

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

**TRADES AND TECHNICAL PROGRAMS**

**Report to the BOG  
November 2021**

Well goodbye heatwave and hello to trees now bare and grey having been battered by the winds and stripped of their once spectacular display of brilliant yellow, red and orange hues that ushered in our fall term. Winter is on the way indicative of the steady drop in temperature and increasingly random appearances of the sun.

We had an exciting fall start with a mix of the usual suspects in Apprenticeships and Foundations. Numbers were either at capacity or very close to it for the Plumbing, Carpentry, Heavy Mechanical and Electrical Apprenticeships. Foundations rocked impressive enrolments in the Automotive, Electrical, Fabricator-Welder, Joinery and Heavy Mechanical programs.

The first cohort of the Welder Foundation Enhanced program kicked off in late August and was followed by the second cohort beginning October 18<sup>th</sup>. While these students earn their Welding Foundation credentials they also gain valuable foundation skills for trades, employment and workforce strategies, industry certificates in Occupational First Aid Level one and Forklift training followed by a Trades Internship.

The Heavy Mechanical Micro-credential program also launched at the end of summer. This program is unique as it provides a “Trade Sampler” module allowing students to get their feet wet by exploring a mixed bag of industry certifications and introductory theory & applied skills training over a number of trades before they dive into the Heavy Mechanical applications with instructor Matt Wheatley on their way to their Heavy Mechanical Foundation Harmonized certificate.

The Coastal Forest Worker Certificate and Technology programs kicked into high gear at the beginning of September in conjunction with the return of the second year RFT students. Coleen MacLean oversees the details for these programs and had this to say: *With a 100% summer employment rate in 2021, our 2022 cohort of 20 students returned in September for the 2nd and final year of the program. While our first year students (2023 cohort of 12) are again focused on core knowledge and applied entry level skills, second year students focus on synthesizing the science, decision-making, and practical skills required for registration as Forest Technologists in Training. With concurrent cohorts running, we are now able to advance our application for accreditation with TAC and the ABCFP.*



Second Year student in RFT 200 Forest Health looking at Root Rot indicators.  
(Rain or shine – they're out there!)

Trades and Technical programs offered a funded Women in Trades short program from September 20<sup>th</sup> to October 1st. Aimed to inspire women interested in pursuing a career in the trades, these ladies were introduced to an orientation of Welding & Fabrication, Heavy Mechanical, Automotive, Parts & Warehousing, Carpentry and they joined one of our newest instructors, Miles Hemingway, for Auto Collision and Refinishing. To make the experience very “real world”, we took a vehicle and backed it into one of the gates, ran over the fire hydrant and then gave it a few good deep scratches for authentication purposes. This is where Miles and his students took over to perform the necessary repairs to the Dean’s Jeep so THEY could put it back without being caught. Okay, that may not be exactly what took place, however, these ladies made quite an impression.

**Take it away Miles:** *The Women in Trades students attended an 8-hour course on automotive polishing. The course covered preparing a vehicle for polishing, a 2-stage wet sanding process using pneumatic sanders, and then finally a 3-stage polishing process. All the attendees completed the course in remarkable time and met amazing standards. We also covered removing body side moldings, cleaning panels, preparing and re installing moldings. The effort and attention to detail everyone put forth was above and beyond. I explained to the students afterword that they all possessed incredible skills and would excel in any trade that they chose. Here is the vehicle they brought back to life.*



Once again, the teaching kitchen is full of life with the unmistakable banging of pots and flurry of activity that could only be attributed to the Culinary Arts students sharpening their skills to put their talents on full display. Chef Xavier Bauby is leading a Professional Cook Level 1 cohort that’s joined by the Culinary Business Operations Certificate and Diploma program students. But wait...also in the kitchen, Chef Allan Aikman is putting his group of Professional Cook Level 1 students through the paces of their apprenticeship. We are in a no-win situation here. We may as well give up now and just spring for a permanent wardrobe of stretchy pants and afternoon naps. There is no saving us from ourselves. With both Chefs in cahoots, we have fallen victim to the wares on their criminally crafted specialty menus. Week after week we are ceaselessly subjected to the likes of French Onion Soup, Oven Baked Lasagna,

Seafood Tacos, BBQ Spareribs, Korean Fried Chicken and more. They pulled out all the stops for the Traditional Thanksgiving Meal. Brine spiced citrus turkey with cornbread and sausage stuffing, orange cranberry sauce, buttermilk rolls, roasted fall vegetables...the torture was relentless...and it sold out! We have been advised that no mercy will be shown for the Holiday Luncheon.



