

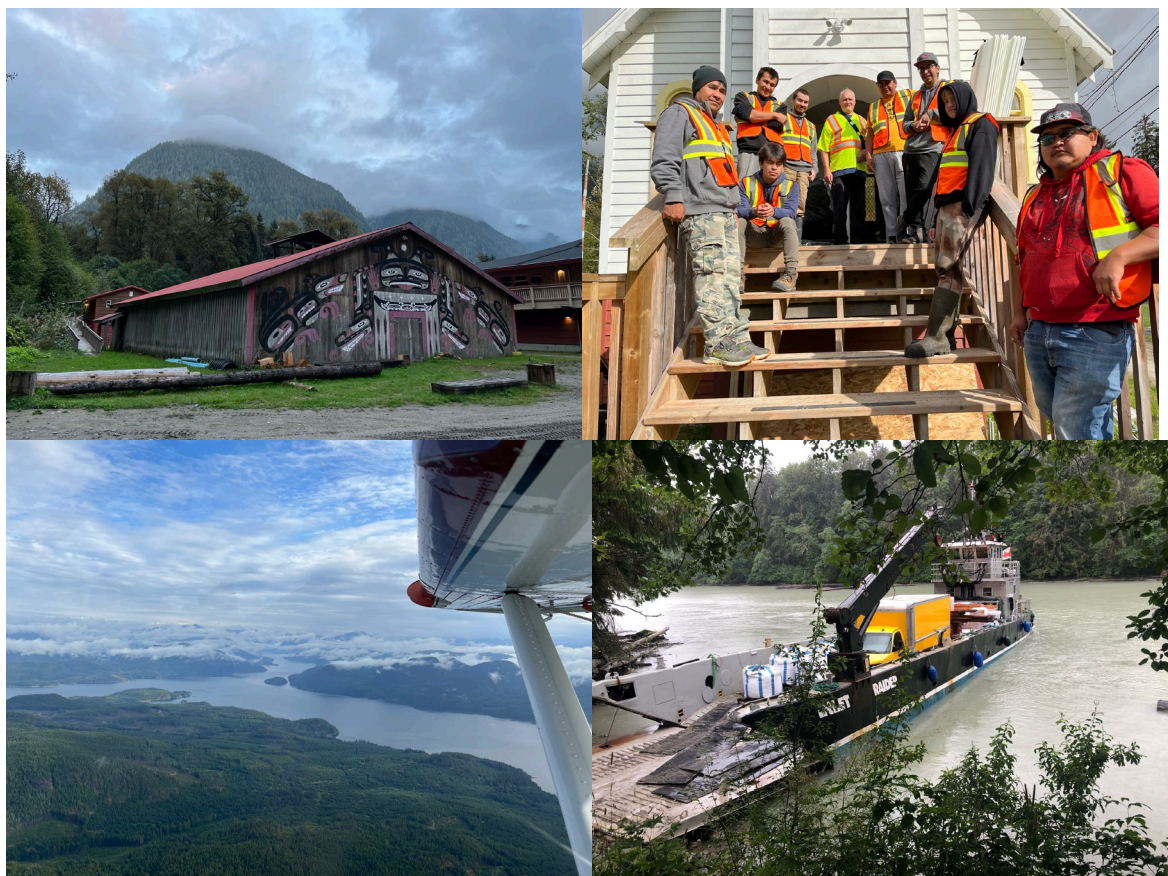
ACCESS AND REGIONS

MIXALAKWILA CAMPUS, PORT HARDY

Submitted by Donna Merry, Regional Manager, MX Campus and Continuing Education

In partnership between CET, Trades and Dzwadaʼenuxw First Nations and funded by the Community Workforce Response Grant, twelve students at Ukwanalis Village, Kingcome Inlet, are currently completing Carpentry Level 1 Apprenticeship training. The program began in September and will be completed in December. Students are working on community projects while completing the Level 1 learning competencies.

The village of approximately 75 full-time residents is accessible by seaplane and boat only, and all visitors and supplies are picked up from a dock at the mouth of Kingcome Inlet and taken up the Gwaʼyi River by riverboat. The community has generously supplied classroom space in the church, gymnasium and big house.



CONTINUING EDUCATION AND TRAINING**Retail and Customer Service Confidence**

Submitted by Donna Merry, Regional Manager, MX Campus and Continuing Education

In partnership with the Port Hardy Chamber of Commerce and local businesses, CET has delivered the Retail and Customer Service Confidence program to the second cohort from September-November. The students completed four weeks of classroom learning and four weeks of supported work experience at local businesses to develop their retail and customer service skills. Students from the first cohort have successfully transitioned into employment, and we look forward to the same outcomes for this second cohort, after their celebration event on November 19. Two more programs are planned in the spring and fall of 2025. This project has been funded through the Rural Economic Diversification and Innovation Program (REDIP).

Submitted by Leanne Moore, CE Program Officer, Port Alberni

Wildfire Crew Member Training

Port Alberni CET delivered a 4-week Wildfire Crew Member Training in October-November 2024 in partnership with Huu-ay-aht First Nation, through the Indigenous Stream of the Community Workforce Response Grant. The program was delivered in Bamfield and has prepared another 12 students to help fight wildfires in the province of BC and beyond.

