

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT
TO THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS
November 28, 2019**

Prepared by John Bowman

This report covers the time period from September 27 to November 27, 2019. It is intended to provide an overview (not an exhaustive list) of the activities and events that the President has participated in during the time period. Other information notes are also provided under the related NIC Plan 2020 Strategic Priority headings. In some cases, items may be related to more than one strategic priority.

College Plan20-25 Process

During October and November, the College Plan20-25 process was a major focus of my attention and work. I presented to municipal government councils in Cumberland (September 30), Tofino and Ucluelet (October 8), the Alberni Valley School Board of Education (October 8) and Comox Valley Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors (October 16) to invite them to participate in the process.

On October 4, the Environmental Scan Subcommittee met to review and discuss the final 2019 Environmental Scan document prepared by the Office of Institutional Research and Planning. The final scan document was published to the college website and is available [here](#).

Participation by students, employees and community members in Strategic Planning Survey was actively promoted up to October 15, after which the survey data were tabulated and a report prepared. The report on the survey findings has been posted to the college website and is available [here](#). In total, 1,509 people completed all or a part of the survey. The information provided through survey regarding the college mission, vision, values and priorities will be used in the development of the draft College Plan20-25.

The College Plan20-25 Committee met on October 30. The agenda included a review of the Key Factors and Trends slide show presentation drawn from the Environmental Scan that would be used during the Regional Community Forums in November, the preliminary analysis of the Strategic Planning Survey findings, as well as the goals and draft agenda for the Regional Community Forum meetings.

The Regional Community Forums were held in Port Hardy (November 4), Port Alberni (November 5), Comox Valley (November 6) and Campbell River (November 7). In total, 115 community leaders and organizational representatives attend the four forums. Participants included local government officials, school districts, First Nations, health and social services, non-profit organizations, business leaders, economic development staff, and employment service agencies.



During each of the forums, participants provided a wealth of feedback regarding the College's mission, values, opportunities and challenges as well as about community and college priorities and goals. The information generated through the Forums will help to inform the development of the draft Plan20-25 as well as other college planning activities.

A new [College Plan20-25 website](#) has been launched which provides public access to information about the strategic planning process.

Student Success and Experience

Student Housing

On October 18, I and other members of the Senior Leadership Team attended the provincial Student Housing Workshop hosted by the Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Training at the University of British Columbia. The focus of the workshop was on how to effectively operate student housing services on campus. It included a series of presentations and panel discussions by experienced personnel from post-secondary institutions that have student housing. The topics addressed included best practices in: Aboriginal student supports; student mental health and well-being; safety and security; diversity and inclusion; and, residence life activities.

This fall, the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) and Student Housing Advisory Committee have been actively and intensively involved in working with architectural consultants ([Dialog Design](#)) to develop the preliminary (indicative or schematic) designs for the Comox Valley Student Housing Project. Since September 9, four design workshops have been facilitated by the architectural consultant team:

- Workshop 1: Fostering a Sense of Belonging, September 9, 2019
- Workshop 2: Community Wellbeing and Sustainability, September 27, 2019
- Workshops 3+4: Project Principles for Building Community, October 22, 2019

Weekly update meetings were held (October 16, 30, November 6, 14, 20, 27) with the architects and members of SLT, in order to provide timely advice and direction to the architects on their work. On December 17, at a special meeting of the Board of Governors, members of the Dialog Design team will present the preliminary draft design plans for the Student Housing project.

High Quality, Relevant Programs and Curriculum

Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) Program

On October 29, I attended a meeting with members of SLT, the Dean of Health and Human Services and BSN program faculty, and site visitors/reviewers from the British Columbia College of Nursing Professionals (BCCNP) involved in the Education Review of NIC BSN program. We discussed questions the site visitors posed regarding the supports provided by the College for the BSN program and students.

People, Organization, Culture

Diversity Matters Steering Committee (DMSC)

On October 31, I chaired a meeting of the DMSC that focused on advancing short and longer term actions in support of our values with respect to Diversity and Inclusion. I also provided the Committee with feedback provided by members of SLT regarding our current and planned activities to address the issues and priorities that have been identified.

Campus Town Hall Meetings

I hosted campus Town Hall Meetings in Campbell River (October 3), Port Alberni (October 9) and Comox Valley (October 21). The topics discussed at each meeting included: Fall 2019 semester campus highlights; Campbell River Campus update; Comox Valley Student Housing project; and the College Plan20-25 process.

Port Alberni Time Capsule Opening

On November 7, NIC faculty, staff and former employees came together to celebrate the official opening the time capsule, marking 25 years since the Grand Opening of NIC's Port Alberni Campus on Roger Street. I had the honour of opening the capsule. The items are on display on the 2nd floor of the Library and Learning Commons for all to browse. The College is also accepting donated items/memorabilia to be placed in another capsule for the next unveiling (25 years into the future, marking the 50th anniversary of the Port Alberni Campus). The capsule will be sealed again with these items, in the Spring 2020.



"North Island College Port Alberni Regional Campus Time Capsule sealed on October 18, 1994 by Dr. Neil Murphy – Open on October 18, 2019."