**VS**



Professional Cook Level 3 students joined Chef Xavier on November 1<sup>st</sup> and Chef Sunshine Layton will be stepping in to assist with the Culinary Arts programs that are already underway.

It would be completely unacceptable if we failed to call attention to these fabulous ladies in the Caf! Where would we be without them. Every morning these smiling faces greet students, faculty and staff ready to serve them up a breakfast treat, hot coffee, tea or sometimes just a cheerful “Good Morning” to start the day. Sarah and Mel make a fantastic team and their upbeat happy attitudes are infectious. Betcha can’t walk away without your day being just that much better!



The Fabricator-Welder Foundation program in Port Alberni wrapped up on October 15<sup>th</sup>. Instructor Karl Plautz reflected: *“The fab course became somewhat of a self-discovery for the students that really brought them to the world of Metal Fabrication as many individuals are under the impression that Welding and Metal Fabrication are one in the same thing. The applied mathematics proved to be a challenge to the students but as they progressed through the course many students were able to merge their ideas with the math concepts and come to an understanding that one feeds the other and this is how it all comes together. They had epiphanies of sorts and it was a unique and interesting transformation from my perspective. We had one 15-year-old student that was in an alternative version of high school who became one of the best students possessing a terrific positive attitude, excelled academically, and had advanced leadership skills. I feel the program was a great success as we contributed to positive change in their career paths!”*

The Automotive Collision and Refinishing Technician Foundation program kicked off on November 1<sup>st</sup> and instructor Miles Hemingway wasted no time getting students up to speed with safety orientations in PPE, workplace hazards, WHIMIS, and WorkSafe. From there they proceeded to familiarize themselves with the shop spaces they will be using and went on to complete an assignment on recognizing facilities and equipment in their surroundings such as safety exits, identify and locate fire extinguishers, location and procedure if first aid is needed, hazardous waste storage, and location and use of eye wash facilities.

Moving right along, students were introduced to hand tools and shop equipment that they will not only be using throughout their program but will also encounter during their career.

*“This first portion on safety and tools will give students the knowledge to perform the entry level practical assignments as they move from the classroom to the hands-on!”*

Fast gaining momentum, the micro-credentials just keep coming! Already on the books was the Motion Picture Accounting Clerk Micro-credential and now we’ve added three more to the Film and TV Crew training. Motion Picture Grip Micro-credential, Motion Picture Lighting Micro-credential and Motion Picture Set Construction Micro-credential. These 10-week funded programs aim to put students a step ahead in the film industry. Each level of training explores the crucial roles crew members play and the responsibilities that they can expect to encounter when they pursue one of these career paths.

### ***A Sneak Peek At What’s To Come!***

With the fall term fast closing behind us, here is what is on the horizon for 2022! There’s no moss in sight as January kicks off with Carpentry Apprenticeship Levels 1 and 4, Plumbing Apprenticeship Level 4, two cohorts of Electrical Apprenticeship Level 2 and a Level 3. Professional Cook Level 1 is back at the Port Alberni campus and the Welding Apprenticeships are scheduled for Campbell River. It doesn’t stop there....We have three Carpentry Foundation programs lined up for Campbell River, Comox Valley and Port Alberni. Electrical Foundation, Heavy Mechanical Foundation, Welding Foundation will be rolling out in Campbell River **AND** we are excited to have an Automotive Service Technician Foundation program with new instructor Jaylene van der Merwe. Watch for her profile in the next report!

Plumbing and Piping Foundation will be at the Comox Valley campus led by instructor Eric Skehor as will another Plumbing Apprenticeship Level 2 and two more cohorts of Carpentry Apprenticeship Level 2 with instructors Rob Laird and Erik Hardin.

