

**NORTH ISLAND COLLEGE BOARD OF GOVERNORS
COLLEGE HIGHLIGHTS REPORT
JANUARY 2022**

ACCESS AND REGIONS

MIXALAKWILA CAMPUS

Donna Merry, Regional Manager Mixalakwila and CET

Professional Cook students started full-time on January 17 at the newly constructed commercial kitchen at Gwa'sala-'Nakwaxdax'w (GNN) school. The program began at Mixalakwila Campus in October, with 11 students preparing for the program by upgrading and completing their safety certificates.

The funded program is open to Indigenous and non-Indigenous participants and will prepare students as culinary arts apprentices and addresses a significant need in the region for skilled chefs and hospitality workers.

In the fall, the class engaged in a traditional foods workshop with Wade Charlie, a member of GNN. Working with sockeye and chum salmon, they prepared, smoked and canned the chum, and barbecued the sockeye over the fire using traditional cedar sticks.

The program has been made possible through partnership with K'awat'si Economic Development Corporation, Gwa'sala-'Nakwaxdax'w Nations, GNN school and North Island College and is funded through the Canada-BC Workforce Development Agreement.





CONTINUING EDUCATION AND TRAINING (CET)

CET Overview

Bob Haugen, Continuing Education & Training Director

Our department has been extremely busy this fiscal year delivering a record number of new skills training programs and enrolling a record number of students into our credentialed programs.

We, along with many other departments, had to rework our delivery methods and rewrite much of our curriculum to adapt to the COVID-19 pandemic and meet the Public Health Officer (PHO) guidelines. We also focused on developing new programs to meet the evolving needs of our communities and apply for funding to help participants gain the skills and certifications needed to find employment. Our community connections and support from community partners are key to the successes we have achieved this year. We are very grateful to our community partners for their commitment to workforce and economic development in all North Island communities.

We are starting our fourth quarter strong with additional new program deliveries starting in January and February including Heavy Equipment Operator in Rivers Inlet, Digital Elevation Expertise Program (DEEP) in Bella Coola and Seafood Processing in Port Alberni.

CET staff are to be congratulated for their efforts to meet the needs of our communities across the region and achieve excellent results this year.

Comox Valley Campus

Susan Murray, Continuing Education & Training Officer

First Aid Training

First Aid training continues to be busy with contracts, open courses and training for NIC programs. In January, we will be offering the first of three Emergency Medical Responder (EMR) course to students funded through the First Nations Health Authority who received government funding. If they are able to receive further funding, there is a possibility of three more of the EMR courses which are two weeks long each.

Sustainable Farming Program

The second sustainable farming program wrapped up the end of November 2021. Once again, the course was a great success with many students pursuing careers in farming. The training was once again held at Lentelus Farms and our community funding partner is LUSH Valley. We will be running another course this spring and will be applying for funding.



Craft Brewing & Malting Program

The Craft Brewing & Malting program finished up on December 10th and has been a huge success once again. The program was held in partnership with the Comox Valley Chamber of Commerce. We held a successful Christmas Mixer to showcase the students' brews and introduce members of the chamber to the program and future plans. We are currently working on offering the program again in the fall along with other short programs and microbrewing program.

Program Video: <https://youtu.be/8PamYNa5eNs>



Digital Essential Skills – Comox Valley

A group of 10 participants gained digital literacy skills over 10 weeks. The program led to successful employment outcomes for some participants while others are applying their skills to advance their own business.

Comox Valley Campus

Julian Benedict, Continuing Education & Training Officer

Advanced Memory Care Micro-Credential Pilot Program

CET successfully launched its new Advanced Memory Care digital course in early September 2021. The eight-week intensive pilot online course, designed specifically for caregivers working on Long Term care facilities, explores how the brain functions, and how to better support those living with dementia. Feedback from the pilot course has gone into further curriculum improvements that will be realized in the second iteration of the course, which started on January 13, 2022. To learn more about this unique course, and to register online, visit: www.nic.bc.ca/memory-care.

