

**REPORT TO NORTH ISLAND COLLEGE BOARD OF GOVERNORS
REGIONAL HIGHLIGHTS
28 MAY, 2015**

COLLEGE-WIDE

NIC Day of Mourning April 28, 2015

Another powerful Day of Mourning event was organized this year by the CUPE OH&S members. Here is what happened:

Campbell River – Diane Newman

There were approximately 40 people in attendance, including staff, faculty and students.

Vivian Hermansen, (Director, Aboriginal Education) was our MC. Vivian opened with an explanation of the Day of Mourning and a variety of BC Facts. We had a moment of silence, reading of the *Worker's Statement* by Julia Peters and sharing by two people. One in particular was very powerful. He had lost three co-workers, and reiterated the need for safety at all times. Pat Gerakios handed out "Day of Mourning" stickers to everyone. And that was it. Short but powerful.



Campbell River Day of Mourning

Port Alberni- Sherry Kropninski

The Day of Mourning event was promoted by emailing staff/faculty, putting up posters and invitations to the event itself, and having a display of relevant library materials put up in our display cabinet. The day began with our flags at half-mast (thanks to Jessie Broekhuizen and Linda McMurdo). We played the documentary video, *Every 12 Seconds*, in the Cafeteria. It features five permanently injured workers, including Wolfgang Zimmermann, currently President of Pacific Coast University. We then had a short ceremony at 10:00 am which was attended by staff and faculty but no students. Luke George read out the *Workers' Statement* while we held a moment of silence, and copies of this document were made available. Then participants were invited to share their thoughts and what the day/event meant to them.



Port Alberni Day of Mourning

Comox Valley- Cindy Greenhill & Jack Campbell

On April 28th approximately 50 students, faculty and staff gathered by Discovery Hall flag pole to recognize the National Day of Mourning for those who have been killed or injured on the job. A circle was formed and Jack Campbell read the *Workers Statement*. Others were offered an opportunity to speak and then we all paused for a moment of silence.



Comox Valley Day of Mourning

Mental Health Week Activities

Submitted by Sherri Wilson

In support of Canadian Mental Health Week May 4 – 10, 2015, the North Island College Human Resources Team organized a program of activities to promote good mental health and wellbeing and the linkage between good physical and mental health. The theme of this year's program of activities was "Healthy Minds, Healthy Bodies." The goals for the week were to inform/remind employees about the

programs and services available to them via our benefit and EFAP providers and other community resources; to encourage employees to better understand the important linkage between our physical health and our mental well-being; and to encourage discussion to help reduce the stigma attached to mental illness that often prevents individuals from accessing or receiving supports they may need.

Activities throughout the week included:

- Lunch hour walks at all campuses.
- Canadian Mental Health Association on-site at the Campbell River and Comox Valley Campuses.
- Presentation Exploring Positive Mental Health – Strategies to Build Resilience.
- Manulife Financial webinar that provided an overview of the tools and resources available on their Workplace Solutions for Mental Health website as well as overall wellbeing and the tools available through their Health eLinks site, Health Risk Assessment and Lifestyle Health Coaching.
- Chair Massage at Comox Valley and Mount Waddington Regional Campuses.
- Yoga at Campbell River and Port Alberni Campuses.
- Health Meal Deal: Employees enjoyed a healthy lunch for only \$3.
- Daily emails that included links to websites, articles and videos promoting good mental health.

CAMPBELL RIVER CAMPUS

Youth Transition Resource Fair

Submitted by Karen Sale

On Wednesday evening, April 22nd, Cathy Patrucco and I participated in the Campbell River Youth Transition Resource Fair sponsored by School District 72 and Community Living BC. The fair provided an opportunity for youth and their families to find out about services, programs and agencies in Campbell River that support individuals who have a developmental disability or are on the autism spectrum.

School of Trades and Technology

Provincial and Regional

- Meeting with ASTTBC (Applied Science Technologists and Technicians of BC) – On May 5th the Dean and Director met with Charles Joyner, Registrar of ASTTBC and Sam DiGiandomenico, CEO of TAC (Technology Accreditations Canada) to discuss the relatively recent changes in technician and technologist program accreditation, and the implementation of the newly formed TAC.
- Nuuchahnulth Tribal Council – On May 14th, the Dean and Director met with the Council, the BC Construction Association and School District 70 to discuss capacity in trades and the potential of working in partnership.
- The School met with representatives from Ucluelet First Nations regarding potential opportunities for program development and delivery to support community and economic development plans.
- The School participated in welcoming a delegation of Vietnamese senior-ranking officials in early May to discuss Trades and Technology programming at NIC and potential for future collaborations.

