



**PRESIDENT'S REPORT  
TO THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS  
March 19, 2020**

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This report covers the time period from February 7, 2020 to March 18, 2020. 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.

College Plan20-25 Process

The first draft Plan20-25 ([available click here](#)) was published on January 15. Since that time, it has been discussed in detail by members of the College Plan Committee at four meetings held on February 11, 13, 14 and March 17.

College employees, students and members of the college community were also invited (through a [media release](#)) to provide feedback on the draft Plan20-25 by completing an [on-line survey](#).

Feedback provided by the College Plan Committee has been used in the development of second draft College Plan20-25 (dated March 11) which was reviewed by the Senior Education Team (March 12) and College Education Council (March 13) and will be reviewed with the Board of Governors (March 19). The feedback provided through these meetings will be considered for incorporation into a final draft Plan20-25 to be reviewed a meeting of the College Plan Committee on April 1.

College Mandate Letter, 2020/21

On February 26, the College received its Mandate Letter, 2020/21 from the Minister of Advanced Education and Skills Training Hon. Melanie Mark. The Mandate Letter sets out the government's priorities and expectations for the College in the coming year. New and notable references within the Mandate Letter include a focus on:

- [Gender-Based Analysis Plus](#) (GBA+)
- [Framework for Improving British Columbians' Standard of Living](#), Economic Plan 2019-20
- [BC Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act](#)
- [Clean BC Plan](#)
- [Canada's Digital Technology Supercluster](#)

The Minister asks that the College incorporate in our plans and make substantive progress on four specific priorities:

1. Supporting lasting reconciliation with Indigenous peoples;
2. Contribute to an accessible and relevant post-secondary system;
3. Develop and recognize flexible learning pathways for students; and
4. Strengthen workforce connections for student and worker transitions.

Provincial Government Budget, 2020/21

The provincial government tabled its budget for the 2020/21 fiscal year in the Legislature on February 18. Details are available on-line [here](#). New and notable in the budget for the post-secondary education system is the creation of an [Access Grant](#).

## **STUDENTS**

### Student Housing

The Business Case for the Housing Commons, Comox Valley Campus was formally submitted to the Ministry of Advanced Education, Skills & Training on February 6. Ministry staff are in the process of reviewing the business case and have advised us they will be in contact to discuss our submission in the next few weeks.

We are continuing work to prepare for the next steps in the project that would follow confirmation of the provincial government's funding approval including development of a communications plan and preparation for the procurement process to select a contractor to complete design and construction of the project.

### Provincial Access Grant Announcement

On March 10, the Hon. George Heyman, Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy visited the Comox Valley Campus to publicly announce, on behalf of the provincial government, the new needs-based Access Grant program. Ronna-Rae Leonard, MLA Courtenay-Comox, also joined Minister Heyman for the announcement. The BC Access Grant complements the Canada Student Grant for Full-time Students, and enables BC students receive up to \$4,000 a year to help with the cost of programs leading to a degree or certificate.

### Comox Valley ElderCollege (CVEC)

On March 16, I met with the Executive Committee of Comox Valley ElderCollege. During the meeting, we discussed the draft College Plan20-25 and other topics of interest to ElderCollege. I also drew the winner from the CVEC's first online membership survey.

## **COMMUNITIES**

### North Island College Foundation (NICF)

On March 9, I attended a regular meeting of the NICF Board of Directors. The agenda for the meeting included presentations by Investment Management firms; and reports from the Chair, Executive Director, Treasurer and Secretary, and various Board Committees. We also discussed plans for the upcoming joint meeting of the NICF Board of Directors and the College Board of Governors on April 23.

## **PEOPLE**

### New Employee Orientation

On February 11, I participated in an orientation and welcome session for new employees at the Comox Valley Campus. It was my pleasure to meet and chat with new members of the college faculty, staff and administration.

### Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE)

On March 9, I met with Michelle Waite, President of CUPE Local 3479. We discussed several matters relative to operational staff and I provided update on our progress regarding some of the major college initiatives.

## Campus Town Hall Meetings

I participated in a Town Hall Meeting via Skype with the M̄ixalakwa Campus in Port Hardy. The topics discussed at the meeting included: Program and Service Updates; College Budget 2020/21; Comox Valley Student Housing; and, the draft College Plan20-25.

## **COLLEGE**

### College Board of Governors

On February 7 and 27, I participated in meetings of the Governance and Human Resources Committee. The meeting agendas included a detailed review of College Board Governance Policies GP-1 and GP-2.

On March 4, I facilitated a meeting of the Board Executive Committee. The meeting agenda included a review of the draft agendas for the Board's March 19<sup>th</sup> business meeting and a review of minutes from the February 6<sup>th</sup> Board meeting. Other Board business included the planning for an advocacy trip to Victoria in April, government's 20/21 Mandate Letter and new Board member committee membership.

In addition, on March 4, the President's Performance and Compensation Committee met to review my draft President's Performance 2019 Year in Review Report and draft President's Performance Objectives, 2020/21.

### MLA Ronna-Rae Leonard Meeting

On February 24, I met with Courtenay-Comox MLA Ronna-Rae Leonard to brief her regarding the College's Business Case for the Housing Commons at the Comox Valley Campus.

## **OTHER**

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

On February 10, I attended a regular meeting of the Society Board of Directors. The agenda included Committee Reports (Indigenous Awards, Women in Technology Scholarships, Transfer Scholarships, International Scholarships and Communications) and Finance Reports.

### BC Colleges (BCC)

On February 11, I participated in the BCC Council of Presidents (COP) Executive Committee meeting via teleconference.

On February 24, a face-to-face meeting of the COP was held at Camosun College in Victoria. Agenda items included a roundtable discussion on "Reimagining Post Secondary" with AEST DM Baskerville and Senior Executive Team. The guest speaker at lunch was Jim Beatty who discussed the current BC political environment. In the evening, a networking reception for government representatives and industry leaders was held at the Fairmont Empress Hotel.

On February 25, I joined BC's other 10 college presidents to celebrate the fourth-annual [BC Colleges Day](#). The goals of the day were to raise the profile of BC Colleges, grow the relationships between College Presidents and respective Ministers/MLAs, and to provide an opportunity for Ministers and Legislative MLAs to understand BC Colleges and College specific priorities.

A COP meeting was held in the morning of February 25 with AEST Minister Mark joining the presidents for a working breakfast. At the meeting, she was gifted with a booklet on BC Colleges Indigenous Success stories. Other agenda items included the strategic retreat discussion and a presentation on Cyber Security.

### Kapi'olani Community College

On February 28, I was pleased to meet with the visiting delegation of faculty and administrators from [Kapi'olani Community College](#). NIC and Kapi'olani Community College have a long-standing partnership. During their visit, members of the College leadership teams, faculty and staff discussed what it means to become an Indigenous serving institution, possible partnership opportunities, field schools, student/faculty/administrator movement. The day ended with dinner and cultural sharing at K'omoks First Nation.

### Vacation

I was on vacation February 17-21.