Activity Assistant Certificate Program

The Activity Assistant Certificate program continues to find great success on its online format. For the Winter 2022 term, we are expanding our cohort to include participants from Northern Health as part of a special new partnership with the health authority. Meanwhile, feedback from graduates regarding the online delivery remains positive: students like the flexible format, which provides a way for them to balance the challenges of family and work commitments, and also eliminate commuting. The program is also offering some limited seats to international students, with an aim to eventually develop a dedicated cohort for this segment in the Fall of 2023. Due to high demand, the Activity Assistant Certificate program will be offering a Spring 2022 intake starting in early May 2022. This cohort is already filling up and those interested in attending are encouraged to apply right away. To learn more, visit: www.nic.bc.ca/activity-assistant.

Animal Care Aide Program

The Animal Care Aide Program continues to be one of the most popular programs at the College. The busy Winter 2022 cohort began on January 4th. The animal care sector is a growing field, as the shift to work-from-home has seen many more people seeking animal companionship while telecommuting. This digitally delivered program is committed to meet the growing demands of this sector across Vancouver Island and beyond. To learn more, and apply online for the Fall 2022 semester, visit: www.nic.bc.ca/animal-care.

Comox Valley ElderCollege (CVEC)

Despite the best efforts of volunteers and all concerned, the decision to move all ElderCollege courses to online delivery seems to be the best approach given the pandemic. CVEC volunteers have been most flexible and many will convert their on-campus courses to a digital model so everyone can participate. To help facilitate the shift to digital delivery, a special online information forum was held on Saturday, January 15, 2022. You can learn more about ElderCollege programming at the following website: www.nic.bc.ca/CVEC.

Campbell River Campus

Sandy Rose, Continuing Education & Training Officer

Hospital Unit Clerk (HUC)

Students finished up 2021 with the completion of HUC 103, an introduction to Pharmacology. All practicum placements have been secured with students attending healthcare placements in Campbell River, Comox Valley and Victoria beginning April 1st. Applications are now being accepted for Fall 2022 and seats have been increased to allow up to 18 students the opportunity to take this in demand program. This is an increase of six additional seats for 2022 which will help address industry demand.

Wildfire Crew Member Training, Campbell River, Prince George locations

We are once again thrilled to be partnering with Strategic Natural Resource Consultants to deliver the Wildfire Crew Member Training program. Funding for the program is made possible via funds obtained through the Community Workforce Response Grant, Emerging Priorities stream. This year will see programs delivered in Campbell River and for the first time in Prince George where up to 24 individuals will receive a well-rounded curriculum that prepares them for entry level positions for the 2022 fire season. With historical adverse weather events ravaging the province in 2021, this training will provide a much-needed influx of job ready individuals to assist with wildfires in 2022.

Coastal Log Scaling

A great team effort allowed us to fill the cohort at near full capacity. Although interest was initially high, enrollment was low. The program was very close to not being able to run due to not having the minimum of seats filled. But with the collaboration between several NIC Departments from CET to Admissions, Assessment Services and Registration services, we were able to meet industry needs and provide this in-demand training. Potential employers have already reached out to us in order to access the students once their training is completed. Employment prospects are currently very good. Students will be finishing the online theory portion mid-February before starting the practical portion at the end of February which will take them to log sorting grounds in the Nanaimo area. Students will be writing the Ministry exam sometime in May although the exam date has yet to be confirmed.

Digital Essential Skills for First Nations Communities

The Digital Essential Skills program funded via the Skills Training for Economic Recovery Stream of the Community Workforce Response Grant Program was delivered to four North Island First Nations communities during November/December. A total of 14 participants from Gwa'sala-'Nakwaxda'xw First Nations Quatsino First Nation Kwagul'ł First Nation and Dzawada'enuxw First Nation gained essential digital skills to allow them to apply for work, contribute to office-based workplaces and engage in lifelong learning online. They learned basic skills such as using office applications, organizing digital files, managing data and information security, using web browsers and cloud-based applications and joining online learning opportunities.

Digital Essential Skills – Namgis First Nation, Alert Bay

Scheduled to begin on January 17th, the Digital Essential Skills program will be delivered via contract to the Namgis First Nation in their community. Previous programs have been delivered online and this one will be a face-to-face offering facilitated by Nikka Hutton of Mount Waddington Adult Literacy.

