

## **TRADES AND TECHNICAL PROGRAMS**

### **Heading into Summer**

Now that we are on the very cusp of the first day of summer, we can pause to catch our breath as the change in season brings many programs to a close and students are ready to embark on their new career paths or they gear up to continue their studies in the fall. We have a few programs still running to make sure there's no moss anywhere come September.

Our Heavy Mechanical Trades Level 2 students wrote their Skilled Trades BC exam on June 23 to be followed by the Culinary Arts students' Certificate of Qualification exam on June 30<sup>th</sup>. The Heavy Mechanical Trades Level 1 students are scheduled for July 6<sup>th</sup> and then there is a bit of a gap in exams until August for Welding Foundation and the Port Alberni cohort of Professional Cook Level 1.

The students in the Motor Sport and Power Equipment Technician Foundation program will all be revved up by June 29<sup>th</sup> and the Aircraft Structural Technician students will be spreading their wings as of June 30<sup>th</sup>. It will be lights out for the Electrical Foundation program on July 12<sup>th</sup> after the students complete their Work Experience.

### **Teamwork Makes the Dream Work!**

Trades and Technical Programs collaborated with the Office of Global Engagement and then further teamed up with other institutions for two amazing projects that saw two of our Faculty members travelling abroad to share their knowledge and skills with the incredible people of Keroka and Tanzania in Africa. As instructors, being met with students that have an insatiable desire to learn proved to be a phenomenal experience for all involved.

*From Welding Instructor, Jim Stratford*

Early in 2022, I was approached by the Dean of Trades and Technical programs, Cheryl O'Connell, with the possibility of working with Romana Pasca, Manager of International Projects, Partnerships & Global Education, Vancouver Island University (VIU) and Keroka Technical Training Institute Trainers to develop a Level 3 Welding Assessment Package & Learning Materials.

After reviewing the existing materials, I began to develop the necessary formative and summative assessments involving a theory and practical learning module. A dialogue with the Team which consisted of the Mechanical & Automotive Engineering Department began with weekly online 6:00 am meetings commencing mid-October 2022 through to late January 2023. It was then determined that I would be bound for Keroka in March to instruct the Level 3 process with hands-on training, shop set-up and equipment requirements.

I was received with the utmost respect and kindness from the beginning to end of the project. Time was limited so daily mornings were spent on Welding Theory that carried over directly to the practical on-the-shop-floor-welding in the afternoon allowing a continuous flow through the learning process. The shop presented some challenges as

there was no ventilation, frequent power outages, old and inadequate welding equipment but the enthusiasm of the Keroka training team kept everyone going and we made it work.

The training did not stop in Africa! A select team of two from Keroka and two members from Kissii would travel to Canada for two weeks of intense hands-on training at VIU for one week and I had the pleasure of training the Team in their second week of stay. This provided a firsthand look at how welding training shops; tool rooms and classroom settings should be arranged to deliver successful welding training.

By all accounts this was an incredible journey. Thank you, North Island College, OGE and Keroka Technical Training Institute for an amazing life experience for which I'm very grateful for.

I am confident the Keroka and Kissii Team will deliver a fine program this forthcoming September.

### *Jaylene van der Merwe – Instructor, Automotive & Women in Trades*

In March of this year, I was invited by the Office of Global Engagement (OGE) to participate in the ESP-01 Project in Tanzania, Africa. The Empowerment through Skills Project is focused on empowering women and girls through short course training with the goal of entering the workforce and starting their own businesses. The trip was comprised of project coordinators and faculty from North Island College, Saskatchewan Polytechnic and Nova Scotia Community College. As part of the faculty team, our focus was to build and deliver a 3-day workshop to 16 instructors and community-based organization leaders from colleges and organizations in Mto Wa Mbu and Kilwa Mosoko on the importance of active learning strategies. We delivered the course in Arusha using active learning strategies and participants were engaged, reflective and asked many questions on methods to implement these strategies into their classrooms and organizations.

The second part of the trip focused on cultural tourism and meetings with the community-based organization Maasai Stoves at their village. We were able to see firsthand the difference being made for the health of the women and children by building stone stoves with chimneys and installing solar panels in their *bomas* (huts). We also travelled to a Folk Development College in Mto Wa Mbu who invited us, the other college personnel, and the community-based organization leaders to visit their campus and daycare center. They showcased their current courses and discussed what they would like to develop with assistance from this program.

The trip was an incredible opportunity for me. I immersed myself into the culture, the thought-provoking conversations and cultivated strong relationships with the other Canadian participants, many of whom have worked on similar projects and are considered leaders in their establishments. We were there to teach and support the Tanzanian participants, but I think we all came away feeling that we had also learned from them. I hope to stay involved in this project and more in the future. It is amazing to see the good work being done in higher education facilities through these programs and how we can make a difference beyond our own communities.

