

## Letter from the President

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SEPTEMBER 4, 2017

# COMOX VALLEY CAMPUS PAY PARKING UPDATE

Dear Colleagues,

By now, many of you will have learned of Island Health's announcement on Friday, September 1, 2017 that there will be no pay parking at its Comox Valley and Campbell River hospitals, a reversal of their previously announced decision. As discussions about pay parking at the Comox Valley campus have formed a large part of the College's conversations during the last year, I wanted to promptly update you on NIC's current position.

North Island College's decision to charge for parking was several years in the making and was based on a number of factors. Obviously, the adjacency of the new Comox Valley hospital to our campus was a primary factor in the decision (see [President's Newsletter Pay Parking, May 26, 2016](#)). However, it was not the only one. Provincial government funding and policies, college fiscal resource constraints, costs for parking lot maintenance and environmental sustainability goals were other important factors. These considerations remain top of mind today. However, affordability for students and the added financial burden for employees are also important concerns.

I want to assure you we have not forgotten about the feedback many of you provided during the past year. That feedback, as well as our experiences from the first year, led to major changes ([2016/17 Pay Parking Report, June 1, 2017](#)) including significant rate reductions and the return of designated staff parking areas. We have learned much in the past year and this knowledge continues to inform our next steps.

Island Health's announcement represents a change in direction from their April 10, 2017 public communication and caught us by surprise on the Friday before the start of the Fall term. As a result, NIC needs a little time

to review our Parking Principles and consider the operational, financial and environmental impacts this will have on the College.

Following the review's completion, I will make recommendations on pay parking to the Board of Governors by September 25, in time for the September 28 Board meeting. **I expect any decision the Board of Governors might make to change pay parking, could come into effect on October 1. In the interim, however, we will continue to charge for parking.**

Thank you for your patience and understanding of the need to follow an appropriate, yet expeditious decision-making process.

Please watch for another email from me in the following days, containing more news and information about the year ahead for NIC.

I look forward to reconnecting with you all in the coming days.

Sincerely,



John Bowman  
President

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