

**NORTH ISLAND COLLEGE BOARD OF GOVERNORS  
COLLEGE HIGHLIGHTS REPORT  
JUNE 2021**

**CONTINUING EDUCATION AND TRAINING**

**CET Overview**

*Submitted by Bob Haugen, Manager, Contract Training and Services*

With the end of the COVID-19 pandemic disruptions on the horizon, we are looking forward to a more normal year ahead. Our staff are motivated and creatively working to meet the needs of our region and generate much needed funds and FTE's for NIC.

We are maintaining our core program areas, Marine and First Aid and expanding our special Ministry-funded programs. We have added a 15-week Food Processing and Production Program in Port Alberni and two more intakes of our digital marketing program, Digital Elevation Expertise Program (DEEP), in Port Hardy and in Campbell River. We now also have two intakes of the Farmworker Fundamentals in Port Alberni starting this summer and another intake of our Sustainable Farming Program in Comox Valley. We have a number of funding proposals in the works including Craft Brewing for the Comox Valley, Essential Marine Skills for the Mount Waddington region and another DEEP delivery in Port Alberni.

On the credential side of our department, we are pleased to report the success of our Activity Assistant Certificate Program in partnership with Okanagan College. We are delivering the online program and including students from the Okanagan College Health Care Aid programs under a tuition-sharing agreement, expanding our reach into the rest of the province. We hope to include other BC colleges in this delivery model once we have a successful intake completed. We also completed a successful Hospital Unit Clerk Certificate under very difficult conditions with the pandemic disrupting the preceptorships.

In 2020, we participated in a Continuing Education and Training Association of BC (CETABC), micro-credential proposal for Facilities Maintenance and developed the carpentry module for the six-module program. We are now delivering the four-week micro-credential program in Anacla at Bamfield for the Huu-ay-aht First Nation with funding from Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC). This program is in big demand in remote First Nations communities and we will be offering it throughout the NIC region.

**Comox Valley Campus**

*Submitted by Susan Murray, Regional Continuing Education & Training Officer*

**First Aid Training**

First Aid training has slowed a bit, but continues to be busy with contracts, open courses, and training for NIC programs. I am working on the programming for the 2021FA – 2022SU in preparation for the next training year.

### Sustainable Farming Program

The sustainable farming program began on June 9<sup>th</sup> with this being our second year. We had the good fortune of receiving funding again this year although much later than hoped. We are in the process of interviewing prospective students to ensure they meet the funding criteria. The training will once again be held at Lentelus Farms and our community funding partner is LUSH Valley. The first year was a huge success with all graduates gaining employment or expanding their farming businesses.

Program Video: <https://youtu.be/x4tkBPw1rCA>



### **Craft Brewing & Malting Program**

The Craft Brewing & Malting program concluded on June 9<sup>th</sup> and was a huge success. This fully funded eight-month program has provided students with excellent credentials to continue their way to brew master status or work at local craft brewery establishments. Several of the students have already found employment in the industry so that is a very good sign for the rest of the students. The next course will be starting in August and then another in January.

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



### **Comox Valley Campus**

*Submitted by Julian Benedict, Project Lead-Regional Continuing Education/Training Officer*

#### **Advanced Memory Care Micro-Credential Pilot Program**

NIC's Continuing Education and Training (CET) has received approval to launch its first ever Board-certified micro-credential if its September pilot program goes as planned. The intensive eight-week online course will provide memory care training to healthcare professionals working closely with residents in long term care. Students who complete the training will receive a certificate of completion from the College. After the pilot course is complete and any suggestions incorporated, CET will apply for Board-certification as an official micro-credential – the first of its kind coming from NIC Continuing Education. To learn more, visit [www.nic.bc.ca/memory-care](http://www.nic.bc.ca/memory-care).

### **Activity Assistant Certificate Program**

The Activity Assistant Program continues to grow across the province. After completing a full academic year (2020/2021) showcasing the certificate in its new online format, the program launched its first ever spring/summer cohort scheduled from May to August 2021. The spring cohort is full, and applications are already being accepted for the busy Fall 2021 and Winter 2022 semesters. Instructor Deborah Provencher observes that this unique program seems especially well-placed for online program delivery: “Students are busy managing demanding rotational shifts at their care facilities,” she says. “This program provides them the flexibility to succeed in advancing their education on their own terms.” To learn more, visit: [www.nic.bc.ca/activity-assistant](http://www.nic.bc.ca/activity-assistant).

