

**MEDIA RELEASE**

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# **Orientation Day kicks off college year on Sept. 5**

## *Comox Valley Campus*

NIC welcomes more than 2,000 students back to school as registrations continue pouring in ahead of the 2017/18 school year. For students, the start of the year is a chance to forge new connections and begin a new chapter in their lives.

First-time and returning students are invited to NIC's Comox Valley campus on Sept. 5 for Orientation Day. Classes begin the following day.

The new school year is an exciting time for the college. Domestic and international student enrolment remains strong as NIC and other post-secondary institutions prepare to deliver tuition-free Adult Basic Education courses. The Comox Valley campus is preparing to welcome students who will study in degree-focused programs in Fine Arts, Nursing and Business. The campus will also host hundreds of international students for the school year.

Returning student Sheldon Falk said Orientation Day workshops gave him the chance to meet instructors and get a breakdown on course material. Even better, they were a chance to form connections with other students that continued long past first year.

"You start to identify people who are in your classes, you start recognizing faces and meeting people who you can maybe build friendships with, whether you have the same classes or not," Falk said.

New student Madeleine Guimond is enrolled in the UVic Dual Admission Program and will complete her first two years of courses at NIC before transferring to UVic to finish her Bachelor of Science degree in biology.

"I am looking forward to making new friends with people who share my love for biology and outdoor research opportunities, and to improve my knowledge on the subjects I am passionate about, but also explore new things," said the scholarship-winning student.

Orientation Day runs from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. and includes workshops, program information sessions, tours and prizes and games, including a chance to win return airfare to Vancouver via Pacific Coastal Airlines.

NIC student recruitment officer Danielle Hoogland said the college wants to ensure a memorable, helpful experience for students.

"Our hope is that everyone feels welcome and a part of our NIC community," said Hoogland. "Students will meet faculty, staff, fellow students, and community members. They will also have an opportunity to get a part-time job as some local businesses and organizations will be hiring students for the fall, and they will have a chance to spin our prize wheel."

Although classes begin on Sept. 6, registration is available for prospective students until Sept. 14.

Anyone interested in applying for classes or programs at NIC can go to [www.nic.bc.ca](http://www.nic.bc.ca) or call 250-334-5000 to talk to an educational advisor.

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