

## **TRADES AND TECHNICAL PROGRAMS**

**September 2023**

### ***A Quick Look Back***

July and August saw the wrap up of several Foundation programs from both the Courtenay and Campbell River campuses. Plumbing, Carpentry and Electrical students made good their escape mid-July while Welding, Automotive and Heavy Mechanical students held fast until August. From June to September, the hustle and bustle in the hallways was reduced to a dull roar as the majority of faculty, staff and students completed their studies or other activities for the year/term and took a well-deserved break. Behind the scenes, preparation for the fall calendar was in full swing.

We're riding the wave into the new term and in Trades and Technical it's a tidal bore!

On September 5<sup>th</sup> alone, there were 17 program starts! Tebo in Port Alberni sprang back into action with Welding, Automotive and Furniture Design Foundations. Trades in Courtenay didn't skip a beat and came on strong with Carpentry Foundation, Carpentry Apprenticeship Level 4 and Plumbing Level 3. The sleeping giant at the Campbell River campus didn't bat an eye and came on strong with Electrical, Automotive, Welding and Heavy Mechanical Foundations, the Coastal Forest Certificate and Diploma programs joined in and then the Apprenticeships brought Heavy Mechanical and Electrical Level 2 programs, with Professional Cook Level 1 and the Culinary Business Operations Certificate bringing up the rear.

Oh, but wait...on September 11<sup>th</sup> two Carpentry Apprenticeships, Levels 2 and 3 began in Courtenay and a cohort of Electrical Apprenticeship Level 4 came to light in Campbell River with another Electrical Apprenticeship Level 3 amping up for September 18<sup>th</sup>.

### ***Still ahead...***

October will not be slowing down either. We have Plumbing Apprenticeship levels 1 and 4, Carpentry Apprenticeship Levels 1 and 4, and from there we're cruisin' with Electrical Apprenticeship Level 1 and Automotive Service Technical Apprenticeship Level 2! Port Alberni isn't being left behind either with Professional Cook Level 2 and the Culinary Operations Diploma programs turning up the heat with chef instructor Sean McSavaney.

*Submitted by Coleen McLean, Lead Coastal Forest Instructor*

As we usher in the 2023-24 academic year, the Faculty of Trades and Technical is thrilled to extend a warm welcome to our returning students and dedicated faculty members. We're gearing up for an exciting event that promises to be both informative and engaging – Industry Night. Set for October 17, this event is open to all. We are inviting students and the public to join us for an evening of networking with prominent leaders in the natural resource and trades sectors.

Industry Night is a chance for the community to delve into the world of NIC's training

opportunities within the natural resource and trades programs, explore a myriad of career options, and establish valuable connections with employers from across the Province. It's an event designed to empower students and potential students with knowledge and connections that can shape futures in these dynamic fields.

### ***Annual Welcome Back Events, Campbell River Campus***

August 30<sup>th</sup> brought most of the faculty and staff back on campus for a warm greeting from NIC President, Lisa Domae, followed by some catching up, a look at what's coming up and, for those who were lucky enough to attend, an informative and fun drum-making workshop presented by Elder, Daryl Mills.



### **Welcome Back Trades and Technical Programs Faculty and Staff!**

On August 31<sup>st</sup>, Trades and Technical headed to the fairways of the Quadra Island Golf Course for the department's Welcome Back! It was a friendly scramble played by teams chasing the ball around nine holes with the elusive "hole in one" just one drive away. Never has this course been graced with such golfing prowess! We broke out some moves that most likely aren't to be seen on these greens again any time soon!



### **The Caf Staff Are Back!**



Once again, the smell of fresh baked goods is wafting through the halls first thing in the morning! Mel and the gang are ready and waiting to perk you up with happy faces, infectious smiles and a "have a good day!" to go with your order. The specialty coffees will kick start the sleepest of minds and there is always something on the menu at lunch for a mid-day top up. Stop by anytime to see Kartik, Mel, Connie, Wendy and Corie – they're waiting for you!

**We have new members in the Trades and Technical Department!**

**Jani Martinus.** An NIC Alum, Jani completed her Carpentry Apprenticeship with us achieving her Red Seal in 2021. She was the lead instructor for the “Women in Trades” program and has also joined us as a substitute instructor for the 2023 winter Carpentry Foundation cohort. Now she is leading her own Carpentry Foundation program at the Comox Valley campus. With more than eight years of practical experience and an intimate knowledge of Industry standards and safety protocols, Jani has an air of confidence with her ability to ensure students grasp carpentry fundamentals while fostering their passion for craftsmanship. We are happy to have her!