Building Service Worker – Comprehensive (Future Skills Grant)

The 2-week Building Service Worker Comprehensive program combines classroom instruction and hands-on experience to train in cleaning, chemicals, equipment, floor, and carpet care; WHMIS, FoodSafe, and First Aid are included. The program took place in November and the 12 students who attended used Future Skills Grant funding to cover the tuition.



Applied Rural & Indigenous Community Economic Development Micro-Credential Program

The Ministry of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills awarded North Island College funding to develop a micro-credential program to help create more skilled workforces that will promote economic resilience and support the current and future needs of rural and Indigenous communities.

The twelve-week micro-credential program will include six individual courses specifically geared toward building economic development capacity for rural and remote municipalities, local government, and Indigenous communities. The courses will help train people in rural community development, entrepreneurship, market research and analysis, infrastructure, and resource development, and will be available both online and in person, allowing learners to stay in their community and build critical capacity for their home community.

The program is an NIC-led joint venture with six other participating public rural colleges. NIC will be engaging with local communities, industry experts, and First Nations to build a program and curriculum plan that best aligns with the visions and needs of those communities. The curriculum development will commence this winter with the first program projected to be offered in fall 2025.

Introduction to Hands-On Manufacturing Technologies Micro-Credentials

Alberni Valley Makerspace has applied for Rural Economic Diversification and Infrastructure Program (REDIP) funding. NIC's role is to develop and deliver the "Introduction to Hands-On Manufacturing Technologies" pilot program. Modules will include 3D printing, laser cutting, electronics prototyping, textile manufacturing, and plastic remanufacturing. This program will not only benefit the participants by providing practical and industry relevant skills but also help diversify and strengthen our region's workforce. The decision on the application will be announced in Spring 2025. If successful, three six-week intakes will take place starting fall 2025 to winter 2026.

Submitted by Lorraine Hagan, CE Program Officer, Campbell River

Marine Training

The fall marine training was comprised of our regular offerings and our winter course schedule is now available and open for registration. Plans are underway in partnership with the Campbell River Chamber of Commerce, to apply for the next intake of the Community Workforce Response Grant to bring *Marine Essentials* training to the region. This will assist local marine employers, as well as those in the surrounding areas, in hiring entry level staff that have completed required Transport Canada certification courses.

Metal Jewellery Design

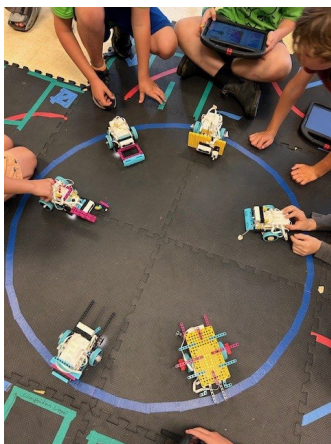
The 2024-25 Metal Jewellery Design Certificate program is off to a great start and is running at capacity with twelve new enthusiastic artists. The weekend workshop jewellery classes have been well attended and often piques the interest in our full-time program.

Campbell River Elder College

The Fall term offered twenty-six courses with several new course leaders added to the mix. Registration numbers have been strong, and the term has been an overall success. To date, over thirty courses are planned for Winter/Spring 2025 with scheduling expected to be finalized by mid-December.

BOG Report – Youth Academy 2024

Submitted by Helen Van Spronsen, CE Program Officer, Campbell River



The Youth Academy was transferred from the Marketing and Future Students Department to the CET Department in late April 2024.

In July and August, we provided 18 inspiring camps to students aged 7-13yrs in Comox, Campbell River and Port Alberni – the ever-popular Lego Robotics camps, Lego All Girls and Lego Extreme, all using our Lego Spike Prime robotics sets to introduce robotics engineering and coding to budding young robotics engineers. We also offered STEM and Sports, STEAM (including an introduction to graphic design) and Coding, a camp in which students created their own video games. The

return of the Fine Arts and Mixed Media camp was so popular that it sold out within 2 hours of registration opening and we were able to offer a second week of camp to the waitlisted registrants. This summer we also collaborated with K'omoks First Nation to offer a subsidized week of camp to their youth, in their own K'omoks Hall.



All in all, 287 children attended camps run by four inspiring camp leaders, five energetic camp assistants and seven enthusiastic volunteers, who all worked together as a fabulous team. Feedback from both campers and parents has been overwhelmingly positive. Many requests for year-round programming has led us to draw up a plan and apply for funding that we hope will lead to after-school, Spring Break and Pro D day LEGO robotics workshops throughout the school year.



NIC's Youth Academy has been screened and invited to apply to become a partner with Actua, Canada's leading science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) youth outreach organization. Actua provides curriculum support, professional development and training as well as funding that will assist the Youth Academy to develop more quality courses, deliver to more remote locations and underserved populations.

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Bachelor of Science in Nursing

Submitted by Sheenagh Snell, Department Chair

Two new regular faculty members, Kim Sumpter and Nikki Robbins, were hired into our LPN to BSN program. We are enjoying having their expertise and experience added to our team. Additionally, we welcomed the return of Leslie Sundby into our faculty as 'Curriculum and Program Mentor' in a 50% temporary role for this academic year.

