@nic.bc.ca) if you have a question.

NIC remains open, transitioning to alternate delivery to finish term

## March 20, 2020

There is no general update today. Please check your NIC student or employee email for other possible updates.

The Provincial Health Officer will be providing another briefing Saturday at noon. Please check this website after 2 pm March 21 in case there are relevant updates.

Publish Date: March 19, 2020 4:30 PM

### **Face-to-face Operations Suspended**

#### **Update from NIC President John Bowman**

NIC has suspended regular face-to-face operations at all campuses until further notice as a result of COVID-19. Effective immediately, NIC will only provide alternate delivery of instruction and services to students to enable social distancing as directed by the Provincial Health Officer.

The public and students should not attend any campus. College services can be accessed via telephone and online.

NIC is allowing employees the ability to voluntarily work from home, where possible. This will enable us to accommodate appropriate social distancing and support NIC meeting its operational needs. Check the website frequently for updates and details.

March 19, 2020

## Update from NIC President John Bowman

NIC has suspended regular face-to-face operations at all campuses until further notice as a result of COVID-19. Effective immediately, NIC will only provide alternate delivery of instruction and services to students to enable social distancing as directed by the Provincial Health Officer.

The public and students should not attend any campus. College services can be accessed via telephone and online.

NIC is allowing employees the ability to voluntarily work from home, where possible. This will enable us to accommodate appropriate social distancing and support NIC meeting its operational needs. Check the website frequently for updates and details.

March 18, 2020

## Face-to-face Operations Suspended

### Update from NIC President John Bowman

NIC has suspended regular face-to-face operations at all campuses as a result of COVID-19. Effective immediately, NIC will only provide alternate delivery of instruction and services to students in order to enable social distancing as directed by the Provincial Health Officer. Students should check the [website](#) for information on how to access these services. Check the website frequently for updates and details.

March 17, 2020

NIC is transitioning its **services** for students from face-to-face to phone and other modes of delivery by March 18 where possible, to enable social distancing as required by the Provincial Health Officer. In other words, as of March 18, the physical spaces associated with the student services listed below will be limited to employees only. Face-to-face services will no longer be offered, but instead will be delivered to students via phone and other modes.

This includes:

- Library and Learning Commons
- Registration
- Advising
- Counselling
- Elders
- Accessible Learning Services
- Student Technical support
- Office of Global Engagement

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- Assessment Services
- Student Employment Services

More information on how to access these services will be posted as soon as possible. Check the website and your email frequently for updates.

Bookstores at all campuses will be closed. Food services will offer take out orders only.

As stated in a previous message, NIC continues to be focused on transitioning from face-to-face instruction to alternate modes of delivery and assessment where possible by Friday March 20, 2020. Unless notified otherwise, and if they are able, students should attend their first class of the week to learn from instructors what their alternate modes of delivery and completion may look like.

Any major changes will be posted as soon as possible.

Check your email and this webpage frequently for updates.

### March 16, 2020

## **NIC continues with transition to alternate delivery to finish term**

NIC continues to be focused on transitioning from face-to-face instruction to alternative delivery methods and assessment where possible by Friday March 20, 2020. Unless notified otherwise, and if they are able, students should attend their first class of the week to learn from instructors what their alternate forms of completion and delivery may look like.

As of March 16, 2020, The Provincial Health Officer has ordered the cancelation of gatherings of more than 50 people due to COVID-19.

In light of this information, all NIC classes, events, gatherings and spaces must be limited to fewer than 50 people in one location and social distancing must be practiced.

Our goal continues to be to support students to successfully complete their terms through alternate delivery

The PHO added new COVID-19 information numbers 1-888-COVID19 and a texting line has also been established at 1-888-268-4319. These are in addition to 8-1-1.

Any major changes will be posted as soon as possible. Check your email and this webpage frequently for updates.

### March 15, 2020

## **NIC remains open, transitioning to alternate delivery to finish term A message from NIC President John Bowman**

North Island College remains open as we continue to monitor the COVID-19 situation and is following the guidance of the Provincial Health Officer (PHO). We are focused on enabling students to complete

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their learning using alternate modes of delivery and modification of methods where appropriate and possible. Our priority is to have students achieve essential learning outcomes given the unusual and evolving circumstances.

NIC's COVID-19 Response Coordination Team and Deans met Sunday to discuss additional measures on how we can support and encourage social distancing on campus. Over the next week, NIC will be transitioning from face-to-face instruction to alternative delivery methods and assessment, where possible. Unless notified otherwise, students should attend their classes as regularly scheduled to learn from instructors what their alternate forms of completion and delivery may look like. Because of the diversity of the types of programs NIC offers, we recognize that not all programs, courses, labs and shops may be suited to be delivered through a single alternative method. Students will learn of the changes affecting them through their instructors. Students should check their NIC email and this webpage frequently for updates

Please be aware that service levels may be modified in some areas at NIC due to the impacts of COVID-19. We recognize that this situation is challenging for everyone. I want to thank you for your patience and compassion in these challenging circumstances.

We value the health and wellbeing of all our students and employees. I am confident we will come through this together as a community if we continue to follow the advice of health officials and support one another.

Please check your email and this webpage frequently for updates.