Heavy Equipment Operator, Foundation & Technical Training - Wuikinuxv Nation, Rivers Inlet

This program will address opportunities for heavy equipment operators to gain employment in the forestry industry surrounding the Wuikinuxv First Nation and other areas of coastal BC and Vancouver Island. Currently, several contractors are working within Wuikinuxv traditional territories. This program will prepare new operators to participate in local employment opportunities and will provide certification opportunities for experienced operators who will be able to command higher wages. Wuikinuxv First Nation has future goals to manage their own forestry company and see this training as a step toward preparing a workforce for the future. This exciting training is scheduled to begin on February 28th.

Campbell River Campus

Renee Reedel, Continuing Education & Training Officer

Marine Training

North Island College Marine training continues to be in demand. The department offered courses throughout the Fall here on campus. Some courses became full while there were about two that we had to cancel. There were approximately 224 students who attended classes on campus this term. Every course for January 2022 has enough students to run all six courses and some of these are almost full. There are two contracts in the works for the Winter 2022 term. One is for a Skills and Training for Economic Recovery (STER) grant for the Marine Essentials training in Ucluelet. The other is for a requested contract for a few courses in Kyuquot. We continue to distribute our Marine Monthly newsletter and are researching new avenues for advertising.

Metal Jewellery

The Metal Jewellery studio and workshop are currently under construction. Once the shop is complete, we will be able to run workshops that have been very popular in the past and is also another great tool for program promotion. The instructor has been also working on updating the main webpage. There are currently six students registered for the program including two international students. We have also been receiving weekly email inquiries regarding the program and feel certain it will run for the planned September 2022 start.

Part-time Vocational

Bookkeeping ran this Fall and had a total of 10 out of 12 students. The next online Bookkeeping and SAGE-50 Accounting (formerly Simply Accounting) will be running in the Winter 2022 term.

Campbell River ElderCollege

Campbell River ElderCollege ran their courses all online this term. There was a low turn-out with approximately 22 students. The request from the community is to hold in-person on-campus courses but due to COVID-19 as well as room availability, this been a challenge. ElderCollege is looking to run the next term all in-person in the hopes that this will bring their student numbers up.

Port Hardy Campus

Renee Reedel, Continuing Education & Training Officer

Marine Training

The Namgis First Nation group in Alert Bay began their Marine contract in December 2021. The remainder of the courses will be taught on site at the Learning Centre in this community in January 2022. We are delivering a total of four courses within this contract for entry level deckhand positions.

Port Alberni Campus

Leanne Moore, Continuing Education & Training Officer

Trades Discovery – Funded by NETP & ITA

Since October 27th, CET has been delivering a 15-week Trades Discovery program for a cohort of 12 in Port Alberni in partnership with Nuu-chah-nulth Employment and Training Program (NETP). The program introduces participants to carpentry, plumbing and electrical. Also included in the program is Trades Math refresher and Indigenous Essential Skills & Leadership. The students are producing products that they are proud of, including smoke houses for the Tseshah First Nation.

NETP has indicated that they would like to go ahead with Carpentry Level 1 Apprenticeship program in March which will also be a funded program. Many of the students from the current program have shown interest in continuing into this program.



Food Production & Processing

On February 7th, a Community Workforce Grant funded 11-week Food Production & Processing program will be commencing with a cohort of 12. It includes theory, hands-on activities, and a two-week work experience component. The program will take place in a fully outfitted kitchen which is owned by the Port Alberni Shelter Society.

Once the training is complete, participants will be ready to go to work in food processing plants, supermarket produce departments, delis, restaurants, cafes and catering companies.

Seafood Processing Training Program

On February 14th, a Community Workforce Grant funded eight-week Food Production & Processing program will be commencing with a cohort of eight students. The Seafood Processing Training Program prepares participants for jobs in the seafood processing industry and will be delivered on-site at the Dock+, a Canada Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) certified food processing facility. It is primarily a hands-on, experiential training experience. Training will include identifying different species of fish and seafoods, learning about various types of products, markets, and market needs, cutting and packaging various seafoods, shellfish/oyster shucking, developing Standard Operating Procedures (SOP), including CFIA/ Provincial requirements, cleaning/sanitation procedures, hazard recognition, facility orientation, general food safety, forklift operation, WHIMIS and Standard First Aid.

Facilities Maintenance Program

An application has been submitted for a STER Grant for the Facilities Maintenance program, in partnership with the Tseshaht First Nation, that we are expecting will be approved. If approved, this program will also so start in February 2022.