Highlights

- The School continues to work closely with Facilities to support the advancement of the improvements and retrofits at Vigar, Dogwood – Grinding Room and Tebo.
- The School is opening registration for the Wall and Ceiling Installer (drywall) at the end of May. Students are being recruited through the BC Construction Association.

- The School is working with First Nations, community, funders and School of Continuing Education and Training (CET) on a Culinary Prep program.
- The School is working with School Districts to finalize anticipated seats in the ACE-It programs.
- The School is working closely with Facilities to prepare for the Grinding Room upgrades and finalize the TEBO facility upgrades.
- The School is refining the AVED Capital funding allocations for Trades and Technology programming for 2015-2016.
- The School is working closely with IMC to refine processes regarding student materials while streamlining processes in the best interest of students and programming.

Culinary Arts Spring Buffet a Success

On May 12th the Campbell River Professional Cook 1 class hosted 75 guests at their seasonal Spring Buffet with Chef Lilyholm. Guests were treated to an array of items including fresh baked bread and salad bar, seasonal vegetables, seafood pasta and carved, stuffed pork loin. Capping off the meal was an assortment of delicious desserts including lemon chiffon tarts, fresh strawberry shortcakes and warm chocolate bread pudding.

Guests included NIC faculty, administration and staff, Timberline staff, students' families and friends, local Campbell River residents, members of the local Chamber of Commerce and radio station, as well as a group of delegates from Vietnam who were visiting NIC. This buffet concludes another semester of Professional Cook 1 and will send eight Culinary students to the industry to hone their skills and continue their careers.



Culinary Arts Field Trip

On May 1st, the Professional Cook 1 class did a field trip of the local area with Chef Christine Lilyholm. Starting off at Pattison Farms in Black Creek with an amazing tour of the organic farm, we then headed off to Hot Chocolates and Cake Bread Artisan Bakery. The tour was amazing and ended with a delicious chocolate truffle. From there we went to Natural Pastures Cheese for a behind-the-scenes tour of the cheese processing plant and samples of the fresh local cheeses. Lunch was at Rhodos Café followed by Gelato topped with Espresso. We completed the fun-filled day at Church Street Bakery, which is known

for their wood fired artisan breads and pizzas. The students ended the day buzzing from the chocolate, cheese and espresso but also with a greater appreciation of local foods in our “backyard.”



Aircraft Structures Technician Program Field Trip

On April 27th, the students from our Aircraft Structures program took a trip to Port Alberni to visit Coulson’s with Instructor Ruedi Pletscher. Coulson Aircrane Ltd. is a privately owned family company based in Port Alberni. The company has been in the aviation business for over 25 years and operates a fleet of light and heavy lift helicopters. The company's operations include helicopter logging, forest fire suppression, power-line construction, airliner passenger transport and many other industrial heavy lift operations. The students explored a Martin Mars aircraft and the newest addition to the Coulson fleet, a Lockheed C 130 Hercules, modified for firefighting. It was a very interesting and inspiring day for the students in the program.



Culinary Prep Program

North Island College has been in discussions with industry and community, working together to develop a solution to the ongoing need for skilled labour in the hospitality and tourism trades. This industry is the heartbeat of the tourism region and there is a pool of local residents who could, with basic practical skills and communications training, become a sustainable base of skilled workers for community businesses. Our Chef, Christine Lilyholm, has been developing this program and funding proposals have been submitted for consideration to support pilot in-community deliveries.

Industrial Automation Demonstration Day

On Thursday, May 21st observers were welcomed to see a live demonstration from the Industrial Automation diploma students with Instructor Brad Harsell. Successful completion of the capstone project is a program requirement. This year's class showcased two projects:

Not far from IKEA

The first project is a fully automated manufacturing system designed to mass produce Build Your Own Garden Bench kits. Complete with robotics, automated controls and instrumentation, this system processes the wood, compiles all the required parts, and packages it for retail distribution - much like the systems used by IKEA and similar manufacturers. The project is a team effort developed over four weeks by the entire class. This demonstration will mark the system's first-ever complete run.

Who loves wine?

The second project is a prototype currently in the concept development stages for the Hornby Island Estate Winery. This one-of-a-kind automated filling process for wine bottles includes a NIC-developed system that works with Hornby Island Estate Winery's innovative ultra-fine bubbles, creating a "magic bubbles" sparkling wine or beverage experience unlike anything currently on the market.

Construction Labourer Celebration

On May 22nd, students in the Port Alberni Employment Transition – Construction Labourer program were celebrated with instructor, Mark Price. This program was developed at the request of community agencies in Port Alberni including School District 70, CLBC, and local First Nations who advocate for individuals with disabilities. Students acquired employment skills to help them maintain work and entry-level construction skills for employment opportunities as a Construction Labourer. We are very proud of our graduating students and our Instructor in this worthwhile programming.

