

**NORTH ISLAND COLLEGE BOARD OF GOVERNORS
COLLEGE HIGHLIGHTS REPORT
NOVEMBER 2020**

TRADES AND TECHNICAL PROGRAMS

ALL THE LEAVES ARE BROWN...

It seems like September was just here a second ago! We were ushering our new Foundation and Apprenticeship students into their new programs. September kicked off a full cohort of Electrical Foundation and Carpentry Apprentice Level 3; close on their heels was Heavy Mechanical Level 4 and a combined Professional Cook Level 1 and Culinary Diploma.

It was full steam ahead in October with full Automotive cohorts in both Port Alberni and Campbell River, along with Heavy Mechanical Foundation, Welding Apprenticeship and Foundation, Electrical Apprenticeship Levels 2, 3 and 4, and another Heavy Mechanical Level 2. The Comox Valley campus also has a full agenda with Plumber Apprenticeship Level 2, Carpentry Apprenticeship Level 2 and another full Carpentry Apprenticeship Level 4.

Instructor Stephen McIntosh has a compliment of 16 students in the Furniture Design and Joinery Certificate program. As this is the launch of the newly designed program, feedback from these learners will be highly anticipated.

Three Electrical Apprenticeships will be coming to a close on December 18th along with a Heavy Mechanical Level 2 cohort in Campbell River, harmonized Plumbing Apprenticeship Level 2 and two harmonized Carpentry Apprenticeships at the Comox Valley campus. ITA has continued to waive the Standard Level exams for all Apprenticeship Levels for the time being with the exception of Level 4. Our Level 4 students from Electrical and Carpentry will be writing their Interprovincial Red Seal exams when their programs draw to a close on the 18th.

Chef Alan Irving turned up the heat in the Port Alberni campus as Professional Cook Level 2 (PC 2) hit the kitchen with an impressive 12 student cohort, with cohort size being restricted due to COVID-19. Chef and students are pleased to be in the kitchen while leading the inaugural delivery of PC 2 in Port Alberni. Chef Al had this to say:

For students wishing to continue their culinary careers, the opportunity to do a PC 2 in Port Alberni was met with excitement, enthusiasm and, above all, appreciation. Most have families here and/or are working full time while attending school would not have taken their Level 2 if they had to travel to attend another institution.

We are currently on the 9th week of a 14-week program and the students now have pastries, cakes and tortes behind them. The bistro will be opening on November 14th with a take-out menu and will also service a few dine-in tables so students will be able to really put their skills to the test.

With a cohort of 12 students, every student is a former graduate of a Professional Cook Level 1 class, taken here in Port Alberni with me. As an instructor, I have never had a program where I knew every single student personally. It makes the days flow smoothly and easily as all the students already know my expectations of them, and I also understand how they learn. I can easily adapt my teaching style to

individual students ensuring their success as they write their Certificate of Qualification exam on December 18th.

The kitchen at the Campbell River campus is a flurry of activity. The combined Professional Cook Level 1 and Culinary Business Diploma program students have the benefit of double the instructional expertise as Chef Sunshine Layton collaborates with Chef Xavier Bauby on course delivery. Sunshine welcomed students September 8th with a “blended” model of Blackboard Learn being used for homework and resource material while adhering to social distancing protocols for classroom instruction and lab components. Students have now donned their aprons, rolled up their sleeves and, from November 2 to December 4, have been putting their newly acquired skills and talent into an impressive breakfast and lunch menu. Care for Eggs Benedict or Huevos Rancheros? Perhaps a fresh Chickpea and Carrot Salad for lunch or a hearty West Coast Salmon Chowder? Maybe a Deluxe Burger or Grilled Chicken and Artichoke Heart sandwich? They’re baking too! Fresh scones, muffins, rolls and cookies. Who needs a scale? (It was probably already broken when you bought it anyway!)



Professional Cook Level 3 also started up November 2nd and will be running Monday and Tuesday afternoons and evenings until February 23rd. Level 3 is the culmination of everything students have learned through theory and practical application on their journey to the sought-after Red Seal certification. Chef Xavier Bauby is working diligently with his students as they refine their techniques and presentation skills in preparation for one of the toughest challenges of their careers.

EVENTS

As with every year when the fall term winds down, North Island College likes to recognize and thank employees that have hit milestones in their time here. While this year will be slightly different with no gathering of colleagues sharing anecdotes with old friends or meeting new faces, it will not stop Trades and Technical programs from celebrating our dedicated faculty and staff and showing our appreciation for their support and commitment to their colleagues, coworkers and our department. We would like to introduce you to:

<i>Heather Hopewell</i>	<i>Administrative Support Assistant, Faculty of Trades and Technical Programs</i>	<i>5yrs</i>
<i>Rob Laird</i>	<i>Carpentry Instructor</i>	<i>5yrs</i>
<i>Erik Hardin</i>	<i>Carpentry Instructor</i>	<i>10yrs</i>
<i>Chris Posner</i>	<i>Automotive Instructor</i>	<i>20yrs</i>
<i>Christopher Udy</i>	<i>Director, Faculty of Trades and Technical Programs</i>	<i>20yrs</i>
<i>Tracy Parker</i>	<i>Administrative Assistant to the Dean, Faculty of Trades and Technical Programs</i>	<i>25yrs</i>

Sadly, we said goodbye and best wishes to:

<i>Terry Waters</i>	<i>Welding Instructor</i>	<i>Retired</i>
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WHO'S READY FOR A BRAND NEW YEAR?!?