**Alanna Brennan** Alanna will be our new Natural Resources Programming Officer and will work closely with Coleen McLean in the delivery of some exciting new micro-credentials. Alanna has a Bachelor of Commerce degree and comes to NIC with extensive management experience with positions as a Project Manager, Administrative and Executive Assistant and as an Outdoor Educator. Through these roles she has acquired the necessary leadership, communication and organizational skills that guarantee she will be a valued member of our team.

**Laurie Mossop** Laurie comes to NIC from the Lower Mainland and has a Bachelor of Arts degree from UBC. She is currently pursuing a Human Resource Management Certificate from BCIT. Her background in Human Resource Management and Business makes her a perfect fit for Senior Administrative Specialist for Trades and Technical Programs. She has an abundance of experience in leadership, administration, communication, marketing and fiscal management. With 13 years in the Early Childcare Sector in various roles from Management to Owner and Director, Laurie is eager to take her skills to a higher level of the educational institution. Her comprehensive understanding of multicultural sensitivity and familiarity with diverse environments should warrant her nothing but success in her new position.



**OFFICE OF GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT (OGE)  
New International Student Orientations**

*Submitted by Mike Hillian, Global Engagement Liaison*

Nearly 200 new international students attended in-person orientation events at the Comox Valley and Campbell River campuses on August 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>. Students participated in icebreaker games, toured their new campuses, and enjoyed a delicious lunch. Also in Campbell River, ḡilakasla to June Johnson NIC Elder in Residence, and the Liḡwiḡdaḡw Elders and Youth Culture Group for sharing stories, songs and dances (and getting everyone up to dance together!) to welcome our new international students from 17 different countries to Liḡwiḡdaḡw territory and Campbell River at Qḡpixḡidaḡas (The Gathering Place).



*Campbell River Fall 2023  
International Students group photo  
outside of the Qḡpixḡidaḡas  
(Gathering Place)*



*Comox Valley Fall 2023 International Students  
lunch behind Tyee Hall*

**Study Abroad - Exchange**

*Submitted by Renae Leboe, Global Engagement Liaison*

This fall, OGE welcomed nine international inbound semester exchange students for the fall term from Mexico, Chile, Vietnam, Romania, France, Belgium and Germany.

Four NIC students have headed out on an outbound semester exchange to Japan (three) and Germany (one).

Applications for winter 2024 exchange opportunities are now open and the application deadline is October 15, 2023. Inquiries can be emailed to [istudyabroad@nic.bc.ca](mailto:istudyabroad@nic.bc.ca)

### Study Abroad – Field Schools

*Submitted by Renae Leboe, Global Engagement Liaison*

OGE is finalizing its spring 2024 field school programming. More information will be provided on the NIC website and emailed to students in the upcoming weeks. Field Schools are 2-3 week group study abroad opportunities led by an NIC faculty member.

#### Team Building on Quadra Island

*Submitted by Katie Phelan, Communications Specialist*

The entire team at OGE enjoyed a beautiful and culturally enriching day on Quadra Island in August and We Wai Kai artist Brad Assu hosted the team's visit to the Nuyumbalees Cultural Centre at Cape Mudge. In keeping with OGE's aim to Indigenize international education at NIC, the team learned a lot from Brad, and from each other, about the importance of place and stories; of remembering and ceremony. A huge thank you to Brad and the We Wai Kai First Nation for hosting and sharing.



*OGE staff retreat to We Wai Kai First Nation/ Quadra Island*

### Journeying Together Annual Report and Dashboard

*Submitted by Mark Herringer, Executive Director, International Education*

The *Journeying Together Annual Report and Dashboard Year 1 Report (2022/23)* has been completed and will be available shortly electronically and on the OGE website. We look forward to discussing these reports with communities, the college community and our local and international partners as we continue to Indigenize our international education process at NIC.





## Centre for Applied Research, Technology and Innovation (CARTI)

Four NIC staff, Tony Trudel, Naomi Tabata, Emma Courtney, and Romana Pasca, travelled to Bamfield early in September to engage in community meetings about a new Virtual Reality Technology research project. The project, *Virtual Reality Technology Innovative Solutions in Education, Tourism, and Economic Development in Indigenous Rural Remote Communities: A Consultative Approach*, aims to explore the potential benefits of using virtual reality (VR) technology to generate social innovation at the community level by supporting economic development and technology supported training in the remote and rural Indigenous community of Huu-ay-aht First Nations on the west coast of Vancouver Island.