ACE-It Dual Credit

The School is working with School Districts 68 (Nanaimo), 69 (Qualicum), 70 (Port Alberni), 71 (Comox), and 72 (Campbell River) to put students into the Dual Credit program in the following areas:

Automotive	Carpentry	Welding	Cook
Joinery	Plumbing	Metal Fab	Electrical

COMOX VALLEY CAMPUS

Open Textbook Project

Submitted by Richelle Gardiner-Hynds

During this past academic year, I contributed to an open textbook project through BC Campus with past NIC employee, John Belshaw. John requested my contribution to the text, as a Canadian Women's history specialist. The *Canadian History: Pre-Confederation* textbook introduces themes in North American history to 1867, including Aboriginal and European perspectives.

See Credits: <http://opentextbc.ca/preconfederation/back-matter/about-the-author/>

and full text: <http://opentextbc.ca/preconfederation/>

Fine Arts Department Update

Submitted by Linda Perron

Interactive Media and Design Students held a very successful showcase event on April 28th from 5pm – 9pm in the student lounge of the Tyee building at NIC. The event was well attended by both potential employers, students and faculty.

On April 30th the Emily Carr external degree graduate students opened their exhibition at the Comox Valley Art Gallery. This exhibition will run May 1st to June 6th.

Showing concurrently are faculty and staff from NIC and ECU; this exhibition also runs until June 6th
<http://www.comoxvalleyartgallery.com/exhibitions/present/>

Opening Friday May 8th from 7pm – 9pm is the School of Fine Art & Design diploma graduation exhibition in Shadbolt Studios at the Comox Valley Campus. This exhibition will run from May 8th to 29th, 9am – 4pm Monday to Friday. Everyone is invited to attend the opening.

Adventure Guiding Programs

Submitted by David Pinel

Overall, it was a very full and successful fall and winter for the Adventure Guiding Programs through our Tourism and Hospitality Department. We successfully delivered two programs: 1) the reformatted Adventure Guiding Certificate at our CV campus, and 2) a pilot Aboriginal Ecotourism Training Program in partnership with VIU and the Heiltsuk Tribal Council.

The AG Certificate students rode many waves, literally and figuratively! All field-based training was very effective and benefited from a good variety of weather and sea conditions for practical learning. Overall, the revised curriculum and collaborative delivery model came together with strong learning outcomes and significant student growth. The students are currently completing their work placements as the final step of the program, and have secured employment with leading companies throughout the region, including Spirit Bear Lodge in Klemtu, Kingfisher Wilderness Adventures in Port McNeill, West Coast Expeditions in Kyuquot, and Tribune Bay Outdoor Education Centre on Hornby Island. Employers continue to be very interested in our graduates.

The Aboriginal Ecotourism program brought a coast-wide cohort together for intensive in-community delivery in four different locations, and had very high student retention, completion, and success outcomes. Many of these students gained the confidence and desire to continue their post-secondary education in tourism and business, while others saw immediate gains in their employment status with new

positions and responsibilities, and associated increases in compensation and job satisfaction. All students gained valuable insights, skills, and connections for becoming actively engaged in building Aboriginal Tourism in BC as part of their personal, community and regional development. Together with VIU and the Heiltsuk, we should soon hear whether we've successfully secured funding to expand and continue this Aboriginal Ecotourism program over the next three years.

MOUNT WADDINGTON CAMPUS

HCA Program Update

Submitted by Roland Stockham

We have six students completing their final week of practicum for the HCA program at Mt Waddington Campus. They are again excellent students with a grade average across the course of better than 90%. They will be a much-needed and positive addition to the local workforce. Having had training in the local area means they will all be looking to work here, which is very important. We were able to offer this second intake due to additional one-time Ministry funding.

- PA – 20 HCA students are in clinical practice at present, finishing May 22nd
- CV winter HCA intake – 10 students have completed theory and have just started nine weeks of clinical practice
- CV fall HCA intake – 15 students graduated from this intake

NIC HCA program Granted 5 year Recognition Status

Submitted by Laurie Bird

The BC Care Aide & Community Health Worker Registry reviews and recognizes Health Care Assistant (HCA) programs in BC to ensure that they are: following the provincial curriculum, implementing a common set of training standards and graduating competent front-line health care providers. Confirming that HCAs meet registration requirements is integral to the Registry's mandate of patient protection and improved standards of care.

The NIC HCA program has been granted a full, five-year recognition status by the BC Care Aide & Community Health Worker Registry. Graduates of the program are eligible for registration with the BC Care Aide & Community Health Worker Registry.