Faculty members Sheenagh Snell and Denise Sibilleau are engaging in research to determine if implementation of theory, hands-on practice, and simulation in the nursing learning centre will enhance nursing students' confidence in handling central venous access devices (CVADs). This has involved extensive collaboration with the Clinical Nurse Educators at the Comox Valley Hospital. The Clinical Nurse Educators created and implemented a CVAD workshop for our instructors teaching our 3rd year cohort. This included the 3rd year Nursing Learning Centre instructors, Department Chair, and Learning Centre Coordinator. Collaboration with VIU has been constant as we work on integrating this content into NIC's Nursing Learning Centre courses.

The picture below is from our workshop at the hospital whereby the nursing educators at that hospital instructed our faculty to ensure we have the necessary skills, knowledge, and competence to educate our students on this skill.



Photo submitted by: Sheenagh Snell RN MN (CVH nurse educators, BSN Faculty, Department Chair, and Learning Centre Coordinator attending CVAD workshop)

In September, the BSN program reinitiated our annual 'Mandatory Fun Day' for all cohorts and faculty, organized by 4th year student Karina Teufel, and faculty members Montana Alessio, Agata Zienowicz, and Sheenagh Snell. It was a fun event filled with games, collaboration, and inter-cohort bonding. NISU was present and awarded bursaries to students. It was an excellent way to kick off the academic year.



Photo submitted by: Sheenagh Snell RN MN (BSN students in years 1 through 4)





(Nursing Faculty)



(Organizers of the event: Left to right- Karina Teufel, Agata Zienowicz, Montana Alessio, and Sheenagh Snell)

The BSN year 1 and 3 students participated in an experiential reconciliation workshop 'Building Bridges Through Understanding the Village' facilitated by Kathi Camilleri, organized by our faculty members Alisha Black, Liz McKay, and Cara Tilston in October.

Fourth year BSN students participated in a student-led poster conference showcasing their

focused synthesis of research on timely health issues in November. The event was held in the Library Commons, with guest speakers Dr. Evelyn Voyageur (NIC Elder in Residence), Tony Bellavia (Vice President, Academic), and our Health and Human Services Dean Jan Meiers. More information and photos will be shared in our next college highlights report.

First year students are working together to create a social media campaign to improve Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion in nursing education. This same cohort led a blood pressure clinic on our Comox Valley campus to consolidate their knowledge and skills related to this skill.

Faculty professional development work is extensive and includes, but is not limited to: virtual simulation utilization, and enhancing student self-efficacy related to CVAD care. Faculty are focused on expanding knowledge around disability accommodations in clinical, Artificial Intelligence and its use in nursing education and instruction/evaluation within courses, attending and presenting at various nursing conferences, and enhancing knowledge around pedagogical approaches to anti-racism and anti-oppression principals, trauma-informed principals, and inclusion of Indigenous perspectives and knowledge in courses.



In August 2024, nursing faculty member Heidi Deagle and Elder in Residence Dr. Evelyn Voyageur were co-presenters at the S'TENISTOLW Conference, held at Camosun College in Victoria. Alongside Dr. Joanne Fraser, NIC BSN Graduate Victoria Dick, and Noxsola Paul Willie, we offered a one-hour session: *Learning Our Way, A Path Towards Transformative Reconciliation for All of Us*. The room was full and included delegates from across Canada and even New Zealand. S'TENISTOLW is a gathering for educators, administrators, community leaders, scholars and allies in the field of Indigenous post-secondary and adult education. Opportunities like this build and strengthen relationships and networks in reciprocity and reconciliation.

In June 2024, a group of Year 2 and 3 nursing students from North Island College had the privilege of attending a week-long field school in Ukwanalís Village (Kingcome), home of the Dzawada'enuxw First Nation. This was part of an elective nursing course offered by NIC, NUR 410: Health and Wellness in First Nations Communities. We were also joined by participants of the *Learning Our Way* field school, including BSN Faculty member Montana Alessio.

The trip involved car travel to Port McNeil (4 hours from NIC's Comox Valley Campus), followed by 3 hours of boat travel across the ocean to a floating dock where all gear and participants were unloaded. From there, we waited for river boats to journey about 30 minutes up the Gwa'yi River to

the small village of Ukwanalis.

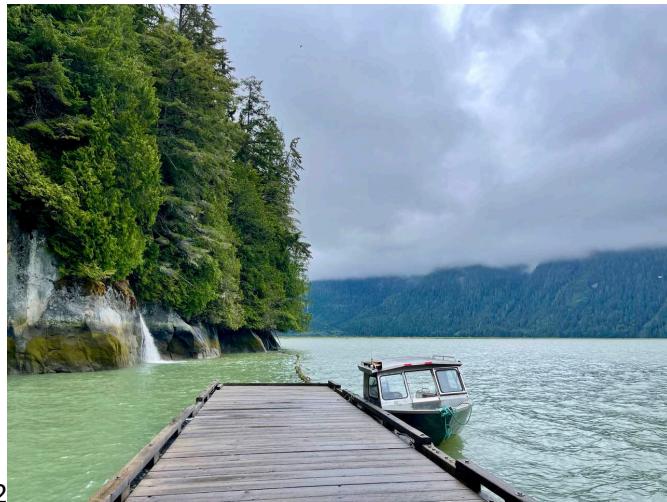
While living in community, nursing students learned from Elders, spent time with community members, met the local nurse, explored the forest and river, gathered medicinal plants, sat in circle at the Big House, and filled heart, mind and body with transformational learning experiences.