*No doubt very humbling experiences for Jim and Jaylene.*

### **Next Up!**

In early June, NIC's Coastal Forestry department hosted the 2023 Forestry & Sustainable

Resource Articulation Meetings. The event was attended by the Nicola Valley Institute of Technology (NVIT), University of Northern British Columbia (UNBC), VIU, Selkirk College, BCIT, and Forest Professionals BC, while Thompson Rivers University (TRU), BC Council on Admissions and Transfer (BCCAT), and Canadian Association of Biologists (CAB) joined online.

On the first day, the agenda included school reports and a guest speaker, with the overarching theme being Silviculture and Biodiversity. Taisa Brown, a Registered Professional Forester (RPF) and a Silviculture Assessment Specialist, Office of the Chief Forester, presented updates on adaptation initiatives in the areas of stand-tending, drought mitigation, the Free Growing Framework, and Climate Change Informed Species Selection. The school reports sparked discussions on various topics, including student mental health, program reviews, micro-credentials, and professional credentials for instructors. To conclude the day, the attendees enjoyed a delightful dinner prepared by the Level 2 Culinary students in the NIC Bistro.

Day 2 featured a Silvicultural Field tour led by Rick Monchak, an RPF, and Mosaic Forest Management, taking place on Quadra Island. The field tour proved to be informative, well-executed and received much appreciation from the participants. Everyone is looking forward to gathering again next year! ***Coleen MacLean, RPF, MEM***

### **Looking Ahead...**

The upcoming fall term is sure to kick start us out of our lawn chairs and right back into a busy schedule of Foundation and Apprenticeship programs along with the Coastal Forest Certificate, Coastal Forest Technology Diploma and Film Training cohorts. There are nine foundation programs spread across our Campbell River, Comox Valley and Port Alberni campuses, eight Apprenticeships and the Culinary Business Operations Certificate and Diploma programs and (*spoiler alert!*) Port Alberni will be delivering the Culinary Business Operations Diploma for the first time ever at the Roger Street Teaching Kitchen. Instructor Sean McSavaney will have his work cut out for him coming off the heels of his Professional Cook 1 program that ends in August.

For now, it's visions of sunny days, SPF 140, hammocks and a dip here and there to help beat the summer heat. So, we'll see you in September!

## **STUDENTS AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

### **Student Affairs and Student Life**

*Craig Whitton, Director, Student Affairs & Mez Jiwaji, Associate Director, Student Life*

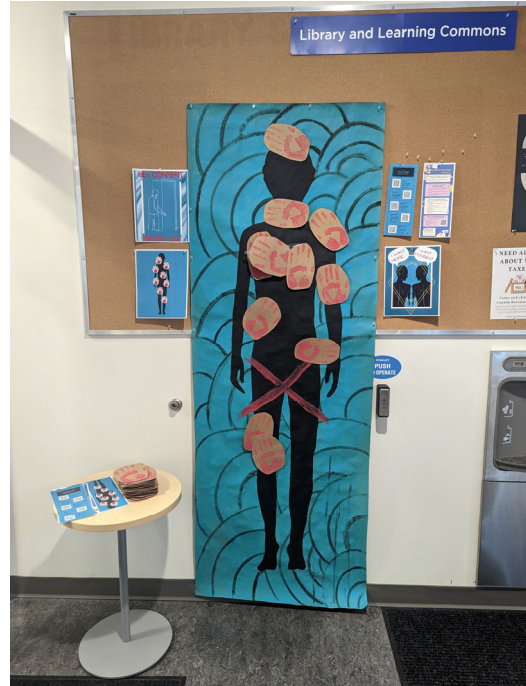
### **Student Life Highlights**

#### ***Healthy Trades: Student Life Welcomes New Healthy Students Liaison for the Trades***

Sierra Gale joined the Student Life team at the beginning of May as our new Healthy Students Liaison, funded by the Bell Let's Talk Program. Sierra is dedicated to supporting students in the NIC Trades, Apprenticeship, and Technical programs at the Comox Valley, Campbell River, and Port Alberni campuses. She will focus on promoting mental health and wellness within the college community through relationship-building, leadership opportunities, and the sharing of resources in collaboration with internal and external partners.