CONTINUING EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Community Collaboration and Engagement

REGIONAL ACTIVITIES

- The School is in the final phases of program planning for fall through to spring.
- The School is engaged with Ministry and Community to support training needs of displaced workers in Port Alice who have received layoff notice from Neucel Mill.
- The School is engaged with Ministry and Community to support training needs of displaced workers from Nystar Mine.
- The School is awaiting feedback from the Ministry with reference to the program proposal submissions under the Employment Services and Supports Program (ESS).

Programming Activities

CAMPBELL RIVER

- The Coastal Log Scaling course in Campbell River is in full swing. The Ministry Exam has been rescheduled for May 21st at the Campbell River campus. The practical portion of the Ministry exam will be June 23rd in Squamish. The exact location will be announced two weeks in advance of the exam. Students have been attending the classroom mid-morning sessions and heading to the dry land sorts for the afternoon and early evening. Coastland Dryland sort has been very accommodating in providing logs of every type in a safe work environment for our students.
- Inquiries regarding the Wildfire Training that will be offered this spring at the Campbell River campus have been steady.
- Programming is underway for a special cohort of the Coastal Forest Resource program and a cluster of Marine Training. Funds have been made available to assist those affected by the mill closure in Port Alice. A recent mini-career fair in early April at the Community Centre in Port Alice indicated that potential students would be interested in taking any training related to Forestry or Marine as they would like to stay on Vancouver Island. As employees of the mine were from a large area of the North Island, a location for the training has not been set. Attendees provided their email addresses to ensure they would be contacted when training was scheduled.
- A new link has been established on BlackBoard Learn (BBL) for the Underground Mining program. We have determined that working the bugs out on one program at a time is likely the best course of action. It is hoped that the contents of BBL will be up and ready to go for a fall cohort (subject to funding).
- Marketing has completed the website content for the Coastal Forest Resource Program.
- Program guides for our credentialed programs will be revised and updated over the course of the next few weeks.
- We have scheduled 16 new part-time jewellery workshops to be offered between May –December 2015.
- Staff met with potential instructors to discuss new course ideas for Fall 2015 to Spring 2016 offerings. Course planning and scheduling is underway for the next Learner’s Guide.
- The Metal Jewellery Open House April 16th was a big success with approximately 80 attendees and students selling quite a few pieces. This was a great promotion for the program.
- April 9th and 10th staff completed our annual direct marketing tasks and community outreach specific to Metal Jewellery and other Continuing Ed courses. This has been deemed a priority to foster increased marketing and program awareness.

Campbell River ElderCollege:

- All of the hard work by volunteers is coming to a close for the 2015FA course submission season for ElderCollege. To date, 31 classes are confirmed.
- Due to some great forward planning by the Principal at Timberline High School, the theatre is available for our use most afternoons during the week. This is fabulous news as it gives ElderCollege the opportunity to offer more physical types of courses that require movement such as, *Social Dance, Yoga with Kate* and *Sing for Pure Joy!*.
- Recent connections have been established with various organizations in Campbell River and with these connections we will have the benefit of the River City Players coming to ElderCollege with a new course *So You Want to Be in Theatre!*.
- Planning is well underway for the Annual General Meeting in May. Advertisements have been placed in the *Campbell River Mirror*, posters are around the city and a mass email has gone out to

ElderCollege members and friends in hopes that attendance will increase for this Annual General Meeting. There are several positions to be filled on the various committees so it is hoped that volunteers will step forward at the meeting.

- The Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon has been set for June 18th in the Third Course Bistro at the Campbell River campus. Plans are well underway and we hope to have everything in place by mid-May.

COMOX VALLEY

- A computer training contract is confirmed with St. Joseph's General Hospital for June.
- Courses have been reviewed with updates submitted where necessary.
- New course offerings include: *Effective Grant Writing, Effective Communication, Building Effective Teams. Acrylics: Painting Realistic Textures, Painting on the Edge, Paint the Masters, Music Reading for Singers, Floral Arranging, Wreath Making, Wearable Flowers, Lawn Maintenance, Pruning Trees & Shrubs* There will also be a couple of Not-For-Profit Sector courses added.
- Animal Care Aide and Landscape Horticulture Level 1 Certificates have completed and Hospital Unit Clerk continues until the summer.
- Staff attended the Student Services Meeting, April 9th to provide an overview of the CE Certificates coordinated from Courtenay.
- During April, *Sage 50-1, Foodsafe, and Screen Printing* were delivered.
- On April 17th CV staff hosted a well-attended Office Warming Party in their new home in the annex.
- Work is continuing on adding new courses until the May 11th deadline.

