



## President's Newsletter

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MAY 26, 2016

### PAY PARKING

Dear Colleagues,

On January 22, 2015, the College communicated the decision to implement pay parking at the Comox Valley Campus in 2016/17.

At the Board of Governors meeting on March 31, 2016, the Board reviewed the NIC Pay Parking Principles – Comox Valley Campus (attached) and approved a motion to proceed with implementation of pay parking. I encourage you to read the Principles because they provide the framework for decisions on pay parking implementation.

Pay parking is being introduced at the Comox Valley campus for a number of reasons. The most commonly referenced reason is that the new Comox Valley Hospital, opening next year, will have pay parking. Adjacent properties without pay parking or other forms of parking restrictions will experience significant pressure on their parking areas as people will gravitate to any lower-cost or no-cost parking within a reasonable walking distance of the hospital. It has been suggested that NIC could continue to have free parking by issuing parking permits to users. That solution would result in significant new costs for issuing passes and monitoring parking lots to make sure no unauthorized parking was taking place. That would create budget pressures which would result in cost reductions in other areas of the College.

However, the new hospital is not the only reason for implementing pay parking. Government funding is not provided for maintenance of parking facilities which is one reason most post-secondary institutions have pay parking at some or all of their campuses. For many years we have deferred implementing paid parking by allocating base budget to maintain the parking lots. This has been both inadequate to

properly maintain the lots and increasingly difficult to fund as the College does not receive inflation funding and has had significant reductions to our base operating grant over the past few years. We are at a point where to continue to fund parking operations from the base budget will result in cost reductions in other areas. Parking revenue will provide funding to properly maintain the parking lots and to add infrastructure like bicycle racks and lock-up areas to encourage cycling.

Implementation of pay parking is also related to the College's commitment to sustainability in *Plan 2020*. It is anticipated that applying fees to parking will encourage people to consider alternate methods of transportation which will reduce the College's carbon footprint. Reducing the number of vehicles on campus each day also eases pressure to create more parking which protects the campus' greenspace.

#### The Pay Parking Implementation Plan

The plan has been in development for more than a year. Early in the process, a consultant who specializes in pay parking operations was engaged to advise us on best practices and pitfalls to avoid. Some decisions/strategies have been settled while others will be made over the next two months. The following information will answer some of your questions:

- As part of the planning, a working group was established to give students, faculty, staff and administration input into the planning. The working group recommended a set of high-level Parking Principles to the College leadership. Some changes were made to the final Principles before they were recommended to the Board for approval at the March 31st Board meeting. The Principles will be a guide for pay parking implementation and operating decisions.
- **Pay parking will be effective August 1, 2016.** Earlier this month, the Senior Leadership Team approved the schedule of parking rates (attached). The Principles were used to guide the setting of parking rates including aligning short-term rates with the hospital rates to protect College parking for students, employees and visitors; providing a range of longer-term parking rates to enable users to select one that best matches their usage; and rates that provide increased savings the longer the commitment.
- With all users paying for parking, designated staff and student parking lots will be eliminated. This will help to ease parking pressures by not having some designated parking areas with empty spaces while other are completely full. The only designated parking will be for disabled parking and motorcycles.
- The parking lots will be managed by a firm that specializes in parking operations management. The process of selecting a service provider is underway.
- The Principles establish the priorities for the use of parking revenue. The 2016/17 budget includes parking revenue of \$175,000 and an equal amount of parking expenses related to parking implementation and operating costs including an increase in the budget for parking lot maintenance.
- Everyone who parks a vehicle or motorcycle on campus will have to pay for parking including students and employees from other campuses. While long-term passes may not be economical for these people, the Flex Pass will provide parking at less than half the daily rate.
- Once a service provider has been selected, there will be more information available about payment methods. There will be at least three ways to pay for parking. Parking machines will be installed near the entrance to each building. Employees who want to purchase semester or annual parking passes, will be able to pay for them by payroll deduction.

We expect to learn a lot through the implementation processes and will make adjustments to operations to improve service in response to experience and feedback from users. To keep everyone informed, Facilities will have a location on the portal or website that will be used to post information and updates related to this project. A set of frequently asked questions (FAQs) and responses will be developed and will be posted to that site. Look for the portal site later in mid-June.

Sincerely,



**John Bowman**

President

john.bowman@nic.bc.ca

## **NIC Pay Parking Principles – Comox Valley Campus**

**The following principles will be considered when making decisions regarding operational procedures for paid parking at North Island College.**

1. Parking rates will be equitable for all College users. There will be reduced rates available for longer-term parking, pro-rated to reflect use. The same rates will be available for students, employees and visitors to the College.
2. To protect parking for College users, short-term parking rates (hourly, daily) should be comparable to the Hospital short-term parking rates.
3. Parking revenue will be used to fund parking operations including costs associated with maintaining the College parking lots and roadway infrastructure. A portion of remaining revenue will be allocated first to projects related to alternate transportation initiatives such as cycling and long-term sustainable parking solutions and then to support other College priorities.
4. The NIC parking strategy will be built around a philosophy of open and unrestricted traffic flow. Parking access will operate without barrier gates or other forms of restrictive measures. All parking at NIC is on a first-come basis in designated parking lots.
5. NIC's parking strategy should be a catalyst to encourage various green and environmentally friendly forms of commuting, such as carpooling, public transit, cycling, and walking. Driving is only one way to commute to the campus.
6. NIC's parking operations will focus on customer service and fairness in parking practices by providing options, technologies and information. Multiple payment options, improved signage, and fair practices to make parking more accessible and easier to find will decrease enforcement requirements and support College activities.

## NIC Parking Rates – Comox Valley Campus

Period	Description	Cost (including GST)
<b>Occasional/Short-term</b>		
Hourly ^	15 minutes (1 hour max)	\$ 0.25
	First 2 hours	\$ 2.25
	Additional hours after the first 2	\$ 1.25
Week days / Daily ^	Full day rate from 8am until 10pm	\$ 6.50
Evenings ^	Evening from 5pm until 10pm	\$ 3.00
Saturday, Sunday and holidays ^	Full day rate from 8am until 10pm	\$ 3.00
<b>Regular/Long-term</b>		
Weekly ^	Weekly rate: a full 7 consecutive days	\$ 15.00
Flex Pass (20 day pass) ^	Flex Pass/Electronic Wallet	\$ 60.00
Semester **	One continuous 4-month period	\$ 160.00
Annual *	One continuous 12-month period	\$ 450.00

- Parking - Paid parking in effect Monday through Sunday from 7am - 10pm
- ^ Special rates for motorcycle parking: 50% off the posted rate for motorcycles parked in designated motorcycle spaces only.
- Long-term rates have been established to provide students, employees and visitors to the College access to reduced parking rates. Proof of student, employee or visitor status will be required to purchase multi-day parking passes.
- Flex pass provides 20 days of parking - up to one full day (7am - 10pm). Days can be used anytime. Depending on demand, consideration will be given to issuing Flex passes for other amounts.
- \* Payroll deductions available for employees - semester and annual passes only.
- Annual rates have been set taking into account annual leave.
- Up to two license plates can be registered on any one parking pass but only one vehicle can park on a parking pass at a time.