TRADES AND TECHNICAL PROGRAMS

Happy New Year!

2022 came barging in like a bull in a china shop! Not only did we have a very white Christmas and Holiday break, but the white stuff refused to release its grip on January as campuses were attempting to spring back to life. But here we are, plowing our way into 2022 gathering much needed momentum for the coming winter term.

With the many foundation and forestry programs continuing from fall, the beginning of January boasted the start-up of two Carpentry Apprenticeship programs, Plumbing Apprenticeship Level 4, three Motion Picture Micro-credentials, three Electrical Apprenticeships and Heavy Mechanical Level 3 – and that's just for starters! Trades and Technical programs are sending January packing in fine style. The countdown is on... January 31st has a rather impressive lineup starting with our three-month Trade Sampler program geared towards our dual credit students and those individuals not quite sure what trade it is that strikes their fancy – so why not try a bunch of them to find the right niche. There are three Carpentry Foundation programs in the books for Campbell River, Courtenay and Port Alberni, Welding Foundation and Electrical Foundation programs will be in Campbell River and Plumbing and Piping Foundation is all ready to go at the Comox Valley campus.

Professional Cook Level 1 will be in the Teaching Kitchen at the Port Alberni campus and we are excited to have new instructor Enrique Toledo leading students through the core culinary skills of the Level 1 Apprenticeship on the way to mastering their new craft.

For the month of January, this brings a total of 18 program starts!

Coming Up!

February and March are the months for Apprenticeships at the Campbell River and Comox Valley campuses. Carpentry Level 2 has two cohorts happening with instructors Rob Laird and Erik Hardin, and Plumbing Level 2 with Nick Charette. Electrical has Level 4 with David Johns and two Level 1's with new sessional instructors Lindsay Beaton and Doug Watson. Heavy Mechanical Level 4 will also start up in March with Byron Beaupre and Professional Cook 2 will be carrying on with Chef Xavier Bauby.

Not to be left out, we have 2 more foundation programs beginning in February: Automotive Service Technician and an Electrical Foundation Harmonized. We are also excited to have another Women in Trades scheduled for the last two weeks in March.

Re-Cap

Industry Training Authority BC (ITA) exams are also back in full swing. We started shaking off the cobwebs back in October and have now fallen back into the regular and familiar routine that seemed almost forgotten having been absent from our agenda for so long.

Instructor David Johns also notes that in November, the Electrical Apprenticeship program has resurrected our pre-COVID arrangement with the Campbell River Airport. Students are able to get an up-close look at the unique features of airport lighting systems. Although this visit was a smaller group of five students, it was a full day which was enjoyed by all in attendance. David continues to make plans for the upcoming Level 4 courses to ensure that this opportunity is fully utilized for our needs in the electrical division.

The Holiday Buffet at the Campbell River campus...where do we start? Crunchy Asian salad with pomegranate, market fresh grilled vegetables in a balsamic herb dressing, Chicken Ballotine and garnishes, Scallop and Prawn Terrine, Duck Casserole, Tomato Povençale, roasted baby potatoes and coconut Thai Pilaf Rice were but a mere few of the incredible items on the seemingly endless list of menu items before you ever got to the carving station with its Salt-Crusted Prime Rib of Beef with Glazed Shallot and Cabernet Sauce. And once you made it that far you were now fully committed, the point of no return had been left behind and the path to the assorted cakes and desserts at the final table would be the only logical conduit out of this culinary coma.

Now, in a new year, where hopes for dietary redemption springs anew, we had a plan to get back on track with our health-conscious diet of vegetables, low carbs and exercise. It was fool-proof and should have been easy enough to follow after that self-indulgent free for all...*au contraire! Mon dieu*, if that were the case, surely we would wither away to the shadows of our former selves! It is not to be. For the next eight weeks any plans of discipline or control have been derailed by our Professional Cook students as they up the ante with weekly lunch specials on Wednesdays and Thursdays along with the desserts of fattening Fridays!

New Additions

Trades and Technical programs have a number of exciting new additions to the team!

