



Significant changes in recent years

The College has undergone several significant changes over the last few years, including:

Move to a new and updated campus location

New name for the campus

New Regional Manager



New Location

In January 2018, NIC opened a new \$1.4 million campus at the Thunderbird Mall

“Throughout my time at NIC, I’ve heard from many community members how important advanced education and training is to the local community,” said NIC President John Bowman. “It is critical to the health, social well-being and economic development of the North Island.”

The College offers an opportunity to build on the existing programming and includes four upgraded classrooms and an Interactive TV room (ITV) that brings students, instructors and courses at other NIC campuses into the facility in real time with more clarity than ever before.



New Campus Name - Mixalakwila

NIC was gifted a Kwak'wala name for its most northern Campus

NIC and campus administrators joined local Elders and community members to celebrate the naming of NIC's Mixalakwila campus in Port Hardy

Mixalawila – meaning “maker of what’s been dreamt about”

The College extends our thanks to the Elders from several communities, Chief George Hunt, Sara Child, Caitlin Hartnett and many others who gathered to select the name.

The Elders chose Mixalawila because they believe the College is a place where your dreams for the future can come true.

New Campus Regional Manager

NIC has welcomed Donna Merry to the role of regional manager for the Mixalakwa campus.

Donna has extensive experience in post-secondary education including a background in adult learning theory, curriculum development and community-specific training. She also has experience working with First Nations, industry and community partners.



Recent Successes

Carpentry Pathways Program

Last year, students in the carpentry pathways program learned new skills and constructed the new Wagalus boardwalk at Fort Rupert.

Health Care Assistant

One cohort of Health Care Assistant students finished the program in September with instructor Nicole Corbett.

The students were very successful in the program, and many have found full-time work in the field through their program and practicum experience.





Health Care Assistants work as frontline care providers in a variety of settings, including adult day programs, group homes, community care, residential care facilities or acute care hospitals.

HCA students can ladder their education towards Practical Nursing and Registered Nursing.

Another cohort will commence in January, for which we are currently accepting applications.

NIC received special funding to offer these cohorts through the provincial government to address the shortage of trained workers for this occupation.

Current programs

Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE)

Two levels of the ECCE program are in progress: Certificate and Diploma.

These are offered part-time through face to face instruction, including Skype supported instruction to the Cormorant Learning Center at Alert Bay.

The classes are offered in the evening, as most of these students work full-time in the childcare field.





Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE)

Recently a large group of non-program students started the ECC 114 course. This is a course that is required to work in a daycare.

There is an urgent need for qualified daycare providers in the region, and it is increasing as Gwa'sala-'Nakwaxda'xw Nations prepare to build a new daycare in the community.



Kwak'wala language classes

Several students are actively engaged in a dynamic program with instructor Jessica Wamiss, learning basic conversation, structure and pronunciation.

Adult Basic Education

Thirty-one students currently attend ABE classes, from across the Mount Waddington region.

They take morning, afternoon or evening classes in one to one or small group instruction with Jo Medley.

Students can enroll any time.





Tourism and Hospitality Management Certificate

A group of students are in the final year of the part-time Tourism and Hospitality Management Certificate.

Students in the program gain business and industry-specific skills to launch careers in the tourism and hospitality industry.



Tourism and Hospitality Management Certificate

Students can go on to complete the

- Advanced Certificate in Global Tourism
- Diplomas in Sustainable Tourism, Hospitality, or Adventure Guiding
- Advanced Diploma in Global Tourism

Diploma students can transfer directly to Royal Roads University into the third year of several Bachelor degrees.

Office Administration - Online

NIC offers a range of office administration programs at certificate and diploma levels. Students can begin anytime.

Instructor Donna Ley is located full-time at Mixalakwila Campus, and works online to support the students.





Awi'nakola

In January, a new cohort group will begin the Awi'nakola Land-based learning pathway.

Awi'nakola means “we are one with the land and sea.”

The part-time pathway combines Kwak'wala language classes with adult upgrading English classes matched to the student's level, and land-based learning experiences.

Future Initiatives

Indigenous Language Fluency Certificate

Sara Child is developing an Indigenous Language Fluency Certificate, a first of its kind in the BC post-secondary system.





Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFP)

NIC is redeveloping the NTFP program curriculum to include local Indigenous perspectives with the help of contracted writer Tom Child. The new curriculum will be piloted in the Mt. Waddington region.





Community Outreach

NIC is a member of

- Vancouver Island North Training and Attraction Society
- Port Hardy and Port McNeill Chambers of Commerce
- Mount Waddington Health Network
- Mount Waddington Literacy Society
- First Nations Education Steering Committee

Community Outreach

NIC hosts the

- Mount Waddington Learning Council and
- Northern Regional Aboriginal Education Advisory Committee

NIC also stewards funds for Mount Waddington Community Food Initiative and Neighbourhood Small Grants, programs sponsored by Island Health and the Victoria Foundation respectively.



Closing Thoughts and Questions?

Thank you, Gilakas'la.