Comox Valley ElderCollege:

- 63 CV ElderCollege courses will be offered for fall session. The first day of Registration will be Sept 21st, 2015.
- A successful CVEC Volunteer Appreciation event was held on Saturday, April 11th at D'Esterre House in Comox. The entertainment by the *Improv, Fun Workout in Brain Gym* class was very enjoyable. Over 60% of the CVEC volunteers attended.
- The Comox Valley ElderCollege AGM was held on May 2nd in Stan Hagen Theatre. 37 members attended.

PORT ALBERNI

- Staff continue to provide Professional Development training for the Volunteer Fire Departments in the surrounding area.
- Staff are supporting the Log Scaling program currently taking place.
- A 14-passenger van arrived which was purchased with CE contract revenues to support such programming as Log Scaling and other regional Continuing Education programs.
- Programming for the 2015 Fall & 2016 Winter/Spring/Summer Learner Guide is underway. The School is proofing course sections for accuracy and working with marketing on the guide format and timing.
- Staff prepared a quote for the Port Alberni Friendship Centre for various courses that would run this Summer through January 2016 including *Foodsafe, Communication, Conflict Resolution, Retail Training, H2S Alive, Excel, Hazard Recognition & Control, Confined Space, Fall Protection, Occupational First Aid Level 1 & CPR C*. They have submitted a proposal and are awaiting funding.
- The School was awarded a contract for *ChildSafe First Aid* for Port Alberni Friendship staff on June 3rd.

FIRST AID

- Staff have completed 2015FA – 2016SU programming with section requests entered and reviewed.
- Contracted courses were held in Port Alice, Kyuquot, Port Alberni and Tofino in April with several more to come in May and June.
- Staff are sending out emails for upcoming courses and continue to promote our Red Cross courses through the Red Cross website. We also participate in the bi-weekly newspaper ads and promote on Facebook & Twitter.

North Island College Indigenous and International Foods Project

By Julia Falla Wood and Caitlin Hartnett


In December 2014, the North Island College Indigenous and International Foods Project brought together six community members from the Mount Waddington region: Diane Bell, local Kwakiutl Elder; Julia Falla-Wood, International Mentor; Joshua Terry, former NIC student; Jozi Child, youth liaison for the Kwakiutl Band Awinakola Project; and Caitlin Hartnett and Leslie Dyck, Project Supervisors.

Over the past year, interest in food security and food sovereignty in our region has increased considerably. This interest has included the Awinakola project, a project of the Kwakiutl Band that began in the spring of 2014 with a focus on local Indigenous food systems. At the same time, in the ESL program in Mount Waddington (which Julia Falla-Wood coordinates), learners of thirteen different nationalities have shared their knowledge of the foods of their homeland by hosting several multicultural dinners in the last year. As well, the Mount Waddington Community Foods Initiative, a partnership between Island Health and NIC that is coordinated by Leslie Dyck (who also provides library services at the college), has been working to gather feedback from community about the very issues of food security. Our goal through this project was to begin to plant the seed of sustainable solutions by educating our community both about our own position with food security and the position of those around the world.

The six participants in the project met weekly throughout the fall. Learning actively through regular group discussion and the sharing of food, we spent time building intercultural intelligence, researching food systems and food security, discussing ideas of global citizenship, equity, and social justice, and analyzing how these factors interconnect with the themes of food systems and food security locally and globally. During the project, time was also set aside for Josh and Jozi to learn about Kwakiutl food culture one-on-one with Elder Diane Bell. As well, students spent one-on-one time learning about Peruvian food culture and food security with International Peruvian mentor Julia Falla-Wood. The group was also treated to a day of clam digging and clam shucking with the guidance of Kwakiutl Elder Rupert Wilson. Josh and Jozi reflected weekly on their time with the Elders and mentors and shared their reflections with the group during our group meetings and through reflective journaling.

To conclude the project, Jozi and Josh prepared a digital story to teach others about what they had learned during the project. A multicultural end-of-project dinner marked the finale of the project: Chilean, Chinese, Japanese, Mexican, and Peruvian guests brought traditional foods from their cultures to share alongside traditional Kwakiutl foods, which were prepared by the project group and generous volunteers at U'Gwamalis Hall in T'saxis (Fort Rupert). The guests at the dinner were treated to a viewing of the digital story at the end of their dinner. If you would like to view the digital story, please contact Caitlin Hartnett at 250-949-7912 ext. 2872 or caitlin.hartnett@nic.bc.ca.

This project was made possible through the NIC Department of International Education Global Learning Innovation Fund and the NIC Department of Aboriginal Education.



