



President's Newsletter

JUNE 01, 2017

2016/2017 COMOX VALLEY CAMPUS PAY PARKING

Dear Colleagues,

I would like to thank everyone who contributed to the discussion about pay parking in the last year. It is clear that this is an issue that touches on some of our college values. Although the conversations have been difficult at times, they provided and continue to provide, important feedback. Since pay parking came into effect at the Comox Valley Campus in September 2016, I have continued to hear how parking rates and operations affect students, employees, and the communities of which we are a part. Your ideas, as well as information from our first year of operation, helped to shape the decisions contained in this report. They will also ensure that we continue to improve our services and the processes that support them.

In November, I circulated an *interim report* on pay parking to the college community that set out an action plan that we developed in response to feedback and concerns. At that time, I committed to annually providing a report that details utilization and revenues and expenses as well as taking into account lessons learned from the first year of operations.

While I recognize that there continues to be overall concern about pay parking at NIC and that discussions about pay parking in the Comox Valley are ongoing in the community, this April, the College's Board of Governors confirmed its *position* on pay parking as did *Island Health*.

However, in addition to the actions announced in November's interim report, this year one report contains some measures that will be implemented in response to specific feedback that I have received as well as to information obtained over a full academic year.

NIC's Pay Parking Principles, which were established at the outset of this project, continue to guide decision-making.

Based on your feedback and the data in this report, as of August 1, 2017, the following will be in effect:

1. The employee rate for annual parking will drop to \$300 from \$450, a reduction of \$150;
2. The rate for a semester pass will drop to \$100 from \$150, a \$50 per semester reduction;
3. The E-Wallet discount will increase to 66% percent of the posted rates from 50%. This change provides better value for the College's part-time employees and students.
4. Previously designated parking for employees will be reinstated. A few spots for commuting instructors will be reserved. Usage and allocation of spaces will be monitored to ensure that there is sufficient parking for students.

We expected to learn a great deal in our first year of operations and we did. Parking revenues in the 2016/17 fiscal year were \$221,673 while expenses were \$317,669. (Parking revenues and expenses are detailed in the attached report.) However, these expenses included \$195,077 in start-up and one-time costs that we do not anticipate needing at the same level in subsequent years. For that reason and to encourage people to stay on campus, the rates are being reduced.

I also heard about the importance of staff parking to our college life. Parking lot conversations help us connect as a community. As a result, I am reinstating previously designated staff parking. We have increased the total number of parking spots which we believe will alleviate concerns about students being unable to find parking. However, we will continue to monitor this to ensure that there is enough parking for students.

In accordance with our parking principles, revenues from parking at the Comox Valley will primarily be used to fund parking operations including costs associated with maintaining parking lots and roadway infrastructure. In keeping with our stated commitment to support alternate transportation methods and other sustainability initiatives, in the future, NIC will allocate a portion of parking revenue to support these activities. A forum that enables employees to provide input on these services will also be established.

I am looking forward to seeing all of you in September. Enjoy your summer.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "John Bowman".

John Bowman

President

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2016/2017 COMOX VALLEY CAMPUS PAY PARKING REPORT

PARKING SERVICES

NIC maintains 520 parking spots at its Comox Valley campus. Parking use in the first year indicates that this provides an adequate supply of spots.

PARKING RATES

Parking Pass	Price as of 1 Sep 16	Price as of 1 Aug 17	Reduction
Annual	\$450	\$300	\$150
Semester	\$150	\$100	\$50
E-Wallet	50% discount on rates	66% discount on rates	
2 Hours	\$2	\$2	
3 Hours	\$3	\$3	
4 Hours	\$4	\$4	
5 Hours	\$5	\$5	
Full Day	\$6	\$6	
Week	\$15	\$15	
Evening	\$3	\$3	

UTILIZATION OF PAY PARKING SERVICES

From September, 2016 to March, 2017, parking services were used in the following way:

Parking Service	Revenue
Annual Parking Pass	\$23,355
Semester Parking	\$75,233
Kiosks/Meters/E-Wallet	\$117,075
Miscellaneous*	\$6,010
TOTAL	\$221,673