### **Animal Care Aide Program**

The Animal Care Aide Program’s Fall in-take is already almost full even though it doesn’t start until October 2021. Prospective students seem to know what the industry is telling us: we need graduates right now. In fact, when the Fall 2020 graduating class completed their credential on May 7<sup>th</sup>, there were already calls from local vets to ask about when interviews could be scheduled. Given the demand, the Animal Care Aide program is planning to offer two cohorts this academic year: one starting in October 2021 and one starting in early January 2022. Applications are being accepted for both cohorts via the program website page: [www.nic.bc.ca/animal-care](http://www.nic.bc.ca/animal-care).

### **Comox Valley ElderCollege**

Comox Valley ElderCollege (CVEC) completed its successful 2020-2021 academic year online and reported back on its successes in their digital annual general meeting on May 8, 2021. CVEC will continue offering a wide variety of online courses using Zoom for the Fall 2021 semester (Oct-Dec 2021). The executive committee is eager for the return of on-campus courses, however, and expects to do so starting in the Winter 2022 semester. For more information, visit: [www.nic.bc.ca/continuing-education/eldercollege/comox-valley/](http://www.nic.bc.ca/continuing-education/eldercollege/comox-valley/).

### **NIC Exclusive Online FoodSafe**

NIC Continuing Education Provides Over 100 Film Students Exclusive Access to a new fully online FoodSafe Level 1 course!

Although FoodSafe Level 1 is offered on many campuses across BC, the only authorized online version of the program operates as a self-paced distanced education course with a special supervised exam model. The FoodSafe Secretariat gave special approval to NIC’s Continuing Education to pilot a new fully online course that includes the final exam – a first-of-its-kind solution across the province. The pilot program was conducted between March and May 2021 and a report has now been completed for submission to the FoodSafe Secretariat. The hope is the program will be approved as a permanent solution for online learners going forward.



## **Port Hardy Campus**

*Sandy Rose*

### **Digital Essential Skills**

A group of participants from Gwa'sala-'Nakwaxdax'w First Nation gained digital literacy skills over ten weeks, to confidently use a personal computer and office applications, manage files and data security, use Windows and browsers, participate in online education, and understand the computer as a tool for business development. The program led to successful employment outcomes for several participants.

### **Digital Marketing for Small Business**

In partnership with the Port Hardy Chamber of Commerce and NIC, funding was obtained to deliver this eight-week 80-hour program to 12 participants in the Mount Waddington region. This relevant, accessible online training program offers participants instruction and one-on-one coaching of in-demand skills for the digital economy. The aim of the project is to support the local business community to promote goods and services to a larger audience, attract new customers, retain existing customers, and create opportunities for future growth. The program is free to business owners and/or their employees and will complete on July 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2021.

## **Campbell River Campus**

*Sandy Rose*

### **Hospital Unit Clerk**

After a successful year of online classes, the current cohort recently completed practicum placements in Nanaimo, Comox, and Campbell River hospitals to finish their program requirements and obtain their certificate. With the challenges of COVID-19 and concerns of variants circulating in the community, one student felt the risk was too high to be in the practice setting and opted to forgo the placement and re-attempt in 2022. This has been a challenging year for students in the healthcare setting and we are proud of their commitment and success this year. Although the number of applications for Fall 2021 have been strong, the number of students qualifying has been a long-standing issue and is threatening the launch of a Fall 2021 program. Changes to the typing speed pre-requisite will be coming for Fall 2022 and discussions are underway to address solutions for this issue in Fall 2021.

### **Digital Elevation Expertise Program**

Ten students successfully completed the program on April 29<sup>th</sup>. We are currently working with the City of Campbell River's Economic Development Office to finalize Ministry reporting.

### **Coastal Log Scaling**

We are excited to announce that for the very first time, this program will be offered in a blended part-time format over eight months starting on October 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021. This program is designed to prepare students to successfully participate in the exam process through the Ministry of Forests to secure a Coastal Log Scaling License. Students will participate in virtual classroom sessions and in person for field activities spanning a broad spectrum of topics and a wide range of hands on tasks.