THE GLOBAL LEARNING INITIATIVE FUND
and NIC ABORIGINAL EDUCATION
invite you to

**A DINNER OF TRADITIONAL
KWAKIUTL AND INTERNATIONAL FOODS**

**Come join us for a meal
featuring traditional Kwakiutl
and international foods.**

We will be presenting the work we have done as part of
an intercultural project around food and
indulging in some incredible dishes.
We look forward to sharing a meal with you!

**U'gwamalis Hall in T'saxis (Fort Rupert)
Thursday, March 12, 5pm**

Free and open to the public, and featuring:

- a meal of traditional Kwakiutl and international foods (guests are welcome to bring a dish as well)
- a presentation on the NIC Mt. Waddington international and Indigenous Foods Project

Sponsored by the Global Learning Initiative Fund
and Aboriginal Education at NIC

Supported by NIC International Education

For more information, contact **Caitlin Hartnett**
caitlin.hartnett@nic.bc.ca | 250-949-7912 ext. 2872

NORTH ISLAND COLLEGE

Preparing for the dinner





Chilean empanadas





Elder Diane Bell, Jozi, Caitlin, Leslie Dyck, and International Mentor Julia Falla-Wood begin the presentation



MEDIA RELEASE

**May 13, 2015
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
MR15-030**

Vietnamese Education Leaders Study NIC

NIC is one of four post-secondary institutions across Canada to host Vietnamese post-secondary leaders and government decision makers charged with transforming Vietnam’s education system.

As a result, NIC programs and technology could shape how post-secondary education is delivered in Vietnam.

“We want to experience a mid-sized college with a diverse population and a strong reputation,” said Dr. Le Quang Minh, the Director of the Institute of University, Governance, for Vietnam National University. “In Vietnam, post-secondary education is still very passive. In most classrooms the teacher does all the talking. We want to develop new ways of teaching to encourage interactive learning.”

Delegates toured the Comox Valley and Campbell River campuses May 12, learning about NIC’s award-winning educational technologies, applied research facilities, industry advisory groups, and wide-ranging partnerships with universities across BC and the United States.

“We were also impressed with North Island College’s distance education facilities,” added Dr. Minh. “In Vietnam, our situation is very similar. We have one college delivering education across a whole province – it would be very useful to apply the technology in Vietnam.”



Dr. Huynh Thanh Dat, Standing Vice President of Vietnam Nation University and Lisa Domae, NIC’s Vice President of Learning and Students tour NIC’s Comox Valley campus.

The meeting included lively discussion about NIC’s tourism students’ annual wine festivals, international field schools, and student-run hotel events – just a few of the applied learning opportunities available to NIC students.

“We are very, very interested in the real world experiences you provide for students to work in resorts and hotels,” said Tran Thanh Tung, the Rector of Vinh Long Community College. “We have colleges in Vietnam that are very similar and we want to provide students the same opportunities.”

NIC does not currently have partnership agreements with any Vietnam universities but it is eager to develop new working relationships.

“We are very honoured to be selected as one of four Canadian institutions in their study tour,” said Lisa Domae, NIC’s Vice President of Learning and Students. “We look forward to further discussions, connections, and partnerships as a result of this visit.”

The delegation toured NIC’s Remote Web-based Science Lab, classrooms, and trades facilities before a buffet lunch prepared by Professional Cook students in Campbell River.

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CARTI participates in the Beaver Lodge Trust Committee field trip to evaluate root rot

MONTHLY UPDATE—MARCH 2015



During his recent national tour to present the NSERC 2020 Strategic Plan, NSERC President, Dr. Marlo Pinto, told NIC CARTI Manager Naomi Tabata and others in attendance about the need for all researchers (from universities, colleges and polytechnics) to speak with an unified voice in order to build support for an increase in federal funding for both discovery research and innovation.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM MARCH

- RWSL provided the *Diseased Cells* lab to 23 students from Kodiak College in Alaska. This included students who were located in Alaska, California, Arkansas, and Turkey.
- The FEED Comox Valley project was featured at the BC Association of Farmers’ Markets Annual Conference and a video was produced of Sandra Hamilton’s presentation.
- Island Farmers’ Alliance is now focusing on social public procurement and institutional supply chains with a view to expanding the FEED Comox Valley model across the island.
- Healthy Beginnings project research grant proposal has been submitted to Island Health, in collaboration with researchers from Island Health, VIU and UBC. The research team has been brought together by NIC nursing faculty member Rachel Goodliffe.
- Eelgrass Distribution and Blue Carbon Credit proposal has been submitted for an NSERC Applied Research and Development grant. Science faculty Christine Hodgson is the principle researcher, with Pentlatch Seafoods, Comox Valley Project Watershed, and K’ómoks First Nation as project partners.
- On behalf of NIC CARTI, Naomi Tabata attended events hosted by TEDx Comox Valley, Young Professionals of Campbell River, Campbell River Chamber of Commerce, Campbell River Salmon Foundation, and Beaver Lodge Trust Committee.

