

## CONTINUING EDUCATION AND TRAINING

### Campbell River Campus

*Submitted by Lorraine Hagan, Continuing Education Program Officer*

#### Trades Expo

CET CR participated in the Skilled Trades BC TRADES EXPO at Timberline Secondary where we promoted programing including Heavy Duty Equip Operator. We provided a machine that students could enter and run a simulator.



*Participants lining up to experience the heavy equipment simulator.*

We also provided Marine Training with Simulated Electronic Navigation demonstrations as well as in-person demonstrations in the Metal Jewellery Studio.



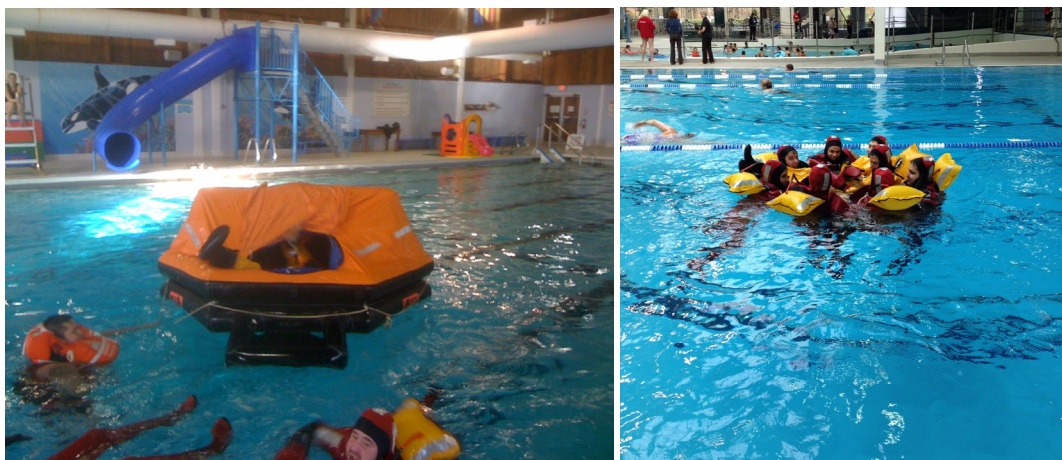
*Metal Jewellery students hard at work.*

#### Project Based Labour Market Training (PBLMT)

Labour Market Training is now well underway for MMFN in Gold River (started in April, continues through Jan 2027) bringing Skills for Success and Employment training for both office computer training and hospitality courses to support local industry. Participants also have practicum placements as part of the PBLMT.

## Marine Training

CET CR continues to offer private marine training, including a radio course in Port McNeill and SDV-BS for the Cumberland fire department



*Marine Students receiving hands-on training*

## Other News

- Program Proposals for Future Skills Grant (FSG) funding have been submitted and we will be hearing about approved programs very soon and will add these to the schedule for 2026-27.
- Hospital Unit Clerk program students just completed their practicums and will be attending graduation ceremonies on June 12, 2026.
- Registration opened June 2, 2026 for all regular CET courses and programs for the 2026-27 academic year.

## Port Alberni Campus

*Submitted by Leanne Moore, Continuing Education Program Officer*

### Fundamentals of Sustainable and Innovative Manufacturing Microcredential Update

Alberni Valley Makerspace was awarded a Rural Diversification and Infrastructure Program (REDIP) grant that supports a partnership with CET to deliver three cohorts of the Fundamentals of Sustainable and Innovative Manufacturing Microcredential, a six-week introduction to hands-on manufacturing technologies micro-credential program designed to equip participants with both theoretical knowledge and practical skills in advanced manufacturing technologies.

The spring intake concluded on May 22, and we are happy to share that three of the seven participants gained employment upon completion of the program.

Look at some of their incredible projects below.

The plastic pieces you see were made from recycled materials.

Our next program launches on October 13.



*Handi-work from Sustainable and Innovative Manufacturing Students*

### **Green Building Foundations & Manufacturing Update**

Through the Synergy Foundation and the Canada Retraining and Opportunities Initiative, CET is delivering Manufacturing and Green Building Foundation programs.

All 15 students who completed the program on April 10 were offered employment with IGV Housing, a new manufacturing plant in Port Alberni. Twelve accepted positions with IGV Housing, while two secured full-time roles with other employers.

Following the success of the winter program, partners agreed to launch a second cohort, replacing the Green Building & Deconstruction program, to support IGV Housing's expanding workforce needs. The new cohort of 15 participants began training on May 19.