Above photo: NUR 410 BSN Students, Learning Our Way (LOW) participants, Noxsola Paul Willie, Dr. Evelyn Voyageur, Dr. Joanna Fraser and NIC Faculty Heidi Deagle.



1



2

1. Year 2 Nursing Students packed and ready to get aboard from the dock in Port McNeil in June 2024 (Emalee, Abigail and Simone). 2. Waiting for the river boat to take us from the ocean dock in the Kingcome Inlet, up the Gwa'yí River to Ukwanalis, home of the Musgamagw Dzawada'enuxw peoples.



3.



4.

3. Year 3 BSN student picking twin-berry leaf in the rain. 4. Dr. Voyageur checking on the leaves drying for her

healing poultice.



5.

5. Lilawagila School in Gwayi Village.



We would like to extend a warm thank-you to **Gowland Towing in Campbell River**, for their generous donation of \$2,000 towards student expenses for our NUR 410 field school in June.





Photos: 1. LOW group on the boat, September 2024. 2. Outskirts of Hoopsitas Village (Ka:'yu:'k't'h'/Che:k:tles7et'h'). 3. Year 4 BSN student/ student research assistant Genevieve Freeman, travelling with nursing instructor and faculty research support, Heidi Deagle. 4. Heidi Deagle interviewing Kyuquot Family Service Manager, Daniel Blackstone, regarding community impacts and reflections on the LOW field school which took place in May 2024. *Learning Our Way: Indigenous Community Based Learning Circles for Transformative Reconciliation in Health Professional Education and Practice* is supported by a College and Community Social Innovation Fund grant (2022). Elder in Resident, Dr. Evelyn Voyageur and retired BSN Faculty member Dr. Joanna Fraser are the primary researchers for this project. LOW has partnered with four communities to host 4 field schools over the past year. In their project framework, Dr. Fraser and Dr. Voyageur created paid student research positions as well as a nursing faculty research support position. This has provided an incredible opportunity for faculty and student engagement in relationship-building, scholarship and land-based learning and Indigenous research methodologies. The following photographs are from the LOW field school with the community of Tsaxis (Fort Rupert), which is located between Port McNeil and Port Hardy on Northern Vancouver Island.



NIC faculty Erin McConomy helping lift food out of the community pit cook. Our generous hosts in Tsaxis prepared a Community Pit Cook. Root veggies grown in the community garden are cooked alongside whole salmon, on a bed of hot coals, wrapped in cedar boughs and salal leaves, cover in other vegetation, like ferns and skunk cabbage leaves, and burlap sacks, then cooked for several hours!



LOW participant's landing the canoe after a paddle to Deer Island, led by Mervin Hunt and Tom Child.



Getting the drum warm by the fire.



Land-based learning- outside, around a fire, at the beach.



Hillside view looking south towards Storey's Beach and Tsaxis village.



(Year 2 BSN Students Kali, Jasmine, Analie, Taylor and Satvir, with Island Health Infection Control Nurse). Photo credit: Heidi Deagle.

On October 24, 2024, NIC nursing students attended Comox Valley Hospital's Education Day. Health care staff and students interacted with a number of learning stations, including topics such as Wound Care, Safe Use of Restraints, Harm Reduction, Infection Control Practices, Code Blue and Proper Waste Disposal in Hospital.



(Year 3 BSN Students Mia, Naomi, Paige and Darby. Photo credit: Heidi Deagle)

As part of their course work for NUR 302: Relational Practice III – *Connecting Across Difference*, third year nursing students prepared a creative learning activity to raise awareness about a population who experiences stigma and discrimination, particularly related to social and healthcare inequities. The group pictured above engaged students and faculty participants in a thoughtful board game to build understanding about living with borderline personality disorder.

Early Childhood Care and Education

Submitted by Laurie Tulloch, Department Co-Chair

This month we celebrate National Child Day on November 20th.

This day celebrates children as active participants in their lives and communities and recognizes Canada's commitment to children's rights. Across our programs and campuses, students are learning about and promoting the rights of children through the development of educational bulletin boards and displays, engagement with advocacy campaigns, guest speakers and their practicum mentors.



Faculty too are reflecting on our commitment to children's rights in the development of student protocols and curriculum. Professional development including our collective consideration of "Ethical Issues Facing Researchers Working with Children in International Contexts" (Asselin & Doiron, 2016) continues to inform our conversations with students and each other about the important differences between research ON, ABOUT, WITH, FOR and BY children.

Accessible Education and Training (formerly Department of Accessible Learning)

Submitted by: Liz Girard, Instructor and Department Chair

A first note of update is that our department has changed names from Department of Accessible Learning (DAL) - Programs to **Accessible Education and Training (AET)**. This decision was made to

better differentiate ourselves from DALs (Department of Accessible Learning – Services). Also, as the Ministry of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills (Provincially) has changed the title of our area from Adult Special Education to Accessible Education and Training we will be in alignment with them.