COMMUNITY & INDUSTRY ENGAGEMENT

- BC Association of Farmers’ Markets
- BC Salmon Farmers Association
- Beaver Lodge Trust Committee
- Campbell River Chamber of Commerce
- Campbell River Salmon Foundation
- Canadian Association of Schools of Nursing
- Comox Valley Chamber of Commerce
- Douglas College
- Farm to Cafeteria Canada
- First Nation Fisheries Council
- Island Health
- School District #71
- TEDx Comox Valley
- University of Victoria
- Vancouver Island University
- Young Professionals of Campbell River

Applied Research
Technology
Innovation

Connecting Communities Through Research on Vancouver Island

FEATURE PHOTO



'Ladies Learning Code' workshop participants show their excitement at learning to create custom web pages, a workshop co-hosted by North Island College. (Photo by Sarah Bromley)

APRIL HIGHLIGHTS

- CARTI has secured \$25,000 Applied Research and Development grant from NSERC to investigate the distribution of eelgrass in the Comox Estuary and the implications for shellfish aquaculture. This project will also help to define the amount of carbon that is sequestered by eelgrass in the estuary. The project partners include K'omoks First Nation, Pentlatch Seafoods Ltd., Comox Valley Project Watershed, and is funded by Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC).
- Albert Balbon, Remote Web-based Science Laboratory (RWSL) Architect, was recently interviewed for an article by Manufacturing AUTOMATION magazine.
- The RWSL was demonstrated to touring students from Bella Bella, and a RWSL one hour talk and demonstration was provided to School District 71 Math Contest participants.
- Steve Cross is providing two presentations at the upcoming BC Seafood Expo and Workshop Series, as part of the series of events for the BC Shellfish and Seafood Festival.

FACULTY FOCUS

North Island College faculty members are engaged in some very interesting research projects and we want to help create awareness around their great work. Please send CARTI Manager Naomi Tabata information on your research project so we can share it. CARTI also wants to know about any research projects you would like to explore so we can help you obtain funding and support. Please email naomi.tabata@nic.bc.ca or call 250-923-9719.

DID YOU KNOW?

CARTI can help NIC faculty members access federal research dollars from NSERC, SSHRC and CFI. Please contact CARTI Manager Naomi Tabata at naomi.tabata@nic.bc.ca and learn how you can access funds from The Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC), The Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) and the Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI).

COMMUNITY & INDUSTRY ENGAGEMENT

BC Salmon Farmers Association
Campbell River Chamber of Commerce
Comox Valley Chamber of Commerce
Discovery Passage SeaLife Society
Greenways Land Trust
Hornby Island Estate Winery
Ladies Learning Code
School District 71
We Are YQQ
Young Professionals of Campbell River

Connecting Communities Through Research on Vancouver Island

ABOUT CARTI

Sustainable Aquaculture

Stephen Cross

- Designed acrylic test tank for Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV) work. The chamber will support a benthic platform and allow vertical deployment of the ROV for testing and monitoring.
- Participated in media interviews with regards to upcoming Seafood Festival.
- Invited to speak on "Developing Research Partnerships—Challenges and Opportunities" at the national CIGan conference in Winnipeg in May.

Remote Web-Based Science Lab

Albert Balbon

- Ran RWSL e/m apparatus and Refraction/Reflection labs for Michael Willers' Physics class.
- Participated in an interview for Manufacturing AUTOMATION magazine.
- Provided RWSL demonstration for touring students from Bella Bella, and an RWSL presentation and demonstration to School District 71 Math Contest participants.

Eelgrass Distribution

Christine Hodgson

- \$25,000 funding received for new applied research partnership, investigating the distribution of eelgrass in the Comox Estuary and the implications for shellfish aquaculture. This project will also contribute data to define the amount of carbon sequestration by eelgrass in the estuary. The project partners include K'omoks First Nation, Pentlatch Seafoods Ltd., Comox Valley Project Watershed, and is funded by Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC), Applied Research and Development Grant.

FEED Comox Valley

Sandra Hamilton

- Investigating options as a result of supply challenges which have been identified.

UPCOMING

May 7:

Powerful Partnerships event in Campbell River

May 13 to 15:

North American Science Labs Online (NANSLO) meeting in Boulder, Colorado

May 21:

BC Research and Innovation Network (BCARIN) Grant Writing Workshop

May 24 to 26:

Colleges and Institutes Canada (CIGan), Stephen Cross presentation

May 29:

NSERC Innovation Enhancement Grant — Letter of Intent deadline

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Write Here Readers Series 2015/2016

The North Island College Write Here Readers Series (WHRS) just wrapped up another successful season of writers, thanks to the Canada Council on the Arts, the NIC English Department, and NIC College Relations. All four campuses hosted several writers over the fall and winter semesters.