*Green Building & Manufacturing students in action*

## Port Hardy Campus

*Submitted by Donna Merry, Manager, Continuing Education (Acting Director)*

### Carpentry Apprenticeship Level 2- Kingcome Inlet

Students in the Carpentry Apprenticeship Level 2 program are preparing to write their final exam this month, after working hard for the past 10 weeks to fulfill the learning outcomes for the Level 2 Carpentry program.

Eight students continued on from the Level 1 program offered at Ukwana village in 2024, with one additional student joining, making a cohort of nine students— more than 10% of the permanent population of 75 people in the tiny fly-in/boat-in only Dzawada-enuxw First Nation village.

The students are doing very well on both their theoretical and practical assessments.



*Students installing windows and doors*



*Students preparing a level foundation for sheds*



*Class and instructor with two finished sheds with hip roofs*



*Students replacing stairs with a landing*

**ARTS, SCIENCE AND MANAGEMENT****FACULTY OF ARTS, SCIENCE AND MANAGEMENT (FASM) 2025/26**

*This is a compiled list taken from various sources – including press releases, Faculty correspondence and other reports. A debt of gratitude is owed to all those that contributed directly or indirectly to this annual snapshot.*

The year saw the emergence of some exciting opportunities for FASM students. It was a busy year, with lots of events and meaningful achievements across all program areas – from national competition wins and innovative curriculum development to expanded partnerships, inspiring arts programming, and student success stories that highlight the strength and momentum of our students and faculty. (Given space limitations, not all FASM happenings could be included here.)

**ISLAND PRE-HEALTH SCIENCE**

The Island Pre-Health Science program is proud to announce our first student who has been accepted to a professional health science program. Aidan Mischook was recently accepted into UBC's PharmD program, where he will complete his pharmacy degree. Although he is just one course shy of the Associate of Science in Island Pre-Health, he completed the rest of the first two years of the program admirably. Aidan is looking forward to returning to the Comox Valley to practice as a pharmacist, and hopefully he will have the opportunity to complete his practicum on the Island in a smaller community. Undoubtedly the support he received from all his instructors and the program helped in his success, along with his strong work ethic and academic inclination. (From the files of Dr Aisling Brady).

**SCIENCE WORLD – CAMPBELL RIVER**

Science World visited NIC's Campbell River campus on May 30th and wowed potential scientists-to-be (and accompanying parents) with several workshops: Science of Sport, Science Surprises, and Girls & STEAM "Teens Only".



All smiles from our faculty, Rishi Somvanshi and Sandra Milligan, and amazing student volunteers from Carihi Secondary, Timberline Secondary, and Mark Isfeld Secondary who helped support the NIC Biology Lab during the Science World Community Celebration in Campbell River.

Alongside two NIC faculty members, they assisted with hands-on biology activities and helped make the event an engaging experience for the community.



The "Flaming Hands" chemistry demonstration looks like magic, but it is actually a perfect example of thermodynamics and heat protection in action. Kathy Heywood scoops up a handful of methane filled soap bubbles and lights them on fire without getting burned since the heat from the quick flash of fire goes directly into warming up and vaporizing the water on the skin, leaving the hands unharmed.



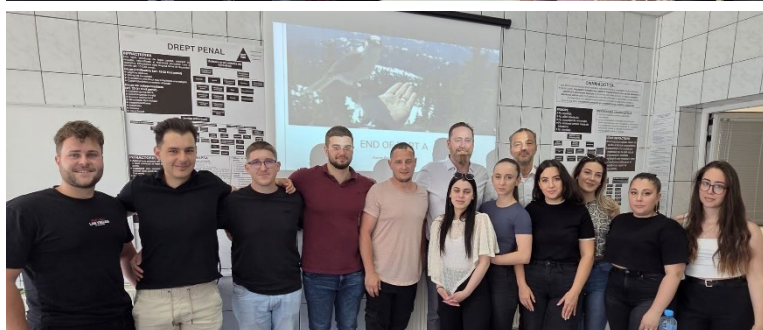
From Scienceworld.ca: Exhibitors included: Nanaimo Science, BC EHS (Ambulance), BC Hydro, Genome BC, Gwaii Engineering, MARS Wildlife Rescue Centre, Moses Filters, BC Society of Engineering and Geoscience (BCSEG), and others from the Vancouver Island Science Community.

## JAPAN FIELD SCHOOL

Building on our relationships with our partners in Japan, with the support of OGE department chair and instructor Ryan Blaak is taking students on a Global Studies field school this June to the Kansai region. The students will focus on studying “Canada’s West Coast Fishery: Indigeneity and the Asia Pacific” which uses the Canadian fishing industry as a vehicle to explore issues of Indigenous sovereignty, trans-pacific migration, ethnic and intercultural relations, and globalization.