That’s a wrap 2020! Here comes Winter 2021 and you might want to hold on! Trades and Technical is gearing up for a term that is packed full of Foundation, Apprenticeship and Sampler programs. We’ll be ringing in the start of the New Year with two full cohorts of Carpentry Apprenticeship levels 1 and 2, one full cohort of Electrical Apprenticeship level 2 and two full cohorts of Electrical Apprenticeship

(harmonized) level 4, there is also a non-harmonized Electrical Apprenticeship level 4 that has only three seats available in addition to a *full* cohort of Plumbing Apprenticeship level 3 and a cohort of Heavy Mechanical level 1. We'll wave goodbye to January with the four-month Trade Sampler program and because of overwhelming interest and the outstanding success of previous deliveries of Women in Trades, we are pleased to be offering 3 cohorts, one in Campbell River, one in the Comox Valley and one in Port Alberni.

February has no intention of letting us slow down. We have two cohorts of Carpentry Foundation (Campbell River and Comox Valley campuses) on the books. The Coastal Forest Worker Certificate and Technology programs are ramping up and there will be another Women in Trades program at the Mixelakwila campus in Port Hardy. That's not all...we have two cohorts of Electrical Foundation (Campbell River and Port Alberni campuses) slated for a February 1st start along with the much anticipated Metal Fabricator program that will run through until August. Welding Foundation is also filling up and the Plumbing Foundation cohort at the Comox Valley campus is already full – with a waitlist as are the majority of 2021 winter Trades programs.

March is coming in like a lion with two full cohorts of Carpentry Apprenticeship Level 3, three full cohorts of Electrical Apprenticeship Level 3, and Electrical Apprenticeship Level 1 has a few seats. Sorry, but Plumbing Apprenticeship Level 4 and Heavy Mechanical Level 3 are at capacity - but the waitlist has room!

MEET OUR NEW TEAM MEMBER

The latest addition to the Trades and Technical programs team comes as our newest Heavy Mechanical instructor. Matthew Wheatley brings a wealth of experience to the Campbell River campus after teaching at Vancouver Community College (VCC) for the past nine years. While Matt enjoyed his experience at VCC and it was difficult to leave his colleagues, he just could not pass up the opportunity to return to his roots. Being an avid outdoorsman who enjoys camping, hiking and fishing, what could be better than returning to the Island you call home. Matt is poised and ready to meet the challenges of his new position amidst our new “norm” and looks forward to sharing his approach to teaching and learning with his students.



WE'RE ON A ROLL!

A fundamental element to advancing programming for Trades and Technical is closely monitoring labour market trends, opportunities and demands then tailoring programs in response to those demands by providing flexible learning formats with greater ease of access. With that in mind, Trades and Technical have now added two additional foundation programs to our portfolio.

Parts and Warehousing Person Foundation will introduce students to tools and equipment commonly used across trades such as Automotive, Heavy Duty, Commercial Transportation and other Resource Trades. This 5-month online learning program will provide students with the foundational skills involved in operational procedures for inventory control, ordering, warehousing, communications and safety.

Motor Sport and Power Equipment Technician Foundation is also a 5-month program developed through consultations with Industry which identified the need for qualified individuals to service and repair small to medium motors, including personal watercraft, power equipment and motor sport and leisure vehicles. Rural and remote communities specifically expressed a need for trained technicians in this trade. For learners on the pathway to their Interprovincial Red Seal, students will receive Level 1 technical training credit upon completion of the foundation program.

STUDENT SERVICES AND REGISTRAR

Student Affairs

Submitted by Felicity Blaiklock

A Sexualized Violence Education Team (SVET) has been formed and consists of representatives from the Counselling and Advising departments, Office of Global Engagement, along with representatives from the North Island Students Union (NISU) and the College's Human Resources. The team continues to meet regularly to discuss ways to provide education to the campus community on our revised Sexualized Violence Prevention and Response policy, in addition to efforts to educate the community on consent, healthy relationships and sexualized violence, including the supports available for all those impacted by sexualized violence. The committee has completed the following tasks to date:

- Final edits are being made to the updated webpage content, which we hope to launch in 2021;
- Several members of the SVET team are attending a virtual five half-day session on sexual violence and misconduct investigation in the post-secondary workplace.

Student Life @ Home activities are ongoing and have included:

- Monthly virtual hangout sessions led by our student Campus Life Assistants;
- The first of our Brave Space sessions was held exploring the topic of systemic racism, with over 60 students and NIC employees in attendance. Our next Brave Spaces session on gender-based violence will be held November 25;
- Student Life's keynote event of the term, Mental Health Week, was held the week of October 5 with a number of events for the NIC community, including the signing of the Okanagan Charter, a counsellor-led session on how to thrive, a keynote address, and a session to provide more information on what the Okanagan Charter is and what it means for NIC students;
- Launch of our virtual Student Leadership Team with a variety of sessions to allow students to build on their leadership skills;
- NIC Student Life Facebook group with ongoing posts to engage and inform students - membership of this group has grown substantially since its creation;
- Weekly newsletters;
- Continued outreach to students referred to Early Assist, or identified through other channels as possibly struggling.

The Widening Our Doorways Plan Student Services Addendum has been in development to provide faculty with a 'menu' of available resources and practical suggestions for how supports and services can be integrated into pedagogical practices.

Winter Orientation planning is now underway to assist new students starting in the winter with their transition to NIC, as well as to support all current students in their continued adjustment to digital learning. Various live and asynchronous sessions will be offered the first week of January, including:

- Navigating Blackboard
- Learning Digitally
- Tips for a Successful Term
- Start of term celebration
- Academic Integrity
- Student Rights and Responsibilities
- COVID-19
- Scheduling and Registration