In the Comox Valley, we are offering nine courses each semester to train students for employment. We also have students beginning their work experience course in the community. This year one of our courses is looking deeply at the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. The students, along with two 4th year nursing students, and me, their instructor, are putting on a learning event for the public. All are welcome to attend.



In Campbell River, we have a brand new instructor to our program. Tina is taking students through a new cohort model of one of our three certificate programs. The cohort group is at NIC three and a half days a week. They are learning employment skills and doing a work experience practicum in the community. This is a new initiative for our department. We are piloting offering our courses in one year so students can enter our program and leave quickly into the workforce. So far, the students have been very engaged and are very eager to take part in their work experience.

In Port Alberni, we have another new instructor. Heidi is working with the students on their employment skills courses and they are also taking part in work experiences in the community.

TRADES AND TECHNICAL PROGRAMS

November 2024

June 2024, the days with the smell of fresh cut grass, warm breezes, and evenings to watch the sun either dip into the ocean or duck behind the majestic mountains to make way for the moon to rise in the night sky, now seem like a very long time ago. The end of the spring term saw many new graduates setting out to make their way in this ever-changing world and the team of Trades and

Technical programs gearing up to welcome the new students of Fall 2024. However, over the summer months there were eight foundation programs that would be drawing to a close in July and August or finishing off as the new programs began in the fall.

Fast forward and September has arrived. The halls are no longer echoing from the emptiness brought on by June's convocation ceremonies, they are teeming with the excitement of new and returning students treading on the next stepping stone of their chosen path of life. TNT kicked off Electrical, Automotive, Fabricator-Welder, Heavy Mechanical, and Welding Foundations along with the two-year Instrumentation and Automation program at the Campbell River campus, while Carpentry Foundation under Jani Martinius welcomed students to the Trades Training Building in Courtenay. Automotive, Welding and Furniture Design and Joinery foundation programs brought the TEBO campus in Port Alberni back to life after the summer hiatus.

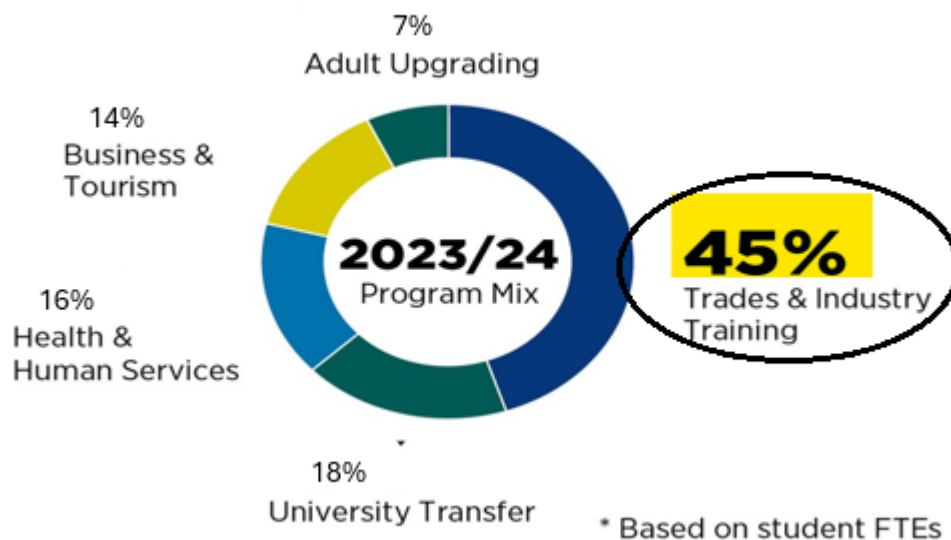
Historically fall always brings a flood of apprenticeship programs and 2024 was no different. From September to November the Courtenay campus has hosted 3 levels of Plumbing apprenticeships and 5 cohorts of Carpentry apprenticeships. In Campbell River Jaylene van der Merwe guided 13 of her students through Automotive Service Technician Apprenticeship Level 2, Electrical instructors were kept out of trouble with 5 cohorts of apprenticeships from levels 1 to 4 and in addition to Welding Foundation, instructor Colin Ralph took on 6 Welding Apprentices in Level 3 and one in "B" Level giving them all their Red Seal certifications once they have written their SkilledTradesBC exams – and he has more apprentices lined up as the Welding Apprenticeships are "Continuous Entry". Heavy Mechanical had a cohort of level 2 and 3 and Professional Cook Level 1 and the new Culinary Diploma students joined Chef Jonathan Frazier in the kitchen. Chef Xavier took over the second term of the winter 2024 Culinary Diploma students in September and after finding their groove had a very popular and successful Bistro opening for Fall.

We would be remiss if we did not include the Coastal Forest Worker Certificate and Coastal Forest Technology Diploma programs. The certificate students will finish in December while the Diploma students 1st and 2nd year will continue on into 2025. Lead instructor Matt Neuwirth follows below with an update!

All in all, Trades and Technical, once again, came through with an outstanding line up. To put it in perspective that is 15 foundation and certificate/diploma programs and 19 apprenticeship cohorts. Scheduling and delivery does not just happen. It takes a lot of hard work and planning, not to mention the dedication, determination and tireless hours put in by the Dean of the Faculty of Trades and Technical programs and the staunch commitment of our incredible instructors.