## ERASMUS+ TEACHING MOBILITY PROGRAM IN ROMANIA

Criminology instructor, Aaron Eyjolfson, spent a week on a teaching exchange with the Faculty of Law at the University of Brasov in Romania. It was a dynamic, cross-cultural learning experience where international students engaged with Aaron to explore victimology through open dialogue and shared perspectives. The event strengthened global connections and showcased the vibrant international community the university continues to build.



## TRADES AND TECHNICAL PROGRAMS

### Report to BOG

Summer is fast approaching and with it brings a brief lull in the hustle and drive that is Trades and Technical programs. April brought to an end six apprenticeship programs in Heavy Mechanical Levels 1 & 2, Carpentry Levels 2 & 4, Electrical Level 4 and Plumbing Level 3. Two cohorts of the Automotive Service Technician Foundation wrapped up as well as the Coastal Forest Technology Diploma program (2<sup>nd</sup> year). In May Electrical Apprenticeships Levels 2 & 3 wrote their Skilled Trades SLE's along with Heavy Mechanical Levels 3 & 4 and the Furniture Design and Joinery students completed their program. There are still a few Apprenticeship programs that will be ending in June; Carpentry Level 1, Plumbing Level 2, two cohorts of Electrical Level 2 and the Professional Cook Level 2 and Trade Sampler students will be finished in the last week of the month.

This does not mean that Trades and Technical programs have come to a standstill. We have an Automotive Service Technician Level 2 starting June 15<sup>th</sup> and there are 2 Electrical Foundation programs along with Carpentry and Plumbing Foundations carrying over into July, Professional Cook Level 1 in Port Alberni and Welding Foundation (Campbell River) run into August and Heavy Mechanical Foundation continues until October.

Trades and Technical programs never truly stop, we just slow down enough to catch our breath and regroup for the next round of programming. Our commitment to our students is always front and center in everything we do and remains unchanged regardless of the term.

### *Exciting News!*

#### **NIC Trades Student Achieves National Gold at Skills Canada**

NIC, the Campbell River community, and the province of British Columbia are proud to recognize Heavy Mechanical student Nathan Munro for his exceptional achievement at the Skills Canada National Competition in Toronto.

Competing as a member of Team BC on the national stage, Nathan earned a Gold Medal, demonstrating the high level of technical skill, precision, and professionalism that define emerging leaders in the skilled trades. His success reflects both his individual dedication and the strength of NIC's applied, industry-aligned training.

Participation in competitions such as Skills Canada plays a critical role in advancing trades education. These events bring together top students from across the country, alongside industry representatives, national coaches, and post-secondary institutions, creating a highly competitive and collaborative environment that reflects current industry standards. Competitors are challenged to perform under pressure, applying their skills in real-world scenarios that mirror the expectations of the workplace. This exposure not only strengthens technical competencies, but also builds confidence, professional networks, and readiness for employment.

Nathan's achievement highlights the value of experiential learning and reinforces NIC's commitment to delivering applied training that prepares students for success in the workforce. The College congratulates Nathan on this outstanding accomplishment and looks forward to supporting his continued success.



### ***But Wait...There's More!***

#### **Advancing Trades Education Through Strategic Industry Investment**

NIC welcomed representatives from Highstreet, a BC-based real estate development company, to the Comox Valley Trades Training Centre. The visit marked an important milestone following the announcement of Highstreet's transformative 10-year, \$1-million investment through the NIC Foundation, supporting trades education and youth engagement. NIC's Trades department is leading the coordination and development of youth engagement initiatives aligned with this partnership, helping to increase awareness of trades pathways and create meaningful early exposure opportunities for young learners. Further details on these initiatives will be shared as planning progresses.

During their time on campus, Highstreet representatives engaged with members of the College's Leadership team, trades faculty, and Foundation staff, gaining firsthand insight into the breadth and depth of NIC's skilled trades programming. A guided tour of the facilities provided an opportunity to experience the learning environment in action, while meaningful conversations with plumbing and carpentry students and instructors highlighted the direct impact of industry-supported education. The visit showcased the high-quality, applied, hands-on training that prepares students for in-demand careers across the region. It also reinforced the critical role that sustained industry investment and engagement play in strengthening training capacity, modernizing learning environments, and expanding access for youth entering the trades.

This partnership represents more than financial support. It reflects a shared commitment to addressing workforce needs, inspiring the next generation of skilled trades professionals, and creating accessible pathways for young people to explore and succeed in trades careers. By connecting NIC students directly with industry partners, the College continues to build a responsive and future-focused trades ecosystem that benefits learners, employers, and the communities NIC serves.