### April Activities:

- Student Life and the Sexualized Violence Education Team (North Island Students Union (NISU), Office of Global Engagement (OGE), Counselling, Student Life) ran a sexualized violence awareness campaign during the month of April. This was done in partnership with NIC Alumna Elektra Watson, a Continuing Education and Training (CET) student who created an interactive art installation entitled “Starting a Conversation about Consent”. In partnership with the Library and Learning Commons (LLC), the art installation (a life-sized silhouette of an androgynous human with red handprints that could be placed on the body by viewers to signify where they didn’t want to be touched) was on display in the Campbell River LLC from April 3-6, in the Comox Valley LLC from April 11-14, and in the Port Alberni LLC from April 24-28. The display was also intended to go to M̓ixal̓kwila campus on April 18, but the trip was cancelled due to snow. Each week’s display ended with an opportunity to join a debrief discussion with student life and counselling faculty on the corresponding campus. Twenty-four people interacted with the artwork over the course of the month, and students used the discussions to chat about consent or other concerns that were top of mind.
- An informational campaign about Intimate Partner Violence and resources for connection to digital and community resources ran parallel to the campaign above. The material was available for in-person and online consumption, with opportunities to connect with Counselling, Early Assist and Student Life at NIC and 24/7 community resources.



### May Activities:

- Spring Summer Orientation ran from May 2 to 4 with in-person events co-hosted by Student Life and NISU in Port Alberni, Campbell River and Comox Valley, serving a total of over 120 students and 18 employees. The “We’re Rooting For You” seed packs were popular and great conversation starters, and paired well with mental health and wellbeing conversations. Mez Jiwaji created little booklets on well-being that students enjoyed engaging in as they had to assemble the booklets themselves in order to read them. Student Life also ran two virtual orientation sessions, and while there was very low attendance at those sessions, one student was particularly grateful for the opportunity to chat and connect to resources.
- Canadian Mental Health Association’s Mental Health Week ran from May 1 to 5, and Student Life shared a broad array of information on mental health with students at the in-person orientation events that week, as well as running a social media campaign on our Student Life Facebook and Instagram pages.
- Red Dress Day was May 5 – Student Life posted informational material on social media.



Figure 1: Rooting for You

- Moose Hide Campaign Day was May 11. Student Life highlighted the day in their student newsletter, the Monday Memo. We also ran a social media campaign with support from Public Affairs and Communication (PAC) for the week to raise awareness, inform and support students around the topic, as well as direct interested students toward the online Moose Hide Campaign Day opening ceremony that took place on May 11 at 12 pm.

### June Activities:

- Accessibility Week was from May 29 to June 2. Student Life, the Accessibility Advisory Committee and PAC ran a social media campaign with videos during the week, and Healthy Students Liaison Sierra Gale also created some excellent posts on Accessibility in the Trades and why Accessibility is important! The week was also highlighted in the Monday Memo.



Figure 2 Accessibility Week

- Alberni Valley Pride Week was also May 29 - June 2. Student Life shared information about Alberni Valley Prides events and activities, as well as some information about what Pride is and why it's celebrated through the Student Life Monday Memo and Student Life Social Media Channels.

- June is Indigenous History Month. Student Life has been running an inform, educate and support social media campaign on our Student Life Facebook and Instagram channels, including directing viewers to some excellent resources provided by the Government of Canada at <https://www.rcaanc-cirnac.gc.ca/eng/1466616436543/1534874922512>, as well as highlighting the event in our Student Life Monday Memo.

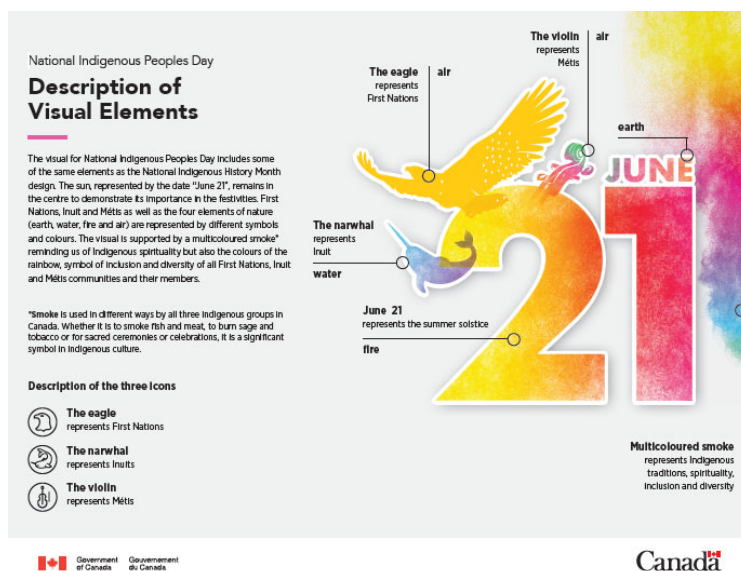


Figure 3 Indigenous History Month

- June 21 is Indigenous People's Day. Student Life is marking the day through the Student Life Monday Memo and a social media campaign on the Student Life Facebook and Instagram pages. We will also be promoting community events, such as the K'ómoks Festival happening on June 21 in Courtenay, and volunteering at the events.
- Canadian Multiculturalism Day on June 27 was marked on social media and in the Student Life Monday Memo.

