



NIC PRESIDENT'S REPORT

to the BOARD OF GOVERNORS

June 10 to Sept. 14, 2021

FIRST 120 DAYS

I begin by thanking all NIC employees who have worked so very hard to create safe and welcoming spaces for students to learn this fall. Returning to campus amidst the COVID-19 Delta variant continues to reinforce the need for safe, healthy and respectful on-campus practices. We have updated NIC's Return-to-Campus Guidelines to reflect the new Provincial Health Officer mask-wearing order, mandatory vaccinations for health care students and employees, and the vaccine passport (in the limited cases where applicable on campus). While these requirements help prevent transmission, heightened concerns about on-campus safety remain. I am grateful to the North Island College Students' Union (NISU), the NIC Faculty Association (NICFA), and CUPE #3479 leadership whose commitment to NIC has led to many productive discussions, which continue to inform our response.

ABOUT THIS REPORT

This report captures the College's activities and achievements to the end of my first 120 days as NIC's new president. This is the final update in a series of three 30-day, 60-day, and 120-day reports in May, June and September. The series reviews completion of the infrastructure required to achieve the vision and outcomes in BUILD 2026, NIC's new strategic plan, as well as the return to campus this fall.

BUILD 2026

I am very excited to introduce the first BUILD 2026 Dashboard that will be presented to the Board of Governors and college community throughout the year. Regular attention to the Dashboard, measureables and initiatives will facilitate ongoing review and ensure BUILD 2026's relevancy, especially as the pandemic continues through a fourth wave and economic recovery is delayed. The Dashboard encourages engagement; integration; flexibility and adaptability; transparency and accountability - each of which is a key BUILD 2026 attribute.

The Dashboard reports areas where activity has been achieved, started or not yet begun. Although only a short summer has passed since the Board of Governors approved BUILD 2026, our very early achievements are encouraging, given that we are reporting on the first four months of a five-year plan. While it was anticipated COVID-19 would have long-lasting impacts on NIC, we had hoped cases, restrictions and the ongoing anxiety associated with them would have subsided by now. As a result of the Delta variant, NIC's pandemic response continues to dominate the work of the Leadership Team and the greater college community. As the fourth wave has not yet peaked, and the need for a timely responses continue, we can expect progress on some BUILD 2026 outcomes will be slowed or stalled. The Plan's vision and strategic directions continue to guide our day-to-day decision-making across all areas. The next Dashboard will be presented to the Board in the new year, with the goal of presenting an updated document three times a year.



LEADERSHIP TEAM

Achievement of BUILD 2026's audacious vision requires a senior team composed of the right people in the right positions. I am honoured and privileged to announce that two trusted, highly respected and familiar faces are part of the College's Leadership Team in new positions.

Tony Bellavia was selected as the College's new Vice President, Academic. Tony leads a new Education Team with responsibility for implementation of Widening Our Doorways, NIC's Academic

plan and Working Together, NIC's Indigenization plan, into instruction and programming. As NIC's new Director of Public Affairs and Communications, Christiana Wiens' focus will be on garnering public and government support for NIC and on internal communications.

Tony and Christiana join Colin Fowler, Vice President, Finance and College Services, Kathleen Kuhnert Vice President, Students and Community Engagement, Ken Crewe, Associate Vice President, People, Equity

and Inclusion, and Melanie Allison, Director, College Governance on the Leadership Team. Colin will lead a new administrative Operations Team designed to implement the College's strategic activities.





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ORIENTATION AND WELCOME BACK EVENT PHOTOS



RETURN TO CAMPUS, FALL 2021



September saw the return of more students and employees to campus and increased delivery of in-person instruction and services. It was a pleasure to see Board members join the College Conversation and Welcome Back events. In combination with virtual Student Orientations and Welcome Back booths, these events kicked-off the return to campus in the past two weeks. It has been an absolute delight to reconnect with employees and to feel the energy of more students in classrooms and on campuses. There is a tangible sense of joy of learning in the air, and it is infectious.

Students and employees have returned to a different campus this fall than in previous years. Our pursuit of individualized education and training experiences has diversified how we deliver instruction. The table below is a snapshot of how NIC has changed in response to student demand.

	Term	Fully Face-to-Face*	Blended**	Digital***	Total
2019	2019FA	93%	1%	6%	100%
Now	2021FA	31%	31%	38%	100%

* Face-to-Face Learning: In-person instruction that takes place on campus or in community
 ** Blended Learning: A mix of digital and on-campus instruction
 *** Digital Learning: Scheduled or unscheduled classes where a student connects digitally to an instructor or to course materials

NIC's response to COVID-19's disruption to post-secondary education and our commitment to high quality and caring education has seen domestic enrolments rise by 8% in the fall term. Unfortunately, the pandemic continues to affect international students, whose new and returning enrolment is down 20% from September 2020. While we anticipate international enrolment will rebound in January, we have adjusted the College's budget to keep the projected deficit for fiscal year 2021/22 to \$1.56M.