

**MEDIA RELEASE**

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## **NIC welcomes new carpentry instructor**

*Matt Melgaard joins NIC's faculty to teach foundation program in Port Alberni*

NIC welcomes carpentry instructor Matt Melgaard this month, bringing his experience and a passion for lifelong learning to meet demand for carpentry training in Port Alberni.

"We heard from industry that there is a demand for skilled carpenters in the region," said Cheryl O'Connell, NIC's dean of trades and technical programs. "We are happy to be able to bring this program to Port Alberni." Through the 24-week Carpentry Foundation Harmonized certificate, students learn residential framing, footing and wall forming, site layout, work site safety and more.

"We're thrilled to welcome Matt to the team," said O'Connell. "We were able to find an instructor with a breadth of experience, both in the industry and in instruction. Matt will be a great resource for students as they begin their carpentry careers."

Melgaard has previously taught at Vancouver Island University and in the Trades Skill Awareness and Knowledge program with School District 63 and Camosun College.

"I like working with students just starting out on the path to become a journey person," said Melgaard. "I try to encourage my students to become lifelong learners. There's so much you can do in carpentry, whether you want to get into general contracting, furniture building or do specialized construction like green building, you can really make it your own."

Green building is something Melgaard studied after he got his ticket. "I started taking courses on insulated concrete forms, structurally insulated panels and then photovoltaics, solar hot water heaters – things like that," said Melgaard. "That's the great thing about this trade, there's always more to learn if you're interested in expanding your skills."

Melgaard is also looking forward to working in Port Alberni. "I really like the community here," he said. "I play rugby here all the time and I'm really excited about being able to teach in the community."

NIC's Port Alberni campuses offer a wide range of university transfer, business, health and human services and trades programs, including Automotive Service Technician, Welding, Joinery/Cabinetmaking and Professional Cook programs.

For more information visit [www.nic.bc.ca/trades](http://www.nic.bc.ca/trades) or call 1-800-715-0914.

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*NIC's new Carpentry Foundation Harmonized instructor Matt Melgaard is teaching in Port Alberni this term.*