Who wants a visual??? This really drives it home:

PROGRAM MIX*



This is even more impressive when we take into account the *Annual Top Up* of funding from SkilledTradesBC has been significantly reduced this year impacting our financial capacity to address student waitlists.

In the World of Forestry...

Our Coastal Forest Worker Certificate and Technology Diploma programs have gone through a bit of a change with the departure of lead coordinator Coleen MacLean. Matt Neuwirth has taken up the reigns and seamlessly stepped into guiding our students to success and this is what's going on:

"The Coastal Forestry Department has continued to build on its dynamic educational offerings and industry partnerships, enhancing our students' learning experiences. We have established an active partnership with the Canadian Institute of Forestry - Vancouver Island Section (CIF-VI Section) to provide our students with access to a mentorship program, originally piloted with Vancouver Island University Forestry Program and CIF-VI. Several of our students have eagerly signed up to participate in this program, which connects them with experienced industry professionals as mentors. This opportunity allows students to gain invaluable insights into their future careers, and the mentorship program includes weekend field trips throughout the year. These trips facilitate networking between students and mentors in an engaging, outdoor learning environment that further develops their industry knowledge and skills."

Our students are actively engaged in hands-on projects and fieldwork as part of their curriculum. Second-year students are working on their year-long Technical Projects course, a cornerstone of the program that spans both semesters, challenging them to apply their knowledge to real-world scenarios. First-year students have attended multiple field trips to culturally significant sites around Campbell River and the Comox Valley as part of their Indigenous Lands and Culture course, gaining deeper insight into local Indigenous history and stewardship practices. Additionally, second-year students recently had the unique opportunity to visit Yorke Island with BC Parks, where they explored a significant site that blends heritage values, First Nations cultural perspectives, and forest ecology within an actively managed park setting."

Yes, we have Micro-Credentials!

Further building on the Micro-credential front to link with Forestry and Natural Resources we currently have a *distance learning* Timber Cruising 1 that started in October and runs through to February 2025. We also added Drone to Map GIS, EOS Arrow GPS & Field Maps and Fundamentals of GIS all scheduled to start up in February.

And Who Doesn't Love Seaweed?

Before we dive in, please let us introduce you to Paris Gaudet. Paris joined the Trades and Technical team as our new program officer and brings with her a wealth of knowledge from over ten years of working in and collaborating with the Tech and Innovation Sector. Her energy is infectious, and she is able to mobilize and lead people to a common vision through creativity and strong business communication and interpersonal skills. Paris hit the ground running and hasn't stopped! Her micro-credentials program was a massive undertaking in research, strategy and the execution of what she has now brought to the table.

Seaweed Micro-Credential Program

North Island College's Seaweed Micro-Credential Program is an innovative project that aims to diversify the economy on Northern Vancouver Island by focusing on delivering training opportunities for an emerging industry. Through funding support from the Ministry of Post-Secondary Education and Skills Training, Trades and Technical Programs is launching this pilot project from the Campbell River campus in January 2025.

Trades and Technical Programs has worked closely with the Pacific Seaweed Industry Association to engage with seaweed industry experts throughout BC, Canada and globally. These collaborative engagement sessions with subject matter experts have informed the curriculum content to ensure relevancy and alignment with industry standards. Industry subject matter experts providing content and instruction include:

- Logan Zeinert, Research, CARTI
- Ranah Chavoshi, Co-Founder, Phyco
- Jordan Hawkswell, Researcher, Pacific Seaweed Industry Association
- Spencer Serin, Biologist and Research, CEO, Spoitz Enterprises Inc.
- Adrien Stewart, former CPA with MNP
- Brant Chlebowski, Founder, California Seaweed
- Tom Campbell, President and CEO, West Coast Kelp

The stackable micro-credentials encompass theoretical and applied curricula with specialized instruction in product and site planning; site selection, set-up, operations, and management; environmental and regulatory requirements; market development; sustainable product cultivation, grow-out, and harvesting; packaging and commercialization; and business sustainability. The micro-credential provides students with a blend of online theory and applied field studies to prepare for employment in the seaweed production sector. Theoretical competencies will be assessed through a variety of individual and group learning exercises, assignments, and presentations to demonstrate industry-required competencies. Applied learning will provide a blend of opportunities to present competency development toward mastery through field study

exercises, practical assignments, and projects. Each micro-credential will include a lesson plan, course content, interactive lessons, labs, assessments and where possible instructional videos.

The courses included in this innovative micro-credential program include:

SWP 010 – Introduction to Seaweed

SWP 015 – Seaweed Product and Site Planning

SWP 020 – Seaweed Production, Environmental, and Regulatory Requirements

SWP 025 – Seaweed Site Operations and Management

SWP 030 – Seaweed Grow-out and Traditional Practices

SWP 035 – Seaweed Harvesting, Processing and Packaging

SWP 040 – Seaweed Business Practices and Commercialization

For the pilot program, students will complete all seven introductory micro-credential courses. The program will be delivered in person at the Campbell River campus January 6 through to March 14, 2025. Upon completion, students will receive a Seaweed Production and Processing Statement of Completion.