The project is funded by the College and Community Social Innovation Fund and aims to identify the potential benefits of using VR technology in education and tourism, evaluate the level of interest of the Indigenous communities in exploring the use of VR technology, and develop a culturally appropriate VR application to showcase the cultural heritage and natural beauty of Anacla and Bamfield – focusing perhaps on the National Historic Site of Canada, Kiixin – or the language revitalization efforts of the people there. The three-year, \$360,000 project will involve collaborative initiatives between college students, the community, and high school students and teachers to develop the VR prototype to support innovation in cultural tourism and disseminate knowledge on the use of VR technology for economic and social benefits of Indigenous communities.

## STUDENTS AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

### Student Affairs

*Submitted by Craig Whitton, Director, Student Affairs*

Student Affairs consists of several work units that focus on supporting exceptional student experience both in and out of the classroom. These units include Student Life, Counselling, Department of Accessible Learning Services, Student Conduct, Library and Learning Commons, and Student Housing.

### Student Life

*Submitted by Mez Jiwaji, Associate Director, Student Life*



NIC hosted successful student orientation events this fall at each campus and online. Feedback was very positive, as students had the opportunity to connect with Elders, Indigenous Education, Department of Accessible Learning Services, Counselling, Advising, Housing, Recruitment, Accessibility Comm, Library, Learning Commons, Student Technical Services, and Study Abroad.

The *Working Together Plan* was put into action as many students were welcomed with the help of several community partners who were in attendance to make the campus and community

marketplace a success:

- Campbell River campus:
  - 360 in attendance;
  - 11 NIC departments represented;
  - 34 community partners participated in the marketplace.
- Comox Valley Campus:
  - 550 in attendance;
  - 11 NIC departments represented;
  - 30 community partners participated in the marketplace.
- Port Alberni:
  - 230 in attendance;
  - Nine NIC departments represented;
  - 14 community partners participated in the marketplace.

Many NIC volunteers attended more than one campus event to lend a hand. Student Life would like to thank everyone who participated, including the Leadership Team and especially the department deans who attended all orientation events.



Upcoming:

- Orange Shirt Day September 30;
- Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) & Mental Health Friday Webinar Series commencing October 6<sup>th</sup>;
- Thrive week in October;
- Decolonial book club is being created by Jay de Montarnal, Manager, Student Housing.

### **Counselling & Mental Health**

The counselling department is pleased to be including two counselling practicum students to help make support more available for our students' mental health.

We have also implemented our new counselling model that allows for more holistic student supports, including a limited number of urgent/same day appointments as well as greater structure to support more students accessing counselling with reduced wait times.



Our counsellors are providing academic and personal coaching in addition to mental health support to ensure we are addressing student needs at the source of the concern to support wellbeing.

NIC has completed the second year of the CARE<sup>2</sup> plan, with a report coming forward by the end of September. We have made significant progress on this plan that will allow us to embed mental health in all aspects of the student experience.

### **Student Conduct and Academic Integrity**

We have begun to review policy and procedures related to Student Conduct to ensure they align with best practices and reflect the goals articulated in *Working Together*, NIC's Indigenization Plan. This approach will include dispute resolution options such as Restorative Justice as well as provide resources so students can gain competency in managing conflicts on their own.

### **Department of Accessible Learning Services (DALs)**

DALS has elected a new Department Chair, Niki Baird and this business unit provides expert support to students who experience barriers to their learning and who require accommodations. This is an essential service for student success, and it is also a critical risk management function for the College, as we are legally obligated to accommodate our students who experience undue hardship. While this unit has focused on disability-related barriers in the past, we are actively exploring other protected grounds and the type of risk management and student support that might be necessary to ensure we are delivering on our promise of providing the most individualized learning experience possible for our students.

NIC has launched our first-ever accessibility plan, and DALs expertise (as well as that from many other corners of our college) contributed to this important work.

DALS also collaborated with the Library and Learning Commons to assess opportunities to comply with the Rick Hansen Foundation's standards on accessibility.

### **Library and Learning Commons**

As mentioned, the Library recently completed an accessibility review with DALs based on the Rick Hansen Foundation's guidelines to ensure all patrons have an equitable experience in the Comox Valley library.

The libraries at the Comox Valley and Campbell River campuses are going to be offering extended hours to more closely reflect our pre-COVID operations. We will continue to assess student needs and adjust our operation accordingly.

The Library has just launched its brand-new website, with a heavy focus on usability for all patrons. The site complies with W3 standards for web accessibility and navigation and is compatible with screen readers, mobile devices, and more so that our patrons can easily access our resources via various pathways.