There is also a Trade Sampler Micro-credential scheduled in January that is already filling up and Chef Sunshine Layton will be leading a Prep Cook cohort in February.

Yes, there’s still more, but we’ll save that for next time!

### ***Goodbye 2021***

This has been another year full of challenges and exciting changes. Trades and Technical programs would like to extend a very sincere thank you to **all** of our Faculty and Staff that have worked through these challenges, took them in stride and used them to improve the student experience in our programs. We thank everyone for their support and may the best be yet to come in the year ahead.

*Cheers everybody!*

**OFFICE OF GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT (OGE)****International Education Updates**

*Submitted by Jennifer Barth, Manager, Operations*

**International Education Week 2021**

On behalf of the OGE team we would like to invite you to join us in celebrating International Education Week (IEW) from November 15- 19. IE Week gives us an opportunity to bring focus to some of the great work that NIC is involved in internationally, raise awareness of our intercultural opportunities and challenges in our classrooms, on campus and in our communities, try some good food, and learn more about each other. At NIC, a series of student led activities, global engagement events and mobility opportunities and even menu options have been planned for the week at our Comox Valley, Port Alberni and Campbell River campuses and many online options for those at our Mixelakwila campus or for those not able to attend on campus events. For full information, go to <https://www.nic.bc.ca/international/education-week/>

**New International Students for January 2022**

OGE hosted an information session and travel advisory review for our expected students for January 2022 semester. The event was well attended and the students were very engaged. Our online orientation event has been finalized for Tuesday, January 5 and will be inclusive of all new international students from each campus. We are working on safety plans for small welcome sessions on campus for Comox Valley on January 6, Campbell River on January 7 and in Port Alberni on January 24.

**Student Engagement and Activities**

In September, the OGE fully launched the new International Peer Connector (IPC) program. The IPC program provides on-campus work opportunity for 3-5 international students. The purpose of the program is to connect new international students with continuing international students to provide mentorship and settlement support. IPC's also help with engagement events and activities such as the new international student orientation, cultural celebration events, and intercultural sharing events. For the Fall semester we had 3 continuing international students supporting our new students and we are actively recruiting new IPC's for January.

Also this semester, OGE worked with two of our 4<sup>th</sup> year BSN students to provide meaningful connections with our international students with the goal of promoting health, wellness and social contact with domestic students. The BSN students worked with OGE to host various events including a "Work Smart Not Hard" event on November 9<sup>th</sup>. At this event the BSN students shared various stress buster tips, study tips and self-care information. The students are also engaged with other departments as we collaboratively plan a Living Library for Spring 2022.



## Projects & Partnerships

*Submitted by Romana Pasca, Manager, International Projects, Partnerships & Global Education*

### Global Skills Opportunity – Study Abroad Scholarships for NIC students

NIC has been successful in securing study abroad scholarships funding totaling more than \$500,000CAD. Two Global Skills Opportunity funding grants have been confirmed at NIC and will be distributed between 2021 and 2025 to develop a versatile and sustainable study abroad program.

The **Learning and Working Together to Build 2026** project has received \$500,000 CAD to build on NIC's expertise in international exchange opportunities to provide diverse opportunities for experiential and place-based learning, while the **Passage from Northwest Canada: Students from northern BC, Yukon and Northwest Territories Go Global** has received \$700,000CAD to offer students from a group of five post-secondary institutions across northwestern Canada to create new joint international learning opportunities.

Both projects will focus on four key themes related to Indigenization, decolonization, internationalization and environmental sustainability, and will prioritize encouraging students that traditionally have not engaged in outbound mobility to travel and learn abroad.

These opportunities are funded by Global Skills Opportunity, the Government of Canada's Outbound Student Mobility Pilot Program.

### NIC Virtual Exchange Opportunities in development for 2022

OGE is working with several faculty to develop and offer virtual exchange opportunities for NIC students:

**COSTA RICA:** part of **ENG-096** will be taught from Costa Rica, with the NIC instructor being located there and co-teaching about Indigenous issues in Latin America from local Elders, sharing experiences learned there while students in both countries study the spoken and written texts of Indigenous authors in a shared virtual classroom.