Featured: Work Integrated Learning Advisor – My name is Karen Hodson, the new Work Integrated Learning (WIL) Advisor, Faculty of Trades and Technical Programs. My primary focus is to support the NIC students enrolled in the Trades Foundation Work Experiences (WXT100) and Apprentice programs. In collaboration with our Department of Work Integrated Education, I am the bridge between the NIC students and the industry community partners/employers for their approximately two-week applied learning experience. This includes developing a Trades focused WIL Framework/Guide; re-establishing/building new relationships with industry and community partners/businesses; creating and maintaining a database; updating required forms and documents; setting up the current WIL student placements (facilitating agreements, site visits/monitoring, obtaining feedback, etc.); and developing and supporting upcoming and future Work Experience programs.



I envision that the Trades and Technical Work Integrated Learning will enhance student education with applied learning and skill development in a real work environment, increase community and industry engagement, and empower our students to enter the workforce as stronger “work ready” individuals ready to take their next steps forward into their chosen careers.

Chef Enrique Toledo – Enrique is a Red Seal Chef with a Bachelor of Education from the University of British Columbia and a Master of Leadership from Royal Roads University with an impressive resume of knowledge and experience. He is a life-long learner dedicated to providing quality leadership for the enhancement of teaching and learning. His devotion to student learning focuses on encouraging each learner under his guidance to pursue their apprenticeship with a positive and meaningful attitude, perform every task to the best of their ability and gain the confidence to accept new challenges that will prepare them for a career in the Culinary Arts. We welcome Enrique to the Port Alberni campus where he will be instructing Professional Cook Level 1.

James (Jim) Stratford – Jim joins us at the Campbell River campus to lead the Welding Foundation program beginning January 31st. He possesses 20+ years of mentoring and training experience and brings

a detailed and focused approach committed to fostering the highest standards of quality in the workmanship of his students, no matter their age or background. His ongoing objective to integrate his extensive welding knowledge and experience is combined with stringent harmonized standards aligned with safety regulations.

Shane Glover – we are welcoming Shane to the Port Alberni campus as the Welding Instructor for the second cohort of the Welder Foundation Enhanced Micro-credential. Shane has over 16 years of experience in various capacities and levels of Welder and Welding Inspector and is also a North Island College alum! Shane looks forward to the opportunity to share his skills and knowledge with students entering the Welding trade.

David Apperson – David is a Red Seal Master Electrician who holds a Bachelor of Science degree from Oregon State University. He is also currently completing his Provincial Instructors Diploma with Vancouver Community College. No stranger to education, David has taught at both Grande Prairie Regional College and Lethbridge College where the students of his Master Electrician’s Preparation program successfully went on to achieve their Master Electrician certification. He has also worked at the international level for the US Government Development Agency in South Africa instructing students in English as a Second Language as well as in Math and Science. Most recently at Grande Prairie Regional College, David’s students were at Level 1 and 2 Apprenticeships and he led a Women Building Futures foundation course. David now steps into the Electrical Foundation program in Campbell River beginning February 28th. With the combination of his background in electrical and current and past teaching experiences, we are confident our students are in good hands.

Cori Wheeler – Cori is the new Teaching Kitchen Support at the Campbell River campus where she is responsible for providing assistance with various aspects of the Cafe operations and assisting the Teaching Kitchen Technician with various tasks. Also a North Island College alum, Cori earned her Red Seal endorsement after completing the Professional Cook Level 3 program with us. She has since spent 10 years in the Culinary industry with eight of those years as a Corporate Chef and Event Coordinator with MOWI Canada West. Cori also serves as the Membership Director for the North Vancouver Island Chefs’ Association, a local branch of the Canadian Culinary Federation, and holds a Business Administration Diploma from Lethbridge Community College. What a valuable addition to Trades and Technical programs!

And we’re still growing!

OFFICE OF GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT

International Enrolment Update

Submitted by Junko Leclair

NIC has seen 77 new international students begin this January which is supporting our first overall January enrolment increase since 2020 and has helped to contribute to flattening two years of enrolment drops. January overall enrolment headcount is at 285. In addition, with the support of Health and Human Services (HHS) and Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) department chairs and faculty, our ECCE cohorts will move forward as scheduled with a delayed start and increased digital delivery for the first two months of the programs.