This was our fourth year of the series, and our reputation as a great place to read is growing. We were approached by authors Don McKay and Gary Geddes, and other authors continue to solicit us in hopes that we might host them. As well, our partnership with the Fanny Bay Fat Oyster Readers Series continues to grow.

The WHRS series is coordinated through the NIC English Department with the help of College Relations; the theme of the series is to bring local and province-wide voices from and to the college region.

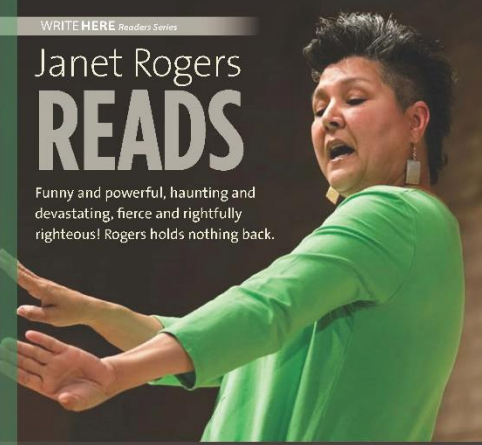
This past year, we hosted the following authors:

- Kim Bannerman, local celebrated Cumberland novelist
- Matt Radar, poet and short story writer, and former NIC professor
- Ian Weir, award winning screenplay writer and novelist
- Janet Rogers, former Victoria poet laureate
- Garry Geddes, award winning poet
- Ann Erikson, biologist/novelist
- Ivan E. Coyote, celebrated spoken-word artist and award winning author
- Russell Thornton, celebrated North Vancouver poet

We will finish our series in the fall, hosting Jordan Abel, winner of the 2014 Dorothy Livesay Prize for Poetry.

FREE PUBLIC EVENT

WRITE HERE Readers Series



Janet Rogers READS

Funny and powerful, haunting and devastating, fierce and rightfully righteous! Rogers holds nothing back.

Join Mohawk/Tuscarora writer Janet Rogers for an evening of poetry and spoken word performance.

As an artist and activist in the Victoria/Vancouver area for over 20 years, Janet Rogers is well known for her award-winning radio documentaries and as host of the Native Waves Radio program on CFUV FM and Tribal Clefs on CBC Radio 1 in Victoria BC. Her poetry CDs *Firewater* (2009), *Got Your Back* (2012) and *6 Directions* (2013), have all been nominated in the best spoken word categories by Native Music Award programs throughout North America.

Tuesday, March 3, 7 pm
Café Guido, Port Hardy
Open to everyone | Admission is free

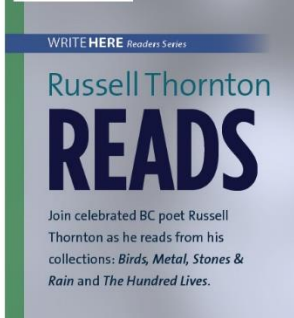
For more information on this event or the Write Here Readers Series, contact Collin Hartrott at 250-334-7332 ext. 2872 | www.nic.bc.ca/events

www.nic.bc.ca

NORTH ISLAND COLLEGE

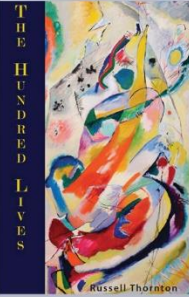
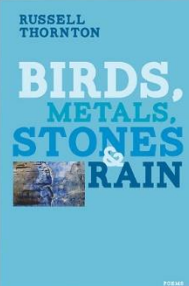
FREE PUBLIC EVENT

WRITE HERE Readers Series



Russell Thornton READS

Join celebrated BC poet Russell Thornton as he reads from his collections: *Birds, Metal, Stones & Rain* and *The Hundred Lives*.



Russell Thornton is the author of six collections of poetry. His poems have appeared in many anthologies, among them *Open Wide a Wilderness: Canadian Nature Poems* and *Best Canadian Poetry in English 2012*. His work has the rare ability to be keenly observant of the minute details of his environment and intensely introspective. His startling imagery will stay with you long after turning the final page. Learn more about Russell Thornton at www.thornton999.blogspot.ca.

Thursday, March 26, 7 pm
Tye Hall Lounge, Comox Valley Campus
Open to everyone | Admission is free

For more information on this event or the Write Here Readers Series, contact Joleen Finnerty joleen.finnerty@nic.bc.ca | 250-334-5000 ext 4017

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