*Miscellaneous includes 3rd party billings: e.g., space rentals

Parking services procured by students, faculty and community members through kiosks, meters and the E-Wallet are as follows:

Type of Parking	Per Unit	No. of Transactions
2 Hours	\$2	9,136
3 Hours	\$3	3,886
4 Hours	\$4	2,295
5 Hours	\$5	1,106
Full Day	\$6	2,731
Week	\$15	374
30 Day	\$60	64
Evening	\$3	4,563
E-Wallet		9,267

2016/17 Financial Results (Cash Flow Statement from September 1, 2016 to March 31, 2017)

Revenue	\$221,673	
Total Expenses (Operating + Start-Up)	\$317,669	
Operating Expenses		
Robbins Parking Fees	\$44,316	Administration and parking enforcement
Parking Lot Maintenance	\$18,321	Grading of Comox Valley parking lots, servicing etc.
Snow Removal	\$52,380	Comox Valley Campus only
Bike Shelter - Non Capital	\$7,575	Bike racks and other equipment - operating costs
Operating Costs Sub-Total	\$122,593	
Start-up and One-time Costs		
Signage, Lighting, Other	\$4,226	Signage related to parking, lighting, etc.
Lot A Expansion	\$44,539	Create more parking, replace pool parking
Pay Parking Kiosks	\$49,220	Amortized over 5 years, expensed in future periods
Bike Shelters	\$97,092	Amortized over 5 years, expensed in future periods
Start-Up Costs Sub-Total	\$195,077	

ACTIONS AND INITIATIVES**A. Parking Rates**

On December 15, 2016, NIC lowered its semester parking pass to \$150 from \$160 to match VIU's economy lot pricing. This was first reported in the November Interim Report, which also stated NIC would review its annual rate at fiscal year end.

Now that the year is complete, and financial results are available, the long-term parking rates will be adjusted as follows:

1. The rate for annual parking will drop to \$300 from \$450, a reduction of \$150;
2. The rate for a semester pass will drop to \$100 from \$150, a \$50 per semester reduction;
3. The E-Wallet discount will increase to 66% percent of the posted rates from 50%.

B. Annual Pass Re-Enrolment Rules for Employees

The re-enrolment timeline was shortened to five weeks, effective May 1, 2017. Rate changes effective August 1, 2017 will further simplify the re-enrollment process.

C. Designated Staff Parking

Designated staff parking was removed when pay parking began to ease parking pressures. Now that additional parking spots have been added near the Village and in Lot A, designated staff parking will be reinstated for August 1, 2017. Within this allocation, a few spots for commuting instructors will be reserved. Usage and allocation of spaces will be monitored to ensure that there is enough parking for students.

Parking Stalls

The net number of parking spots at the Comox Valley campus increased by 27.

D. Bike Shelters

Bike shelters to accommodate 60 bikes will be available for the Fall 2017 semester. The large bike shelter (40 bikes) will include lockers and secure key access while two smaller, covered bike racks are located closer to buildings.

E. BC Transit System

NIC continues to advocate with BC Transit for a new bus exchange and improved service to better support NIC and the Comox Valley Hospital. After the hospital opens this Fall, we will continue discussions with BC Transit and Island Health to determine the need for and location of a new transit infrastructure.

F. Ryan Road Crossing at Campus Main Entrance

NIC continues to advocate the Ministry of Transportation for a controlled crosswalk at the Ryan Road Crossing. The Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure has surveyed pedestrians at Ryan Road and has committed to sharing its results and recommendations when they are available.

G. Invited Guests

Green Courtesy Guest Passes (no charge) have been provided to Vice Presidents, Divisional Deans and Directors to be distributed to guests in line with established procedures. Guest Passes (Special Day Passes) for events can be purchased in advance and emailed to attendees.

H. Carpooling and Ridesharing

Carpool spots are available near the Village to encourage carpooling. NIC will work to further encourage carpooling and ridesharing.