



President's Newsletter

JANUARY 21, 2020

Dear Colleagues,

The coming year is going to be an exciting and positive one for NIC, thanks to the many College people who have been working hard to improve programming, student supports and facilities.

In recent months, several departments have been working with regional post-secondary partners, local First Nations and national education organizations. We can expect to see announcements on work-integrated learning, study abroad and Indigenous learning spaces in the coming weeks and months.

In addition, our annual budget planning is in process, Strategic Plan20-25 priorities and goals are coming together, and our final Comox Valley Student Housing business case will be presented to the Board for approval in February.

As always, I welcome your questions and feedback on any topics related to the College's plans and activities. Please do not hesitate to email me.

I want to thank everyone for all that you do to make NIC such a great place to learn and work.

Sincerely,

John Bowman

john.bowman@nic.bc.ca

Learn more about these initiatives in this newsletter and join me at the President's Town Hall meetings scheduled on the following dates:

President's Town Hall Meetings

Tuesday, January 28 | 12 - 1 pm

Port Alberni Campus, S108

Wednesday, January 29 | 12 - 1 pm

Comox Valley Campus, Stan Hagen Theatre

Thursday, January 30 | 12 - 1 pm

Campbell River Campus, C270

Tuesday, February 11 | 12 - 1 pm

Mixalakwila Campus, C101

Links:

- [Aboriginal Education Newsletters](#)
- [Strategic Plan20-25](#)
- [Upcoming Events January/March 2020](#)

College Budget

The 2019/20 fiscal year has been busy with several capital projects coming to an end (Campbell River campus, Discovery Hall).

This has resulted in higher than average one-time purchases and equipment costs, which the College will need to reconcile through its budgeting processes. As a result, our fiscal status to March 31 will be a little tighter than normal.

We are therefore encouraging people to defer non-urgent expenditures to after April 1, 2020.

Overall, NIC is fiscally stable and we do not expect one-time costs to affect the 2020/21 budget. Further updates will be available in April when the budget process is complete.

Meanwhile, the 2020/21 provincial budget will be released in February, and will inform the College's planning context for the coming year in several key areas:

- **Employer Health Tax** — On January 1, 2020 the Employer Health Tax replaced BC's Medical Service Plan premiums. While NIC has received base funding to offset the tax, it falls approximately \$230,000 short of covering the total costs. We will build our Fiscal 2020/21 budget to include this shortfall, while we continue to work with the Ministry of Advanced Education, Skills and Training (AEST) to determine if additional funding will be provided.
- **Adult Basic Education (ABE)** — NIC will continue to work with AEST to align full-time equivalent enrolment targets with funding in 2020. ABE funding has been an ongoing discussion with AEST, since the provincial government reinstated the tuition-free policy for domestic students in ABE courses in 2017.
- **Collective Bargaining** — NIC continues bargaining this semester with faculty and support staff, whose collective agreements expired in March and June last year. These agreements will be funded by increases in provincial grant funding and should have a neutral impact on the College's budget for Fiscal 2020/21.
- **New Program Funding** — In 2019/20, NIC received \$400,000 over two years to develop and implement a Computer Information Systems certificate. The one-year program is designed to provide up to 40 students with the foundational skills needed to work in a wide range of modern information technology

and systems. Students will start the program at the Campbell River campus in fall 2020.

Student Housing — Comox Valley Campus

On December 17, 2019, the College updated the Board of Governors on the development of the Student Housing business case and the design process for the new buildings. An open house was also held for the College community in the Stan Hagen Theatre. Those presentations were the first opportunity for the Board and the College community to see the indicative design drawings, and to visualize the College's first on-campus student housing. The drawings will be available in the coming weeks.

We expect student housing to transform the Comox Valley campus, provide students from across the region with high quality, affordable housing options, and greatly improve student access to College programs and services.

The business case calls for two mid-rise, four-storey buildings located on campus adjacent to the Comox Valley Aquatic Centre. The buildings will include a 60-bed family housing building, for 20 or more students in 20 two-bedroom suites and 157 beds for single students in a separate building.

The next steps in the development of the final business case are:

- **January:** Business Case development, enhancement and re-costing;
- **February:** Submission to the Board of Governors and provincial government for approval;
- **May/June:** Anticipated funding decision from the Provincial Government;
- **2020 - 2022:** Construction; and,
- **Fall 2022:** Projected opening.

College Plan20-25

During 2019, the College engaged in an extensive process to develop a new five-year strategic plan, College Plan20-25. Detailed information regarding the planning process activities and resulting outputs is available on the [College Plan20-25 website](#).