Motion Picture Micro-Credential

This term we offered one program within our Motion Picture Training: Production Accounting Clerk. 16 lucky students have the opportunity to learn all about accounting fundamentals for film production in preparation for work in the accounting office. This program was funded by Infilm (Vancouver Island North Film Commission).

Little Change to the Electrical Line-Up

From David Johns: I recently transitioned from my role as a faculty member delivering electrical apprenticeship programming to a position in the Center for Teaching and Learning Innovation (CTLI) under the direction of Dr. Liesel Knaack. With a primary focus on trades programs, I have been working to engage faculty across our three major campuses quickly and weekly to provide awareness of the CTLI, up-and-coming resources, educational opportunities and each other. Within this weekly newsletter are interesting items pertaining to trades training, and a trades faculty bio that helps bring awareness to who teaches what, and where. Through this initiative, it is hoped that further communication and familiarity with others will slowly develop across our college trades community where sharing of teaching ideas and approaches becomes the norm.

Enter Chris Dvorak! After having spent many years at SAIT (MacPhail School of Energy) Chris crossed the mountains heading west where his journey ended on the coast of Vancouver Island to find North Island College welcoming his expertise! A Master Electrician and a Red Seal Certified instructor, who also sports a degree in Kinesiology, his impressive resume led us to only one conclusion...we had to have him! Chris has spent time as an Academic Chair at the Southern Alberta Institute of Technology where he provided leadership for MacPhail's Apprenticeship Programs developing and maintaining a positive and strong learning environment with strategies and goals to promote continuous improvement and opportunities for faculty.

Striving for Excellence!

Carpentry instructor, Erik Hardin, has also stepped out of his instructional duties for the Fall as he sets his sights on the following priorities:

Final Steps for Carpentry Harmonization Mandate: For 10 years, I have contributed to national and provincial program outlines, Red Seal examination development, and learning resource creation, writing and review, Standard level exam review and rewrite, harmonization of the carpentry program, and many other projects, through my role as Chair of the Articulation committee.

I am now working on the final stage of this process. October and November, I have been in Richmond at the SkilledTradesBC head office. We are editing, reviewing, and rewriting Standard level exams for years 1,2, and 3 Carpentry apprenticeships. I have been brought on as the subject matter expert and representative of the carpentry instructors. My involvement in rewriting the 2024 Harmonized Program outline for carpentry has helped STBC maintain a smooth transition to the new Standard level exams.

I have also been working on establishing and formalizing a sustainable model for PAC tables, liaising with faculty, sponsors, and industry regarding the potential of collaborative applied skills initiatives with the aim of involving multiple trades and, thus, multiple students and instructors, while also engaging with NIC Community, Indigenous Education Committee table, Nations and Community re: core programming in the community.

Instructor Nick Charette and I have developed an initial agenda for the Program Advisory Committee groups for Carpentry and Plumbing and we will give a reintroduction to the programs with an open, but guided, discussion giving voice to concerns from industry regarding apprenticeship training, foundations, working with STBC and NIC. Our SkilledTradesBC representative, Tawni Wilkins, will also have a seat at the table to give a presentation to both PAC groups.

Also included on the “to-do list” are Program Review for Carpentry and Plumbing, Apprenticeship Level exam results and curricula considerations as well as on-going Professional Development for Trades and Technical Programs Faculty.

To fill the void left by Erik’s absence we have brought Mike Androschuk on board to work alongside veteran Carpentry instructor, Rob Laird. (You’ll never guess where he’s from!) Mike is a Master Instructor and Red Seal Carpenter from the Northern Alberta Institute of Technology who specialized in Mill Work and Carpentry. He has also volunteered with Skills Canada for 9 years training competitors, setting up competitions and judging competitions provincially and nationally. Mike is currently teaching the Level 1 Apprenticeship at the Courtenay campus which will be completed on December 13th. BUT WAIT...Mike will be extending his talents in January to fill the Coordinator Role for the Faculty of Trades and Technical programs. His experience with Program Advisory Committees, working with government, industry and apprenticeships to develop outlines, outcomes and schedules will all be relevant to his success in this new role.

We Have One More Addition To the Faculty of Trades and Technical Programs Team and It's a Doozy!

Spoiler Alert! There is no one left in Alberta.

We have filled the Associate Dean position with an excellent candidate who brings 19 years of extensive knowledge and skill from the Northern Alberta Institute of Technology! Eight of those years served as Department Head of Manufacturing Fabrication and Maintenance. Please welcome Chris Manning.

In addition to a Red Seal Welding certification, Chris' role as Department Head has refined his proficiency and expertise in departmental operations, budget creation and management, and working closely with Academic Program Leaders to establish, foster and maintain relationships with industry members and associations to implement effective strategies to drive industry and youth engagement initiatives. He has utilized that experience to collaborate with faculty and staff to enhance academic programming while coaching and mentoring faculty providing constructive feedback and support along with coordinating professional development opportunities.

With a strong commitment to Academic excellence and dedication to leveraging his abilities to contribute to the growth and success of an institution, we are excited to have Chris step into the Associate Dean position knowing he will have a meaningful and positive impact to the Faculty of Trades and Technical Programs.

