

President's Newsletter

AUGUST 27, 2019

Dear Colleagues,

Welcome back! I hope you enjoyed the summer and made the most of some well-deserved vacation time. As the fall 2019 semester is about to begin, it is timely to provide an update on important recent developments and activities at the College. The 2019/20 academic year promises to be another busy and positive year for NIC.

New Campus in Campbell River

Campbell River faculty, staff and students are returning to a newly renovated and expanded campus this September.

Starting this week, the campus will host a School of Trades and Technical gathering (Aug. 28), a Welcome Back for Campbell River employees (Aug. 29) as well as the International Student Welcome (Aug. 29-30) before Student Orientation Day (Sept. 3).

Students and employees will be on hand to orient employees and students to the new layout, as well as to help find classrooms and meeting areas. A map of the new campus, with suggested parking areas, is attached.

The multi-million dollar campus upgrade includes the café and bistro, which are open to the community and accessible to all Timberline Secondary School employees and students.

The campus now includes new Heavy Mechanical trades and Aircraft Structures shops, which replaces the shops at Vigar Vocational Centre. It also includes an Aquaculture training lab, a new teaching kitchen for Professional Cook and Culinary Business students, and a simlab for Licensed Practical Nursing students in Campbell River. The campus boasts more classrooms for business and university transfer students, Early Childhood Care and Education students and space for NIC's new Computer Information Systems certificate, scheduled to go to Education Council this September.

The campus proudly features its first Student Commons, a central hub for student activities and engagement. The Commons includes nearby Student Services offices, a student lounge and a modern Library and Learning Commons with informal study rooms for group learning. The bookstore will be relocated closer to the Student Commons later this fall.

While the main construction is complete, several areas are still undergoing renovations. We appreciate everyone's continued patience. My thanks to employees who worked throughout the summer to support the move from the Vigar Vocational Centre and prepare for fall programming.

We will be welcoming students to tour campus at Orientation on Sept. 3, as well as at NIC Information Night on Nov. 7, 2019. Watch for an official grand opening celebration in the new year, pending provincial and federal government schedules.

NIC at St. Joseph's General Hospital

Starting this week, one of seven additional NIC Health Care Assistant certificate programs for 2019/20 will begin at the former St. Joseph's General Hospital (St. Joe's).

NIC is leasing the former Surgical Day Care space on the first floor of the building for four academic years, to make room for more in-demand Health Care Assistant as well as Early Childhood Care and Education cohorts. Feasibility studies are underway for other programs to take place at St. Joe's.

The new space helps alleviate an ongoing classroom shortage at the Comox Valley campus and provides opportunities for more students to prepare for careers in the community.

We are grateful to the Views at St. Joe's and the Providence Residential and Community Care Services Society for supporting NIC students, as well as the Ministry of Advanced Education, Skills and Training for program funding and site renovations.

Watch for an invite to attend a community Open House on Friday, Sept. 20, when we welcome employees and the public back into St. Joe's.

Improved Student Services Space at the Comox Valley Campus

Comox Valley students will now be able to access all their student services needs from one location in Discovery Hall. Starting this August, the campus' entire Student Services team are located in one area.

The renovation adds 1,800 square feet of offices, registration and advising facilities, specifically designed to improve the student experience. It features a newly accessible outside door to welcome students and facilitate traffic flow between Discovery, Tyee and Puntledge Halls, a separate waiting area and exit for students with counseling appointments and height adjustable computers for students in wheelchairs.

The space will be home to the Associate Vice President, Student Services and Registrar, Assistant Registrar and Student Services team. We expect it will improve accessibility, communication and supports while freeing up office space across the campus.

Watch for more details of an Open House, planned for Monday, Sept. 16.

2019/20 One-time/Special Program Funding

The College is excited to have received more than \$2.4 million in one-time special program funding from the Ministry of Advanced Education, Skills and Training and other funding partners this spring.

We are grateful for their support of students in Pre-Health and Health Care Assistant Training, Early Childhood Care and Education, Prep Cook, as well as Carpentry and Forestry programs across the region. The funding also creates capacity for NIC to establish a Mental Health Peer Support program, pilot work-based skills training resources for employers and apprentices, as well as grow our adult special education resources and work placement program this year.

Continuing Education and Training also received \$167,000 to support Cruise Line Training and Market Gardener Training in Port Alberni.

The funding provides NIC the flexibility to deliver in-demand programs that respond to community needs.

2018/19 Student Enrolment

At the June 13 Board of Governors meeting, the Board approved the 2018/19 Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) Student Enrolment Report for submission to the Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Training.

For the 2018/19 year, NIC enrolled 2,234 domestic student FTEs and 506 international student FTEs, for a total of 2,740 FTEs. This represents an eight per cent increase (190 FTEs) from the previous year with gains in both domestic (up two per cent or 47 FTEs) and international student FTEs (up 39 per cent or 142 FTEs).

Overall, Comox Valley and Campbell River campuses experienced slight increases in total domestic FTE students in 2018/19 compared to previous year, while enrolments at the Port Alberni and Mixala'kwila (Port Hardy) campuses in 2018/19 were largely unchanged. In-community domestic FTE student enrolments increased sharply (49 per cent), while those delivered by Distributed Learning decreased (14 per cent).