## **Campbell River Campus**

*Submitted by Lynn Weaver, Regional Continuing Education & Training Officer*

### **Marine Training**

NIC's marine training continues to be in demand. The department offered the third delivery of both Navigation Safety and Chartwork and Pilotage Level One. Both were highly subscribed once again.

This Spring saw marine training delivered in various communities with several community groups: the mid-island Metis Nation/Nanaimo Aboriginal Center in Nanaimo and the City of Port Alberni Fire Department. We also brought marine training to the Port Alberni campus as well as on Lasqueti Island.

We are currently applying for funding in partnership with Port Hardy Chamber of Commerce to bring Marine Essential Skills training courses to Port Hardy and Port McNeill this summer, fully funded through the Community Workforce Response Grant.

### **Metal Jewelry**

Students entered their second term and are preparing jewelry pieces for the end of season "show and sell" to be held outdoors at the Campbell River Gathering Place on June 29<sup>th</sup>, from 1 to 3 pm. This is a wonderful opportunity for students to display their creations and to promote the program. Last year, students were only able to do so virtually but with COVID-19 Health and Safety plans in place, they're looking forward to a more personalized event.

### **Part-time Vocational**

The online Bookkeeping program was in high demand and carried a waitlist once again. We're considering offering the computerized bookkeeping course, SAGE-50, as an online option as well.

## **Port Alberni Campus**

*Submitted by Leanne Moore, Regional Continuing Education & Training Officer*

### **NEW-Facilities Maintenance Fundamentals Program**

In partnership with Huu-ay-aht First Nation, with funding from CMHC, CET is delivering a four-week Facilities Maintenance Fundamentals program in Anacla (Bamfield) which started on Monday, May 31<sup>st</sup>. In this hands-on program has topics covering maintenance in carpentry, plumbing/heating, electrical, painting, etc. The program will prepare students to maintain residences within their community. It will be helpful for Huu-ay-aht First Nation, who are currently in the process of expanding the number of homes in the community.

### **NEW-Farmworker Fundamentals – Two Intakes**

Funded by the Community Workforce Grant, CET is delivering two intakes of the eight-week Farmworker Fundamentals program. The first one starts in June and is in partnership with Nuuchahnulth Employment & Training Program (NETP), Alberni Valley Employment Centre and Port Alberni Shelter Society. The second offering starts in July and is being offered in partnership with a local farmer and the Port Alberni Shelter Society.

The program provides students with the skills they need to be productive agricultural workers in greenhouses and market garden farms. The course includes modules in greenhouse operations, planting and transplanting, fieldwork, harvesting and farmer's market sales. The program is presented by several experienced organic farmers and horticulturalists.

## **Food Production & Processing**

The funded Food Production and Processing Program started in March with a full cohort of 12 students. Vivian Cruise, the Red Seal Chef instructor, guided the students through the theory and hands on portion of the program, creating tasty foods, many of which were preserved by different methods. Ten students successfully completed the theory/hands-on portion of the program and are currently completing the work experience portion of the program with various employers. Many of the students have been offered continued employment once their work experience completes on June 18<sup>th</sup>.

## **TRADES AND TECHNICAL PROGRAMS**

Where has the time gone? Summer is no longer on standby! Leaves have returned to the trees, the sun is warming the days and the breeze is full of the scent of fresh cut grass. There is a palpable change in the air as we shake off the cobwebs from the cooler months and re-charge the mind, body and soul with blue skies, calm winds and a healthy dose of Vitamin D.

Seven programs came to a close in the month of May. Plumbing Apprenticeship Level 4 students wrote their Inter-Provincial exam while the Automotive Foundation cohorts in Campbell River and Port Alberni and the Electrical Apprenticeship Level 1 exams continued to be waived by Industry Training Authority of BC (ITA). Our Coastal Forest Certificate students completed on May 28<sup>th</sup>, complemented by the completion of year one of our new Coastal Forest Technology diploma program, with students eager to be returning in the Fall. Our innovative Motion Picture Production Assistant and Craft Services Micro-credential programs in collaboration with Vancouver Island North Film Commission rounded out the line-up for spring program completions with over 130 graduates entering one of BC's fastest growing sectors.