John Bowman,  
President North Island College

## March 13, 2020

As you know, COVID-19 is impacting communities around the world. We at NIC are working with our local, provincial and federal health colleagues to address the possible impacts of COVID-19 based on the best available public health expertise and recommendations. The College continues to work and make decision with the best information available. Updated information regarding these cases can be found at [bccdc.ca](http://bccdc.ca). At this point, the risk to British Columbians remains low, and there are no known cases of COVID-19 at NIC at this time.

The situation is rapidly evolving and, in response, NIC has convened a working group of senior leaders who meet daily to monitor the situation, develop plans and respond as needed. We are currently developing contingency plans which, in the event of campus closures or interruption of regular program delivery, will allow you to complete your programs. This may involve both creative and diverse solutions, and I ask for your patience as we explore and identify the best pathways forward.

Below is a list of answers to some frequently asked questions about how students can proceed as your studies continue.

The Provincial Health Officer (PHO) has stated that learning is important to society and that closing schools and post-secondary institutions is not appropriate or advised at this time and therefore NIC will remain open. NIC, or any other institution, would only close due to COVID-19 at the direction of the

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PHO. Therefore, students and employees should plan to attend classes and work and check [www.nic.bc.ca](http://www.nic.bc.ca) frequently for updates.

NIC senior leaders, Deans and faculty are working on various strategies to ensure students can complete their learning as best as possible under the evolving circumstances. Please be aware that service levels will likely be reduced in some areas at NIC due to the impacts of COVID-19. Please be patient, understanding and kind to one other during this evolving situation.

Provincial Health Officer, Dr. Bonnie Henry, is scheduled to provide updates daily at 3:30 pm and we will make updates to [www.nic.bc.ca](http://www.nic.bc.ca) as soon as possible after her briefing.

### March 5, 2020

NIC is monitoring information about COVID-19 (formerly known as the novel coronavirus) and following the lead of health officials to ensure plans are in place if a response is needed.

The [Canadian Public Health Agency has assessed the current risk](#) for Canada is low.

The latest [recommendations from the Provincial Health Officer](#) outline what students and employees can do to stay healthy during this time.

There are measures that all students, faculty, and staff can take to help reduce the risk of respiratory illnesses such as COVID-19, colds, and influenza:

- Wash your hands frequently for at least 20 seconds using soap and water.
- If a sink is not available, 60-90% alcohol-based hand rubs (hand sanitizer) can be used to clean hands if they are not visibly soiled. If they are visibly soiled, you can use an alcohol-based disposable hand wipe to remove the dirt and then use an alcohol-based hand rub.
- Do not touch your face/eyes/mouth with unwashed hands.
- When you sneeze or cough, cover your mouth and nose with a disposable tissue or the crease of your elbow, and then wash your hands.
- Stay home when you are ill.

If you plan on travelling internationally, please review the government of Canada's [Travel Advice and Advisories](#) which provide important advice to help you to make informed decisions.

Additional information on COVID-19 is available on the BC Centre for Disease Control website at: <http://www.bccdc.ca>

This page will be updated on an as needed basis. If you have any further questions, contact: [questions@nic.bc.ca](mailto:questions@nic.bc.ca)

### February 25, 2020

The following is sent on behalf of Colin Fowler, VP, Finance and Facilities:

Further to the update sent on January 31, I would like to share the following [update from the Office of the Provincial Health Officer to all Post-Secondary students, faculty and staff](#).

## January 31, 2020

As many of you are aware, there has been an outbreak of a novel coronavirus beginning in the city of Wuhan, Hubei Province, China. NIC is monitoring the ongoing coronavirus situation following the lead of health officials.

The [Canadian Public Health Agency has assessed the current risk](#) for Canadians as low.

### **To help reduce your risk of infection HealthLinkBC advises people should:**

Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water is not available, use an alcohol-based hand rub to clean your hands.

Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth with unwashed hands.

Cough or sneeze into your elbow or sleeve.

Dispose of tissues appropriately.

Avoid contact with sick people.

For further information on how to help prevent the spread of the Coronavirus, visit [HealthLinkBC](#) or [BC Centre for Disease Control](#).

### **If students, faculty or staff suspect they have the virus, what should they do?**

If you have flu-like symptoms and have not been exposed to an affected region, follow normal protocols by staying at home, resting and minimizing your social contact.

If you have flu-like **symptoms and have travelled internationally to an affected region**, follow normal protocols by staying home and contact your health care provider. Faculty and staff should visit their family doctor or health care clinic. Please call the health care provider in advance to notify them that you will be attending the office.

If you are concerned about the intensity or duration of your symptoms, please contact your doctor or call [8-1-1](#), a free-of-charge provincial health information and advice phone line.

### **If students, faculty or staff are scheduled to travel in the coming days. What should they do?**

If you plan on travelling internationally, please visit the following website to determine the risk level of travel in that region. <https://travel.gc.ca/destinations/china>

You can find more information on the novel coronavirus in Canada at [www.Canada.ca/coronavirus](http://www.Canada.ca/coronavirus).

### Additional resources

- [HealthLinkBC](#) - Coronavirus
- [BC Centre for Disease Control](#) - Coronavirus
- [World Health Organization](#) - Coronavirus
- [Government of Canada](#) - Coronavirus in China
- [International SOS](#) – Coronavirus and international travel

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