STUDENT & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Student Affairs

Submitted by Felicity Blaiklock, Director, Student Affairs

Student Life Activities

Student Life and the Orientation Committee delivered the W2022 Orientation with a mix of virtual (live and recorded) sessions and in-person welcome booths. Although we were impacted by the snow and PHO restrictions, we still managed to reach a fair number of new and returning students. The Orientation webpage will remain available to all students with a range of services, resources and information to support their success.

Student Life is planning a range of events to connect, inform and engage our students this winter. Events include Bell Let's Talk Day (January 26), Thrive Month (February), Moose Hide Campaign (February 10), Bystander Intervention Training (February 1) and Starting a Conversation about Mental Health (student training, February 11). We will also be holding another of our popular Brave Space conversations in March 2022.

Sexual Violence Awareness

A student-focused Sexualized Violence Perception Survey will be launched on January 31. The data gleaned from this provincial survey will help to inform the work of the Sexualized Violence Education Team (SVET) and improve our support for survivors and those impacted by sexualized violence. <https://www.nic.bc.ca/about-us/nic-news/news/bc-sexual-violence-perceptions-survey/>. We are also working on an SV training for new employees. We hope to have this ready for a soft launch in the spring/summer.

New Associate Director, Student Life

We are excited to announce the hiring of an Associate Director, Student Life (replacing Dean Martin who left NIC last August). Meesbah Jiwaji will be taking on the role from the end of April 2022. Meesbah has significant experience in all areas of Student Life including student housing, orientation and events, EDI and sexualized violence prevention and response. Meesbah (Mez) will be based on the Campbell River campus but will serve all campuses.

CARE² Plan

The CARE² Plan: Student Mental Health and Well-Being at NIC is now ready for student feedback. The Plan will be available through Engage and we will be seeking input from our students on the content and goals set out in the plan. We hope to launch the final version of the plan in May 2022 to coincide with CMHA Mental Health Week and the two-year anniversary of NIC's formal adoption of the Okanagan Charter.

Library & Learning Commons – Academic Supports

Submitted by Ben Hecht, Coordinator, Peer Tutoring, Writing and Math Supports

Writing Support

Given the return to campus (with ongoing COVID precautions) in September 2021, we offered our Writing Support service both face-to-face and through online video appointments, by phone, and by email feedback during the Fall 2021 term. Appointments were available during the week and on Saturdays. In the Fall 2021 term, NIC students booked 474 individual appointments with Writing Support.

In addition to individual writing support appointments, Writing Support faculty also offered eight online workshops throughout the Fall 2021 term; a total of 59 students attended those workshops.

Writing Support faculty went into seven classes to provide in-class presentations and workshops tailored to the individual needs of faculty and their students.

Students are also taking regular advantage of Write Away, the provincial online writing support platform. They submitted a total of 115 submissions to Write Away in the Fall 2021 term.

Math Support

Math Support offered face-to-face as well as support through online video appointments, phone, email, and video drop-in sessions. In Fall 2021, NIC students met with Math Support 258 times. Math support faculty also offered four workshops throughout the Fall 2021 semester. These workshops are recorded as a resource for math students to watch asynchronously as well.

Peer Tutoring

In the Fall 2021 semester, the Learning Commons had 19 peer tutors, most of them active, but only some of them returning for Winter2022. Tutors work in a wide variety of disciplines including Business, Math & Sciences, English, Sociology, Digital Design, Kwak’wala Adult Basic Education, Health Care Assistant, Practical Nursing, English, and Spanish.

Peer tutors are available for virtual appointments or face-to-face meetings, during which they support student content and skills learning. As with math and writing supports, these appointments are bookable online. All virtual appointments take place on the video platform, Blue Jeans. The Fall 2021 term saw NIC students booking 140 appointments with peer tutors.

Future Students & Community Engagement

Marketing & Future Students

Submitted by Erin Kenny, Manager, Marketing & Future Students

We are pleased to welcome Sarah Nolette as the new Content Specialist, Marketing & Future Students. Sarah joins the Marketing & Future Students team full-time this January after working for NIC as a contract writer/editor for one and a half years. Sarah is a skilled communicator who strives to make an authentic connection with target audiences through both digital and traditional channels. Sarah will work with a team of writers, designers and recruiters to generate engaging content and campaigns that connect prospective students with learning opportunities available at North Island College.