June will see our Carpentry Apprenticeship Level 4 students put to the test with their Inter-Provincial exam on the 11<sup>th</sup>. Two cohorts of Carpentry Apprenticeship Level 1, three cohorts of Electrical Apprenticeship Level 3, and the Heavy Mechanical and Joinery Foundation programs have also concluded their respective runs.

The summer months will be far from dull at any of our campuses. Six foundation programs: Professional Cook Levels 1(PA) and 2(CR) and three Apprenticeships in Heavy Mechanical, Electrical and Welding will be keeping us on our toes through to September. Instruction continues 12 months of the year with late summer also seeing the launch of the Welder Foundation Harmonized Enhanced program and the Heavy Mechanical Plus Micro Credential.

### ***Highlights***

When students spend eight months with an instructor, they tend to get to know that instructor on a more personal level. They go beyond the traditional teacher-student role to more of a student-mentor bond. This can be said of the relationship between Automotive instructor, Patrick Balfry, and his foundation students. His program ended with students praising him as “the best instructor they ever had” and “an instructor who stops at nothing to make sure his students are successful”.

**Paying Tribute:** From instructor to mentor to up-and-coming fashion icon, Patrick left more than an Automotive impression on his students. Eager to model after their trendsetting tutor, on the last day of class, his students paid him the sincerest form of flattery. Taking heed of his keen sense of layering, each student donned the timeless plaid shirt and the always classic yet practical *must-have* vest in homage to these staples of Patrick’s wardrobe.



Continuing on are the students in our Fabricator-Welder Micro-Credential. This 32-week intensive program began March 8<sup>th</sup> with an end date of October 15<sup>th</sup>. Graduates of this program get the best of both worlds as they will have completed Level 1 in both Welding and Metal Fabrication affording students the opportunity to work in a variety of fields in the metal trades. To date this program is proving to be an exciting addition to Trades and Technical programs – but don’t take our word for it! Here is what students have to say.....

*This welding class so far is amazing in the way of what we can accomplish in a short period of time. I am really enjoying what this program has to offer and the resources we have to work with. Ivan is an incredible instructor and is teaching me so many responsibilities and what the industry is like. - Austin*

*I was really excited for the opportunity to be a part of this class and still am. Ivan is a top-notch teacher and welder who cares about the quality education his students receive and it shows with the progress that everybody in class has made. I am confident in what I'm learning and am excited to join the workforce once I've completed the program. - Anna*

*I am so glad that I took the opportunity to take this course, once I met everyone and the course started going I have been really happy with what I have learned and the skills I have gotten in the time that has been provided. Ivan really helped with things that I didn't understand and things that I just need a few pointers on. He also does one on one demonstrations in your booth which really shows you what to do and how to fix things your having troubles with. So far I have loved every minute of my time being here.*

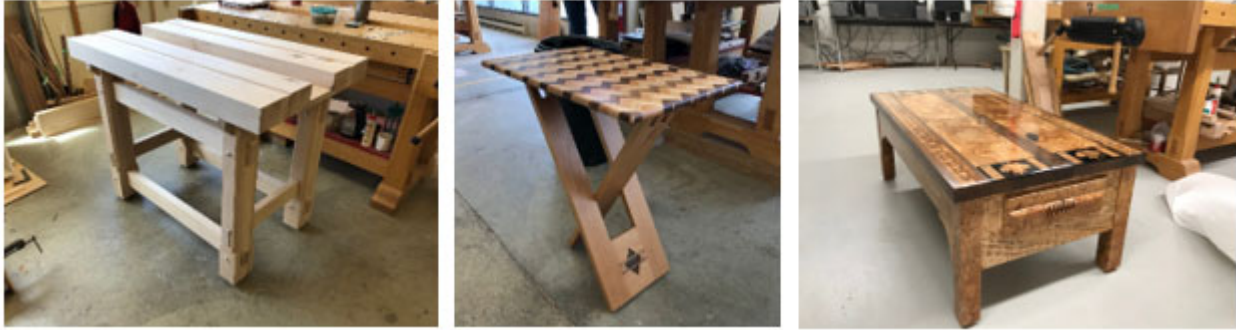
*- Cole*

And from instructor **Ivan Peterson:**

*This has been a very wonderful group to instruct. They are all very engaged eager to learn and learn the very fine details, and they have worked hard on their theory content. They all have succeeded as welding apprentice level one.*