**JAPAN:** Over a two-week period, NIC students enrolled in **HIS-225** will use technology to connect with Japanese students and faculty in a Virtual Field School: Pacific Rim Connections in Mio, Wakayama prefecture. Mio is the place from which thousands of Japanese-Canadians emigrated to coastal BC. Through these connections, students will learn about this coastal Japanese town and region which has such great impact on BC's history. Students at NIC will also reciprocate this knowledge by helping students in Japan to understand the history of BC with an emphasis on the stories and lives of Japanese-Canadians who settled here.

**BELGIUM:** part of the **BUS 418**, students will be able to join students around the world in a business game *Str@tvision Plus* to participate in a virtual finance & accounting competition between enterprises. Students will be able to work in culturally diverse teams, improve their inter-cultural communication skills, experience culturally diverse work environments.

## Enrolment & Recruitment

*Submitted by Junko Leclair, Manager, International Enrolment & Recruitment*

### Enrollment for January 2022

January 2022 international student number is looking optimistic with around 280 paid students currently on our list. A large backlog continues to exist in study permit processing, and we have so far received 42 study permit approvals. OGE expects to see a large number of study permit approvals to come in over the next one and a half months. The progress on study permit approval will determine the expected number of enrolled students in different campuses. Our current predicted enrollment for January 2022 is around 120 and many others will likely be deferred to the next intake.

### World-wide Recruitment and Study Permit Trend

The interest in international education remains high across the world. There were 330,000 new study permit applications from June to August of this year. 730,000 new applications were filed between January and August - a 27% increase over 2019. 22% of these applications this year are from India. While some countries have opened up for in-person events and fair, such as India, majority of countries continue to be in lockdown hence virtual events are the mainstream of our recruitment events.

## STUDENT SERVICES AND REGISTRAR

### Student Services

*Submitted by Felicity Blaiklock, Director, Student Affairs*

#### Orientation

Our Fall 2021 Orientation session was a great success. This fall, we were able to hold some in-person events on each campus along with virtual pre-sessions throughout the summer culminating in the 'Welcome to NIC' virtual event. We recorded over 300 participants in the virtual events which included peer drop-ins, navigating NIC's digital learning platform and program information sessions. held virtually on May 3 for students enrolled in spring/summer courses.

Orientation planning for winter 2022 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.

#### Thrive Month



October was Thrive Month at NIC. The goal of Thrive is to bring our College community together to do something fun, healthy and encourage physical and mental health. During the month, we offered over 50 in-person and virtual events for students and employees with over 200 participants overall. We plan to hold a second Thrive event in February 2022.

#### The CARE<sup>2</sup>: Student Mental Health and Well-Being at NIC

The CARE<sup>2</sup>: Student Mental Health and Well-Being has been launched on ENGAGE to encourage input

and feedback from the NIC Campus community. The CARE<sup>2</sup> Plan is the result of 2 years of work on the part of faculty, staff, students and administrators who formed the Mental Health and Well-Being committee. We are excited to add this plan to the suite of plans supporting BUILD 2026 and to focus on ways to support well-being, resilience and belonging.

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



across campuses

Back in May 2021, we were delighted to receive 14 applications for these grants designed to support employee initiatives to enhance health and well-being at NIC. We were able to fund 9 of the applications to a total of \$6300. We will be releasing more information in the winter (and hopefully begin a new round of grants), but the following projects have been completed or are in progress:

- Indigenous wellness Day for BSN students
- Project Popcorn – the purchase of a popcorn machine to be used for events



- Art work to create more welcoming spaces in the LLC (Campbell River), Registration (Port Alberni)
- Enhancement to the exterior of the Mixalakwa campus in Port Hardy

### Sexualized Violence Education Team (SVET)

This fall, SVET/Student Life supported the Ministry's This "...Is Not Yes" campaign which aims to increase awareness about sexual violence prevention and available supports for post-secondary students. In addition, SVET is working on the development of an online Sexualized Violence Prevention and Response training for NIC employees. We are hoping to pilot/soft launch this training in the spring 2022 ready for the fall 2022.