### Student Affairs Highlights

CARE<sup>2</sup>, NIC's first-ever mental health plan, has been the primary focus of the Director of Student Affairs. Many of the events listed above contribute directly to the goals of this plan; a healthy vibrant community is a connected community, and the exceptional work of our Student Affairs team helps people connect with each other.

In addition to the above, the Director, of Student Affairs has been focused on:

- Reorganizing NIC's Counselling Model to better serve students. Collaboratively with our counselling team, we are moving to a five-session-per-semester model with urgent appointment slots for September 2023. This will allow students in immediate need to be seen, while still allowing students to get the capacity-building care they might need throughout their education;
- Adjusting the operations of the Student Case Management Team, NIC's first-level multidisciplinary behavioural intervention team that aims at providing supportive interventions to students at risk;
- Campus Visits to MX – The Student Affairs division (consisting of Counselling, the Department of Accessible Learning Services, Student Life, and the Library and Learning Commons) made four trips to Port Hardy to visit students studying at that campus; one trip was cancelled due to weather, but the others were a success and resulted in more outreach from Port Hardy-based students to our support services;
- Friday Webinar Series – as part of our CARE<sup>2</sup> commitments, and thanks to support from the Service Improvement Fund, we have secured rights to five webinars on topics related to diversity, equity, inclusion, and supporting students. We will be launching these with the community as part of a Friday Webinar series, starting in September, for all staff to attend.

### Office of the Registrar

#### Topic Title

*2023 Graduation Ceremonies Submitted By: Michelle Badger, Registrar*

Our Graduation Ceremonies conclude on a high note on June 19, 2023. We had 189 students cross our stages at four ceremonies in three different communities.

Ceremonies were held at,

Mixalakwa on June 5

Campbell River on June 15

Comox Valley on June 19

All four ceremonies were live-streamed and can be viewed at the following links.

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLUb84KWJ6NbEuGfzhWhAJjhvdQ2DQXyYz>

These ceremonies are no small feat to organize and pull off. We had 46 staff who agreed to support the Office of the Registrar with a variety of tasks from planning to execution of our events.

In addition, to the 189 students, we also graduated another 556 students who were unable to attend our annual ceremonies for a variety of reasons. This means that North Island College awarded 745 credentials between July 1, 2022, and June 30, 2023.

Unfortunately, we had to postpone our Port Alberni Ceremony from June 13 to September 27 due to the fires at Cameron Bluffs. We are looking forward to celebrating this momentous occasion with our Port Alberni students and their families.







**HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

**BS Nursing (BSN) Pinning Ceremony**

*Submitted by Shari Jakubiec, Program Assistant*

Of the 32 students graduated from the BSN Program in Spring 2023, 27 attended the Annual Pinning Ceremony held on Monday, June 19, 2023 at the Stan Hagen Theatre starting at 2pm.



In attendance to celebrate this occasion were 27 graduates along with BSN faculty, family, and friends. The master of ceremonies of the event was retiring faculty member Pam Burton, who started the celebration with an introduction of the special guests which included Dr. Kathleen Haggith, Dean, Faculty of Health and Human Services, Jan Meiers, Associate Dean, Faculty of Health and Human Services, and Dr. Evelyn Voyager, Elder in Residence. We were also thrilled to have a special guest, Christina Berlanda, Director of Island Health Professional Practice, in attendance to celebrate our 2023 graduates.

The ceremony started with a territorial acknowledgment and prayer for the graduates from Dr. Evelyn Voyager. A congratulatory message from Tony Bellavia, Vice President, Academic, was read to the graduates. This was followed by inspiring speeches from both Dr. Kathleen Haggith and Jan Meiers. Dr. Evelyn Voyager presented the pin for the Canadian Indigenous Nurses Association to 2023 BSN graduate, Yani Brabant.

The BSN valedictorian, Jacob Hussey, and class historian, Courtney Wilson, both did an excellent job of capturing the excitement and achievements of the 2023 graduates. Following the presentation of the pins to each graduate, BSN faculty member Cara Tilston led the students in the candle-lighting ceremony. At the conclusion of the pinning ceremony, graduates and guests were invited to enjoy cake and refreshments. It was an inspiring event for everyone involved and the BSN faculty look forward to working with our new colleagues as they now transition from student to Registered Nurse.