Students in the re-vamped Furniture Design and Joinery program have produced works of art that are nothing short of stunning! The incredible talent that is poured into these impressive projects showcases the time, creativity and vision that can only come from a labour of love. These are not box-store items. The craftsmanship is exquisite and you will not find these unique pieces anywhere but the shop at the Tebo campus in Port Alberni. Can you believe some students give these away as gifts?



At week 12 of the Professional Cook Level 2 program and the second term of the Culinary Business Operations Diploma program, students laid siege to the taste buds of a few select guests with a mouth-watering hors d'oeuvres demonstration. Care for some Smoked Salmon Stuffed Crepes? How about Scallop Ceviche, Devilled Eggs or Tuna Tataki? These are but a few of the savory bite-sized samples from the assortment of 18 sinfully delicious delicacies. It is easy to see these students have a passion for their chosen field in the Culinary Arts.



### And Here Comes September!

The fall term will once again bring an explosion of programs and apprenticeships. As the Faculty of Trades and Technical Programs maintains our face-to-face programming, we are excited by the prospect of welcoming other students back on campus. The hallways will be teeming with new students and those who are continuing on with their studies. It is destined to be a busy but exciting comeback for all. Trades and Technical Programs alone have 19 new starts in September. Among those will be Professional Cook Level 1 running concurrently with the Culinary Business Diploma. Our first year Coastal Forest Technology students will be returning for their second year, while two more cohorts of Coastal Forest Worker Certificate and Coastal Forest Technology Diploma will be joining us at the Campbell River campus. Heavy Mechanical Foundation is full with a healthy waitlist and Automotive Foundation is close on its heels. The Furniture Design and Joinery program in Port Alberni is rocking full numbers already and the Carpentry and Plumbing Apprenticeships at the Comox Valley are also showing strong registrations.

In addition, we have been awarded funding for two new cohorts of the Automotive Collision and Refinishing Technician Foundation program and Heavy Mechanical Plus Micro-credential which combines three micro-credentials for a supported entry into a Heavy Mechanical trades career.

Faculty has also been chosen as a pan-Canadian partner with Conestoga College (funded by the Federal Government) to deliver a pilot Welder Foundation Harmonized enhanced program to include upgrading, transferable workplace competencies and internship placement.

### Saying Goodbye 😞

Once again retirement has snuck up on us and we have to say goodbye to one of the most loved members of our team. Heather Hopewell joined the Faculty of Trades and Technical programs in 2015 and easily settled into her Administrative Support position. She quickly gained an enviable knowledge of all things ITA and there isn't an Excel spreadsheet she can't make beg for mercy. Always a friendly face to faculty and staff and a pleasure to work with, she never hesitated to lend a helping hand to anyone in need and always did it with a smile. Her sense of humor, kindness and occasional good-natured sarcasm will be sorely missed by us all. Happy Retirement Heather!

## STUDENT SERVICES AND REGISTRAR

### Student Services

*Submitted by Felicity Blaiklock, Director, Student Affairs & PA Campus Administrator*

### May Information Sessions for Faculty and Staff

In May, NIC Student Services was pleased to offer three 1-hour information/Q&A sessions to all employees on a range of topics. The participation was excellent with over 30 faculty, staff and administrators attending each session.

### Early Assist – Behind the Scenes

An overview of the process from the point of receiving a referral, to connecting the students with appropriate supports, plus a review of the types of situations that Early Assist can help faculty and students with, and some statistics on the program and how it is making a difference.

- Facilitators: Disha Salhan (Student Life Outreach and Liaison), Felicity Blaiklock (Director, Student Affairs), Dean Martin (Manager, Student Life)

### Supporting Students with Disabilities: Duty to Accommodate

An overview of accommodations and how a post-secondary institution determines if an accommodation request is reasonable and justifiable. Also, a discussion of student's and faculty's roles and responsibilities in the accommodation process. Q & A about the duty to accommodate students with disabilities, highlighting some of the important legal principles.