## Library

*Submitted by Jennifer Evans, Collections Reference & Instruction Librarian*

### Library

In September 2021, we saw a return of students, staff and faculty to the NIC libraries. Whether borrowing books or laptops, using a study room, attending a workshop, or booking an academic support appointment, it was thrilling to see the space and services used in a way comparable to pre-COVID times. Some of the service modalities we launched during COVID have been permanently adopted including virtual reference appointments, virtual workshops, and virtual library orientations. Additionally, we participated in multiple inter-departmental campaigns and worked closely with faculty to provide information literacy instruction to their students.



## **Events & Workshops:**

### **National Day for Truth and Reconciliation (September 2021)**

To mark the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, the LLC created an online guide with resources about the history of Truth and Reconciliation in Canada as well as Orange Shirt Day. All campus libraries featured displays with printed materials relating to Truth and Reconciliation and residential schools.

### **Thrive Month (Oct 2021)**

The Library participated in the College's Thrive campaign that ran throughout the month of October. Our participation included offering mindfulness kits with guides on meditation, an online mindfulness guide with links to library collection titles that support mindfulness and guided meditation, Treat Tuesday where we handed out homemade treats every Tuesday, and Thrive Thursdays where we posted weekly mindfulness and 'tips to thrive' to our social media accounts.

### **Workshops**

The Library offered twice-weekly citation workshops in September and October with 58 students registered.

## **Library Services**

### **Library orientations**

For the months of September and October, between the three campuses, library staff delivered information literacy orientations to 670 students.

### **Room Bookings**

For the months of September and October, between the three campuses, study rooms were booked 1199 times.

### **Research Appointments**

For the months of September and October, between the three campuses, students booked 238 research appointments.

### **Library Traffic**

For the months of September and October, between the three campuses, 11,625 people walked through our doors.

### **Website Traffic**

For the months of September and October, here were the top five most-visited library webpages:

APA Style Guide: 48,608

LLC homepage: 16,931

Student Tech Services: 10,197

MLA Guide: 6,621

Room bookings: 1,756

**Library and Learning Commons (LLC) – WRITING AND MATH SUPPORTS, PEER TUTORING****Writing Support**

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

Given the return to campus (with ongoing COVID precautions) in September 2021, we have been offering 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 are available during the week and on Saturdays. In the Fall 2021 semester (so far), NIC students have booked **226 appointments with Writing Support**.

In addition to individual writing support appointments, Writing Support faculty is also **offering 8 online workshops** on a variety of writing-related topics throughout the semester.

Writing Support faculty has received requests to **provide 7 in-class presentations and workshops** tailored to the individual needs of NIC faculty and their students, as well.

Students are also taking regular advantage of Write Away, the provincial online writing support platform. NIC students have so far submitted a total of **51 submissions to Write Away** in the Fall 2021 term.

**Math Support**

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

Faculty math support is being offered face-to-face AND through online video appointments, phone, email, and video drop-in sessions. In Fall 2021, NIC students have booked **51 appointments with Math Support** (so far). Math support faculty are also **offering 4 workshops** on various mathematical topics 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 has **10 active peer tutors** working in a wide variety of disciplines including Business, Math & Sciences, English, Sociology, Digital Design, ABE, Health Care Assistant, and Practical Nursing.

Peer tutors are available for virtual appointments or face-to-face meetings, during which they support the content and skills learning of NIC students. As with math and writing support, these appointments are bookable online. All virtual appointments take place on the video platform, Blue Jeans. So far, Fall 2021 has seen NIC students booking **196 appointments with peer tutors**.

Peer tutor Braden Majic, who completed his studies with NIC this past Winter, offered these words about his experience peer tutoring:

*“I have taken the time to reflect upon my past two years at North Island College (NIC), and multiple moments stand out as either valuable, relevant, or stimulating. The Peer Tutoring Program fits into all three categories. First, as an aspiring educator, I found great value in learning to tutor adults. Second, the training program offered was extremely relevant in the sense that I continuously utilize what was discussed. Finally, the discussions, journals, and opportunities to provide feedback were encouraging every step of the way. It truly has been an excellent learning experience as a Peer Tutor at NIC.”*