In summary, the development process has involved and resulted in:

- **January - February 2019:** Review and analysis of the current Plan2020 priorities and goals, highlighting significant progress and gaps;
- **April 2019:** Identification of a comprehensive set of College values;
- **September 2019:** Student, employee and public input through an online Strategic Planning Survey;
- **October 2019:** Completion of a new Environmental Scan that has determined key factors and trends impacting the College;
- **October 2019:** Board of Governors planning and visioning session; and,
- **November 2019:** Engagement with community leaders and stakeholders through face-to-face campus Regional Forums.

In total, more than 1,500 people participated in these activities, which have helped to shape the first draft of College Plan20-25.

The plan has been written, drawing on the information and ideas generated through the planning process activities, as well as through preliminary input from the College Plan20-25 Committee (and four subcommittees), Board of Governors (October 2019 Annual Retreat), Community Regional Forums, and Senior Leadership Team (SLT).

College Plan20-25 sets out new/revised College Mission and Vision statements, based on feedback, that:

- Articulates a comprehensive set of College Values Commitments;
- Identifies four broad strategic priorities that focus on major elements of the College Mission and Vision;
- Integrates our Values Commitments; and,
- Details 20 major College-wide goals that will provide direction for annual College and department planning and operations.

To read and provide feedback regarding the draft College Plan20-25, visit www.surveymonkey.ca/r/Draft_College_Plan20-25_Feedback_Survey.

Draft College Plan20-25 Timeline

- **January and February:** The first draft Plan20-25 will be reviewed and discussed. Questions, comments and suggestions will be actively encouraged and collected through the survey.
- **March:** Feedback received will be considered in the development of a second draft.
- **April:** A final draft will be presented to the Board of Governors for approval.

Links:

- [NIC Environmental Scan, October 2019](#)
- [College Values Thoughtexchange, April 2019](#)
- [2020-2025 Strategic Planning Survey Report](#)
- [Regional Community Forum Presentations, November 2019](#)
- [Draft Plan20-25 and Survey Feedback](#)

Ministry Funds Regional Approach to Work-Integrated Learning

The Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Training has awarded NIC and Vancouver Island University \$440,200 to create a regional work-integrated learning hub on Vancouver Island. The announcement marks the first time the two Island post-secondary institutions will work together to recruit, support and engage employers to provide

internship and co-op opportunities for students at both institutions.

Details will be available on the Student Employment Services website as they are developed.

Aboriginal Gathering Place Campbell River Campus

The College is moving forward with the design of a new Aboriginal Gathering Place at the Campbell River campus. The Gathering Place will provide a welcoming new indoor and outdoor environment for Indigenous students and community to participate in gatherings, Indigenous education courses, workshops and events.

Consultations have been underway with representatives from local First Nations, Elders, Indigenous organizations, Chiefs and Councils, and students to determine the location and vision for the Gathering Place. As a result of these meetings, Alfred Waugh from Formline Architecture has designed a space at the front of the building adjacent to the current Aboriginal Student Lounge. Construction will begin once community consultations with local Elders, leaders and artists are complete and plans are finalized to ensure the space is representative of the Liqwiltokw People.

Increased Study Abroad Support

Starting this spring, students at Canadian colleges can expect to see more financial support to study abroad, thanks to more than \$40 million in funding from Employment Skills Development Canada. The project will be managed by Colleges and Institutes Canada (CICan) over five years.

Full details are still in development however, the project will include increased funding for students from traditionally underrepresented groups, international co-op, internships, and

other work-integrated learning opportunities, as well as partial funding for innovative program development.

The support will be open to students in any of our bilateral exchanges and our exchange program with University Mobility in Asia and the Pacific (UMAP) as well as the following projects:

- NIC's four-week 'In Search of Minoan Crete' Field School Abroad, on the island of Crete in Greece. Faculty members Jim Anderson and Erin McConomy will lead up to 20 NIC students as they travel, study and earn credit for three university transferable courses this May;
- Existing partnerships in Norway, Ireland, Germany, Denmark and Belgium;
- A new double degree/international co-op program with the Université Savoie Mont Blanc in France may be supported with other innovative stream funding;
- A potential multi-level exchange of research, students and faculty around the Indigenization of education with Kapi'olani Community College in Hawaii; and,
- A project in development with our Kyoto University of Foreign Studies and UMAP partners to include field school and study abroad opportunities in Japan and Asia.

For more information, please visit [study abroad opportunities online](#) or contact Mark Herring or Jen Barth in the Office of Global Engagement.