***Have a great summer! We'll see you in September!***

## STUDENTS AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

*Erin Kenny, Associate Director, Marketing and Future Students*

### **NIC brand ecosystem wins national award**

North Island College's Marketing and Future Students team has received a national graphic design award from the Association of Registered Graphic Designers (RGD), earning a Design Award of Merit for the college's brand ecosystem. The award recognizes the comprehensive suite of brand tools developed by the team, including guidelines, icon libraries, editorial standards and templates that support consistent communications across the institution.

The award was presented at the DesignThinkers Conference in Vancouver on May 26, 2026, with NIC's graphic designer, Marissa Johnson, accepting on behalf of the college. The RGD biennial competition received more than 250 submissions nationwide, with NIC's project ranking among the top-scoring entries selected by a panel of industry leaders.

The recognized brand work was launched alongside NIC's new accessible website in 2025 and has contributed to a



65 per cent increase in website engagement, along with notable growth in domestic applications. This recognition places NIC among leading organizations across sectors such as post-secondary education, health care and financial services, and highlights the strength of the college's brand strategy and in-house creative expertise.

### **NIC Fest 2027**

The 4th annual NIC Fest education and career festival was held in March across the Campbell River, Comox Valley and Port Alberni campuses. NIC's premier on-campus recruitment event welcomed nearly 1,000 prospective students, families, and community members, including high school groups from across the service region.

The events provided a comprehensive, hands-on introduction to the college experience, with attendees engaging directly with faculty, staff and alumni to explore program offerings, career pathways and student supports. Guided campus and housing tours, interactive demonstrations and open classrooms helped bring the student experience to life.

NIC Fest continues to be a cornerstone of the college's recruitment strategy, strengthening relationships with secondary schools and communities while increasing awareness of NIC's learning opportunities. It also underscores the impact of collaborative efforts across departments to deliver a welcoming, informative and high-quality prospective student experience.

### **Alumni network update**

NIC's Alumni Network continues to build momentum through increased engagement and participation across all campus communities. Over the past three months, alumni gatherings were successfully hosted in Campbell River and Port Alberni. Events included a bowling social in Campbell River and a networking gathering at Alberni Brewing Co. in Port Alberni, both of which were well attended and received positive feedback. Alumni expressed strong interest in continuing to connect locally and attending future events.

In May, the Alumni Network reached a significant milestone, surpassing 1,000 members. This achievement reflects steady growth since the network's launch in early 2024 and demonstrates increasing interest among graduates in maintaining an ongoing relationship with the college. There is also a notable rise in alumni interest in contributing to NIC through volunteerism and engagement opportunities. In March, eight alumni volunteered in support of NIC Fest across multiple campuses, and several alumni submitted applications to serve as convocation speakers for the upcoming 2026 ceremonies.

Together, these activities highlight the strengthening of NIC's alumni community and its growing role in supporting recruitment, events and institutional storytelling.

## Convocation 2026 Update

As North Island College prepares for its 2026 Convocation ceremonies, we are pleased to share strong participation from graduates across our regions. Below are the number of graduands who have confirmed their attendance at our five ceremonies:

- Campbell River (June 12): 74 registered graduands
- Comox Valley (June 15–16, three ceremonies): 325 registered graduands
- Port Alberni (June 17): 84 registered graduands



A significant milestone has also been achieved this year with the completion of Phase One of NIC's Convocation traditions documentation project. For the first time, information about the college's Convocation traditions has been formally documented and made publicly available at the bottom of [NIC's Convocation webpage](#). This initiative preserves and celebrates the traditions that make Convocation a meaningful and distinctive milestone for graduates, their families, and our communities.

Phase Two of this work is planned for implementation in December 2026 and will focus on the development of a dedicated Convocation website. The redesigned online presence will provide students, families, and guests with a more accessible, informative, and user-friendly experience. Planned features include:

- Graduation application and credential information
- 2027 Convocation dates and locations
- Credential ordering details
- Expanded stories, photographs, and information about NIC traditions, including our new regalia, paddle stand, and four ceremonial paddles
- Access to previous Convocation livestreams
- Alumni network information and opportunities for continued engagement
- A Convocation photo gallery celebrating graduates and ceremonies

The Registrar's Office would also like to recognize and thank this year's Convocation emcees for their professionalism, enthusiasm, and commitment to creating welcoming and memorable ceremonies:

- Naomi Tabata
- Ali Mayboudi
- Melanie Nagy
- Marisa Bennett



The Registrar's Office looks forward to celebrating the achievements of our graduands alongside faculty, staff, Board members, families, Indigenous partners, and community supporters. Convocation remains one of the college's most significant annual events, providing an opportunity to honor student success and recognize the collective contributions of all those who support learners throughout their educational journeys.