New Employee Welcome and Orientation

On November 8, I participated in the New Employee Welcome and Orientation session organized by the Human Resources Department at the Comox Valley Campus.

Resources, Investment, Sustainability

North Island College Foundation (NICF)

On November 18, I attended a regular meeting of the NICF Board of Directors. The agenda for the meeting included reports from the Chair, Executive Director, Treasurer and Secretary, and various Board Committees. Three policies - Executive Director Position Description, Statement of Investment Policy and Code of Conduct were reviewed and discussed.

I also participated in North Island College Foundation Donor Appreciation Events in Campbell River (October 29), Comox Valley (November 13) and Port Alberni (November 25). It was a pleasure for me to have these opportunities to thank the many individuals and organizations that support students and the College through the funding of scholarships and bursaries. The events also included remarks shared by student award recipients regarding how the financial assistance they received impacted their success.

Active Connections to Community

School District #72 Campbell River

On October 28, I chaired a meeting of the NIC Senior Leadership Team and the Campbell River School District #72 senior administrative team held in the Bistro with an excellent plated lunch provided by our culinary students. At the meeting, we thanked our school district partners for their support in completing the Campbell River Campus Expansion and Renovation Project, and they in turn expressed appreciation to the college for the benefits that resulted for Timberline Secondary School students. We also discussed current college programming and services in Campbell River, many current and future opportunities to collaborate including: increased dual credit programming partnership opportunities, Aboriginal student recruitment and supports; our High School Partnership Initiative (HSPI); and, school space utilization.

Campbell River Campus Information Night

On November 7, the College hosted the Campbell River Campus Information Night. I was pleased to attend and to provide brief welcoming remarks. The event was well attended by prospective students and community members. The program for the event ([click here](#)) included workshops, program and service showcases, as well as campus tours.

Culinary Team BC

On November 22, I attended the Culinary Team BC special event at our new teaching kitchen at the Campbell River Campus. NIC's Chef Xavier Bauby welcomed Team BC for the fundraising event – a 5-course gourmet dinner and dress rehearsal of Team BC's complete menu for the [2020 IKA World Culinary Olympics](#) in Stuttgart, Germany. In addition, the event organizers arranged for pre-dinner appetizer stations involving Team BC and their support team, as well as the NIC Culinary Arts program students.

Other Topics

BC Colleges (BCC)

On October 23, I chaired the Council of President's (COP) teleconference meeting. The agenda included a discussion on the Post-Secondary (PS) Indigenous Board Member gathering held at the Musqueam Cultural Education Resource Centre on September 20. Topics of discussion included Aboriginal PS Education and Training Policy Framework and Action Plan, UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action. Other agenda topics included the Asia-Pacific Association for International Education (APAIE) conference to be held in Vancouver, March 22-26, 2020 and EMSI (Economic Modeling Specialists Intl) labour market data for higher education.

On November 21, I attended the COP meeting held in Vancouver. The meeting agenda included COP and BC Colleges Day in Victoria (February 24-25, 2020); presentations from EMSI, Leger-McMaster 2019 College Reputation Study, and Council of Forest Industries. AEST DM S. Baskerville and ADM J. Vasey joined the meeting to provide an update on AEST. Randall Martin, Executive Director of BC Council for International Education (BCCIE) discussed a potential study tour to Australia and New Zealand in October 2020.

College Board of Governors

On October 10 and November 12, I facilitated meetings of the Board Executive Committee. The focus of the October 10 meeting was primarily on planning for the October 24-25 Board of Governors Education/Planning Retreat held at Mount Washington Alpine Resort. The November 12 meeting agenda included: an update on the Campbell River Campus Fundraising Campaign (from R. Heidt); debrief of the Board of Governors Planning/Education Retreat (October 24-25); review and discussion of the draft Board Objectives, 2020; and, review of the preliminary schedule and draft agendas for the Board of Governors meetings to be held on November 28.

Planning and preparation for the Board of Governors Annual Education/Planning Retreat was a major activity during October. I met via teleconference with Scott Borland (Cygnus Management Consultants) on October 4th, 15th and 22nd, to develop and discuss the goals, agenda and activities that would be included in the retreat program.

Based on feedback provided by members of the Board of Governors, the Retreat was viewed as productive and successful in achieving its intended goals. Rachel Reid and I held a debriefing call with Scott Borland on November 14, during which we discussed what went well and what might have been improved. Our experiences in organizing the 2019 Retreat will help inform those to be held in the future.

Irving K. Barber B.C. Scholarship (IKBBCS) Society

On October 7, I attended a regular meeting of the [IKBBCS Society](#). In addition to routine board business, the meeting included discussions regarding the development of a new student bursary program to support students to transition from Adult Upgrading to post-secondary education programs. Discussions with the Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Training regarding the proposed program of assistance are expected to occur in the near future.

On October 30, I participated in the International Scholarship Committee teleconference to consider revisions to the application form/process for the Premier's and One World International Scholarship Programs. On November 20, I participated in the Transfer Scholarship Committee teleconference to discuss the 2019 and 2020 Transfer Scholarship/Transfer Review Programs.