

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT  
TO THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS  
October 22, 2020**

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This report covers the time period from September 24 to October 21, 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.

**Provincial Election/BC NDP and Liberals Platform Commitments**

The BC provincial election will be held on October 24. The BC New Democratic Party election platform commitments are available on their website at this [link](#) and the BC Liberals platform at this [link](#). The pages from each party platform related to post-secondary education and training have been extracted and are attached to this report for ease of reference.

**Ministry of Advanced Education, Skills and Training (AEST)**

On September 30, the Deputy Minister, Advanced Education, Skills and Training hosted a videoconference with the 10 BC Colleges Presidents. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the progress of the Fall 2020 semester across the BC College institutions and for the Ministry to request information from colleges to be included in briefing information that will be provided to the new government and Minister of AEST after the October 24 election.

**BC Colleges (BCC) Executive Committee**

On October 1, I attended (in my capacity as Past Chair) a teleconference meeting of the BC Colleges Executive Committee. The agenda included receiving updates from Colin Ewart, the President of BCC regarding his work over the past month and to prepare for the October 22 regular meeting of the Council of Presidents to be held via videoconference.

For more information about BC Colleges, visit the [website](#).

**Post-Secondary Employers' Association (PSEA)**

On October 1, Lisa Domae, Ken Crewe and I participated in a telephone interview to provide input on the development of a new Strategic Plan for PSEA. We responded to questions regarding the future vision, mandate and priorities for PSEA as well as the opportunities and challenges that may lie ahead for the organization.

For more information regarding PSEA go to this [link](#).

**Okanagan Charter**

On October 5, we held an on-line event to commemorate NIC becoming a signatory to the Okanagan Charter. The Charter requires post-secondary institutions to commit to embedding supports for health and well-being across and throughout its operations. NIC's draft Plan2025 sets out the College's commitments and strategic goals related to student and employee health and well-being which are aligned with the Okanagan Charter calls to action.

The videoconference was attended by approximately 60 college employees and students. Thanks to Fernanda Pare (NIC, Elder in Residence), Jane Atherton (Vice Chair, NIC Board), Carissa Wilson (North Island Students' Union (NISU) Organiser – Student Relations) and Felicity Blaiklock (Director, Student Affairs and Campus Administrator, Port Alberni) for participating in an important and very successful event.

More information regarding the Okanagan Charter and NIC's related commitments in support of student, employee and community health and well-being is available [here](#).

### North Island College Foundation (NICF)

On October 5, I attended a regular meeting of the NICF Board of Directors via videoconference. The agenda for the meeting included reports from the Chair, Executive Director, Treasurer and Secretary, and various Board Committees. The Board also previewed a number of video testimonials recorded by student award recipients regarding the importance for them of the financial assistance they received.

For more information about the North Island College Foundation go to this [link](#).

### College Board Executive Committee

The College Board Executive Committee met on October 8. A separate report on the committee meeting is included in the October 22 regular Board meeting agenda package.

### Trades Training BC (TTBC)

On October 8, I participated in the TTBC Annual General Meeting and Board of Directors meeting via videoconference. The meeting agendas included updates regarding the status of trades training provincially and the impacts of the pandemic on the trades training system. The CEO of the Industry Training Authority (ITA) provided a report on their focus and activities during the past year.

For more information regarding Trades Training in BC. go the TTBC website [here](#).

### Comox Valley ElderCollege

On October 14, I met with members of the CV ElderCollege Executive Committee for one of our regular semi-annual get-togethers. We discussed a number of issues of interest to ElderCollege and I also took the opportunity to express the College's thanks to them for their financial support and investment in upgrading the sound system in the Stan Hagen Theatre.

To learn more about Comox Valley ElderCollege visit their [website](#).

### Town Hall Meeting

On October 21, I will host a college-wide Town Hall webinar. The focus of the Town Hall meeting will be to present and invite feedback regarding the draft COVID-19 Recovery Planning Assumptions and key information (Fast Facts) regarding the impacts of the pandemic on the College's enrolments and finances.

**Attachments: 2**

# TRAINING FOR A CHANGING ECONOMY

The demands for advanced education and training have never been higher, and we've made real progress in meeting those demands over the past three years. We've brought back student grants, eliminated interest on student loans, and opened up tens of thousands of university, college, and apprenticeship seats.

**John Horgan and the NDP** will continue to create new advanced learning spaces and apprenticeship opportunities, while keeping programs more affordable for everyone.

- **Making education and training more affordable for more students:** After the BC Liberals cut student grant programs, we made the first new investment in post-secondary student grants in 15 years with Budget 2020's needs-based BC Access Grant. We will move to expand this program by increasing eligibility to reduce barriers and make sure more British Columbians have the skills they need for the jobs ahead.
- **Keeping student fee increases low:** We will strengthen the existing Tuition Fee Limit Policy to make sure institutions are not increasing fees beyond the prescribed limits. At the same time, we'll conduct a funding review of post-secondary education operating grants to make sure public post-secondary institutions are aligned for economic recovery and student success.
- **Making post-secondary education and training more available:** We are creating more learning and training opportunities around the province, particularly in fast-growing fields like health care and high tech. We've opened up the first nursing degree program in the north; we are committed to opening BC's second medical school to expand our health care workforce; we are creating new spaces in early childhood education; and we will create 2,000 new tech-relevant spaces in public post-secondary institutions .
- **Investing in apprenticeships to deliver good-paying jobs and keep the public safe:** The BC Liberals left British Columbia as the only province without a compulsory trades system – meaning the person hooking up gas pipes to a new office tower, for example, isn't required to complete an apprenticeship and get red seal certified. We will restore the compulsory trades system to improve safety and give more workers access to apprenticeships that develop their skills for the work ahead.
- **Expanding tuition waivers to all former youth in care:** A little over three years ago, we introduced the Provincial Tuition Waiver Program for former youth in care, providing them access to post-secondary learning tuition-free. Restricted to people ages 19-26 then, we will expand this program to all former youth in care, regardless of age.

## *Building new opportunities for* **Adult learners**

One of the most important economic investments we can make is in education and training, to ensure we all have the skills and opportunity to be our best and build a bright future.

*A BC Liberal Government will:*

- Learn from the pandemic to build and train the health work force of the future with increased spaces for doctors, nurses and health professions we need.
- Adopt the disclosure-requirements of the UK Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills, to ensure all BC students know, before they register, the total costs of a program, the graduation rate and employment rate.
- Establish a new Work Experience for Students (WESt) program, including co-ops and job creation programs in times of high unemployment, in collaboration with the federal government.
- Encourage more British Columbians to pursue and complete apprenticeship training, by streamlining registrations and credentials.
- Bring trades competency into the school system, and expand secondary school trades programs to begin credentialing earlier.