- Facilitators: Department of Accessible Learning Services team

## **Navigating Student Concerns and Complaints**

A discussion of how to respond to student requests, concerns and complaints with an emphasis on care and compassion. A review of the various policies/procedures that are available to students, including the Student Complaint Resolution policy and Community Code of Academic, Personal and Professional Conduct.

- Facilitators: Felicity Blaiklock (Director, Student Affairs), Dean Martin (Manager, Student Life), Danean Gray (Human Resources), Shirley Ackland and Erin McConomy (NICFA Executive)

## **CARE Teaching and Learning and Campus Community Grants:**

We were delighted to receive 14 applications for the grants. Adjudication will take place later in June for the projects to be launched in Fall 2021.

## **Indigenous Counsellor**

Following the retirement of Janet Beggs, and in alignment with NIC's Indigenization goals, we are in the process of posting for an Indigenous counsellor to join our counselling team. We are excited to be able to provide Indigenous-focused supports for our students. We hope to have this position in place by September 2021.

## **Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Policy Development:**

In May 2021, a working group was created to begin the development of an NIC EDI policy. Members of the working group include stakeholders from across campuses and disciplines including students, staff, faculty and administrators. We anticipate that there will be a robust consultation process as we develop this policy to ensure we include diverse perspectives.

## **Student Life Updates:**

### **Orientation**

Our Spring orientation session was held virtually on May 3<sup>rd</sup> for students enrolled in spring/summer courses. Around 35 students attended the session which featured an outline of various supports, including the Library and Learning Commons, NISU, Student Technical Services, Counselling, DALs, Student Life, and more. Based on feedback received from students we incorporated some break-out discussions into the session to allow attendees to meet other students.

Orientation planning for Fall is well underway and will feature a revised Orientation webpage with a variety of content to prepare students for classes, including pre-recorded videos and several live sessions leading up to the start of the term. All content is divided into one of four categories:

- Welcome
- Health & Wellbeing
- Getting Ready for Class
- How to Get Involved

Live virtual sessions are scheduled for August 11, 17, 18, 24, 25, and September 7. While the majority of orientation will be held virtually, we will have booths on each campus during the first week of classes to welcome students to campus with swag bags, snacks, and useful information.

### **Early Assist**

Early Assist continues to be a well-utilized program to support student success. We received 95 referrals from faculty and staff in the Winter 2021 term, compared to 47 in the Winter of 2020. Of the 95 referrals received, 67 were related to students from the Comox Valley campus, 17 from Campbell River, 10 from Port Alberni, and one from Port Hardy.

## Support for Program Removal Students

All students who progressed to program removal after the Winter 2021 term were required to meet with Student Affairs to develop a Personal Learning Plan before they were able to reapply to an alternate program. We met with 19 students to support them in the continuation of their studies at NIC. The Student Life and Outreach Liaison will be following up with each of these students throughout the spring and fall terms to see how they are progressing, and to ensure they are making use of their Personal Learning Plan.

## 2021 Graduation Activities

*Submitted by Darin Bellham, Assistant Registrar*

June is always an exciting month for NIC as it is the time of our annual graduation ceremonies. In our current situation, the ceremonies will look quite different prior to 2020. However, unlike 2020, we have had time to plan and, though we will not be having in person ceremonies, we will continue with our virtual graduation. Each campus has worked hard to highlight the accomplishments of our graduates. There are 236 graduates that have registration. We will provide the graduates who have registered a purchased gown, V-Stole, mortarboard and tassel for them to keep. We have also set up an opportunity for graduation photos at each of our main campus the week of June 7<sup>th</sup>. Regalia is scheduled for pick up at each campus beginning Monday June 7<sup>th</sup> with photographs being taken at all campuses starting June 7<sup>th</sup> in Comox Valley and finishing June 11<sup>th</sup> in M̓ix̓alakwila. Marketing has provided the platform for our virtual graduation page and these photos will be displayed on this page by end of June. A Kudoboard has also been developed so that NIC employees may virtually congratulate our graduates.