Boom!

OFFICE OF GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT

Fall 2024 Orientation

Submitted by Mike Hillian, Global Engagement Liaison

The Office of Global Engagement welcomed approximately 160 new international students to NIC for Fall 2024 semester – 115 in the Comox Valley, 30 in Campbell River and 15 in Port Alberni. New students joined us from Brazil, Chile, China, Ghana, Great Britain, Hong Kong, India, Israel, Ivory Coast, Japan, Kenya, Nepal, Peru, Philippines, Russia, South Korea, Sri Lanka, United States, Vietnam, Yemen and Zimbabwe.



International Education Week

Submitted by Angie Price, Manager, Student Services

On Nov 18th, OGE celebrated International Education Week at the Port Alberni Campus. Elders Marie Samuel and Gloria Rush from Uchucklesaht First Nation were invited to share language and stories with Early Childhood Care and Education students. The students really appreciated hearing the stories and had fun repeating many words in the Nuu-chan-nulth language. We finished the gathering with a beautiful song shared by Gloria.



International Recruitment

Submitted by Junko Leclair, Manager, International Enrollment & Recruitment

International recruitment engages virtually and in-person with prospective students and agents around the world, and this fall we had continuing presence in following countries and more: Morocco, Tunisia, Cameroon, Kenya, Uganda, Zimbabwe, Peru, Colombia, Mexico, Costa Rica, Brazil, Japan, Vietnam, Philippines, Pakistan, India, Nepal, Sri Lanka, UAE and Qatar. Despite the challenges with recent IRCC policy changes we continue our outreach to ensure that NIC brand remains familiar in the market and to inform the public with correct and relevant information about study in Canada.



New Funding

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

Queen Elizabeth Scholars Program: NIC has secured a \$300,000 CAD grant supporting international student exchanges and collaborative research with partners in New Zealand and Mexico over the next three years.

Canadian International Development Scholarships (BCDI 2030) Program: NIC is involved in two of the 25 projects approved in Canada, securing \$500,000 over three years. This funding will bring students from Cameroon and Tanzania on fully funded one-year scholarships for targeted skills training. NIC will collaborate with Nova Scotia Community College, Camosun College, and partner institutions in Cameroon and Tanzania.

Student Mobility

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

Exchange

One BBA student is completing a year-long exchange at USMB in France as part of the BBA Double Degree program. In September 2024, NIC has welcomed four international students from Mexico, Belgium, and Ghana.

Field Schools

Leveraging the remaining Global Skills Opportunity funds, ending March 31, 2025, OGE is partnering with departments and community groups to implement various field school activities in Winter and Spring 2025.

ECE Field School (New Zealand, February 2025): In partnership with Northern Lights College, Coast Mountain College, Aurora College, and New Zealand's Te Rito Maioha & Te Whare Wananga o Awanuiarangi, this program will send 16 Indigenous ECE students, 4 faculty, and 1 Elder.

Rural Indigenous Teacher Pathway (January 2025): Collaborating with VIU, Maui Community College, and the Nuu-Chah-Nulth Tribal Council, this field school focuses on Indigenous educational pathways and language revitalization, involving 17 students, 25 family members, 4 VIU instructors, 2 NIC instructors/admin, and 1 NTC representative.

Indigenous Language Revitalization Field School (Costa Rica, March 2025): Conducted with Nova Scotia Community College, Northern Lights College, and Coast Mountain College, involving 14 Indigenous students and 4 Indigenous instructors.

Projects

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

Collaborative Online Indigenous Intercultural Learning – CO[I]IL: NIC is participating in an online project, bringing together students from Kapi'olani Community College (Hawaii), Colima University (Mexico), and NIC to explore Indigenous environmental and sustainability practices through online co-teaching and learning. The project includes also a mobility component, with students traveling to Kapi'olani in February 2025. The physical mobility component is funded by the **100,000 Strong in the Americas Innovation Fund**.

Staff & Faculty Mobility

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

Leave for Change Program - WUSC

Danielle Hoogland, Community Engagement Liaison, spent two months in Jordan working with an organization as an Outreach Officer.

Faculty Mobility Program

Natalie Deveau has received \$7000CAD from Global Affairs Canada to work on a 3 week project on Prior Learning Assessment in collaboration with Universidad Politecnica de Santa Rosa de Jauregui, Queretaro, Mexico.

Professional Development

Wilma Gus, Indigenous faculty is completing a one-month collaboration at the Te Whare Wananga o Awanuiarangi, Whakatane in New Zealand.

Events

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

Indigenous Speaker Series

OIE and OGE are launching an [Indigenous Speaker Series](#) at the Campbell River Campus, starting November 28 with Chief Janice George of the Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish) Nation. Aligned with the Working Together and Journeying Together plans, the series weaves Indigenization and internationalization as NIC's commitment to becoming a truly Indigenous-serving institution. This initiative aims to connect staff, faculty, students, and the broader community.

CICAN Indigenous Symposium

In October, OGE and OIE participated in two presentations at CICAN's National Indigenous Symposium in Halifax with a focus Collaborative Online Indigenous Intercultural Learning (COIIL) and Indigenizing international student mobility.