Compared to the previous year, most program areas experienced small increases in domestic FTEs, remained the same, or experienced small decreases. One-time funded and contract training FTEs represented 203 FTEs (9%) in 2018/19. Cost-

recovery tuition-based programs and Continuing Education and Training courses totaled 255 FTE students.

More information on NIC's FTE Student Enrolment Reports can be found on [myNIC](#).

Plan20-25

Work on the College's new strategic planning process will kick back into high gear with the start of the fall semester. The College Plan20-25 Committee will meet Aug. 27 to review and provide input regarding the planning process activities that will be undertaken over the next eight months. The four subcommittees will also meet to continue their work in September. The [Plan20-25 Process Update \(August 19\)](#) is online. A Strategic Planning Survey is the next important opportunity for employees, students and community members to contribute to the development of Plan20-25. Watch your email for an invitation to complete the survey (coming soon!).

College Board of Governors

On June 14, the Board of Governors held a joint meeting with Education Council members and the Aboriginal Education Council to learn about the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) Calls to Action related to post-secondary education, as well as the College's Aboriginal Education programs and supports to students and communities. The meeting was a positive learning experience for all and underscored our shared commitments to work in partnership to support student and community success.

The province also appointed three new community representatives to the Board of Governors in July. Andrew (Arlo) McCubbin (Comox Valley), Valery Puetz (Campbell River) and Patricia Trasolini (Campbell River) each bring valuable experience and skills to the Board. Their first Board meeting will be Sept. 26, 2019. Elections for student representatives will be held in October. For more information on the Board, including new member biographies, visit the [Board Members web page](#).

International Enrolment & Student Life

The addition of international students and programming in Campbell River in 2018/19 was such a success, the campus will welcome another 20 students from Kenya, Japan, India and Vietnam this fall. Total international enrolment in Campbell River, including new students, will be about 100 students. We are grateful for the continued community support.

At the Comox Valley campus, we look forward to welcoming students from several countries including Belgium, Brazil, Burundi, Chile, China, Denmark, Japan, India, United States and Vietnam this fall. The projected new international student enrolment for the Comox Valley is expected to be 70 to 80 students. Although that number may seem small for a fall intake, overall student numbers and registrations are still higher than fall 2018.

In January 2020, Port Alberni will welcome about 20 international students from India. This group of Early Childhood Care and Education diploma students will be NIC's first international Health and Human Services cohort and we look forward to their arrival.

The Office of Global Engagement (OGE) is finding new ways to improve student life on campus. In addition to hiring a Global Engagement Liaison in Campbell River, OGE partnered with Student Services to merge the Student and Intercultural Ambassador programs into the Campus Life & Engagement Student Assistant Program. New staff will work closely with the Manager, Student Life to engage students across NIC campuses this year.

Student Housing at Comox Valley Campus

In July, NIC completed the Request for Proposals (RFP) process to select an architectural firm to undertake the preliminary design of the new student housing on the Comox Valley campus. [Dialog Design](#), a major national group, with offices in Vancouver, across Canada and the U.S., was the successful proponent. Dialog Design has an abundance of student housing and post-secondary campus building

design experience, including projects for SFU and UBC.

The RFP calls for a total of 168 beds for single student and family housing to be built on campus, between the Aquatic Centre and existing parking lots. Our timeline for the new housing to be open and in use by students is September 2022.

The Dialog Design team will be working with the Student Housing Planning and Advisory Committee and Subcommittees over the next four months to design plans for the student housing project.

The next steps in the development of the final business case for submission to the provincial government are:

- September: Site Planning & Design Options Study
- September - November: Schematic Indicative Design to create preliminary plans and drawings
- November: Cost Estimation and Approval of Indicative Design
- December: Submission to Provincial Government for approval

For more background information on the Student Housing project please read the [Status Report](#) provided to the Board of Governors on June 13 and the [Student Housing Design Brief](#) (May 2019).

Institutional Accountability Plan and Report (IAPR)

In June, the Board of Governors approved the 2018/19 IAPR for submission to the Ministry of Advanced Education, Skills and Training. The report details the College's progress in relation to the provincial government's mandate priorities and our Plan2020 goals. Once approved for publication by the Ministry, the report will be posted on the [Reporting page](#) of the NIC website. The [North Island College 2018 Fast Facts](#) is an updated infographic included in the IAPR.

Campus Town Halls

Please join us at NIC's first Campus Town Hall meetings this fall. They will be held from 12 to 1 pm, on:

- Monday, Sept. 30
Port Alberni Campus, CEN 205
- Tuesday, Oct. 1
Comox Valley, Stan Hagen Theatre, and
- Thursday, Oct. 3
Campbell River, CWG 270

I look forward to discussing the topics highlighted above at these meetings, as well as any others that are of interest.

As always, I welcome your questions and feedback on any topics related to NIC's plans and activities. Please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Once again, welcome back and thank you for all you do to help make NIC such a great place to learn and work.

Sincerely,



John

Resources and Links:

- [Campbell River Classroom Map](#)
- [Aboriginal Education Newsletter](#)
- [North Island College 2018 Fast Facts](#)
- [Upcoming Events September/October 2019](#)