



North Island College / Vancouver Island University Bi-lateral Agreement

Preamble

Whereas North Island College and Vancouver Island University are both publicly funded post-secondary institutions situated in close proximity and whereas a large percentage of North Island College students transfer to Vancouver Island University to complete their studies, it is in the mutual interest of both institutions to develop an overarching bi-lateral agreement that will guide exploration and development of collaborative programs and activities.

Vision

To build a partnership that enhances the capacity of North Island College and Vancouver Island University to serve student learning needs, to support transfer of students between the two institutions, to enhance collaborative research initiatives and to increase professional development opportunities for faculty.

Range of Collaborative Activity

1. Planning: The partners to this agreement will:
 - a. Share student transition and success data and will develop recommendations for improved student transition between the two institutions.
 - b. Look for opportunities to contribute to each other's planning efforts. This may be through ongoing strategic planning processes, as well as the sharing of non-confidential research data.
 - c. Work to identify program laddering opportunities that increase educational opportunities for students.
 - d. Explore the development of a joint strategy to enhance First Nations learning opportunities.

2. Student Mobility: The partners to this agreement will:
 - a. Work through their Registrars to develop and maintain dual admission processes for students interested in attending both institutions.
 - b. Work together to increase student awareness of the option of dual admission to both institutions.
 - c. Track and assess the progress of dual admission students.

3. Program Development: The partners to this agreement will:
 - a. Work together to identify joint program delivery opportunities that serve the interests of both institutions.
 - b. Jointly plan the development of collaborative programs and a plan for sharing the operating and capital costs and FTE associated with these programs. All collaborative programs will need to be approved by the respective governing bodies of both institutions.
4. Scholarly Activity: The partners to this agreement will:
 - a. Work together to identify opportunities for mutually beneficial research partnerships to investigate and provide leading edge educational programs, initiatives and approaches, and to support application to research funding sources.
 - b. Collaborate in developing and administering surveys relating to student needs and success.
 - c. Collaborate to provide faculty of both institutions access to institution sponsored professional development opportunities, and to provide joint professional development opportunities where mutual interest has been identified.

Liaison and Coordination Mechanisms

1. A NIC/ VIU Steering Committee with appropriate membership will be developed to oversee the implementation of a dual admission strategy.
2. As needed and at least annually the executive members of NIC and VIU will meet to review existing collaborative programs between the two institutions, to share planning information and to identify possible further opportunities for collaborative programming. The hosting of these meetings will alternate between the two institutions
3. The appropriate Deans will meet on a regular basis to ensure quality control of collaborative programs, identify and problem solve any delivery issues, to review student success in these programs and to explore new opportunities.

Communication

1. In addition to the above liaison and coordination mechanisms it is recognized that there will be a need for continuous communication between the partners relative to activities that have potential impact on the mandate/mission of the partners.
2. Partners to this agreement will endeavour to inform each other well in advance of taking steps to plan activities or programs and will attempt to resolve potentially conflicting interests in a collaborative manner.

Legal Effects

This agreement is a non-binding agreement and nothing herein shall be construed as creating any rights or obligations on the part of or in favour of any party, save and except for the obligations set forth below in the section entitled **FINANCIAL LIABILITY**, which obligations shall each be binding upon the

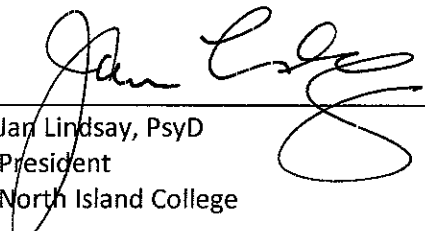
parties and shall be governed as to their interpretation and effect by the law of the Province of British Columbia. The parties will attempt to negotiate definitive Agreement(s) generally consistent with the activities identified within this agreement.

Financial Liability

This agreement does not impose any financial liability or responsibility on the parties with respect to the costs of any other party. Each party to the agreement shall be responsible for its own costs of undertaking the activities contemplated by this agreement unless otherwise agreed to in writing

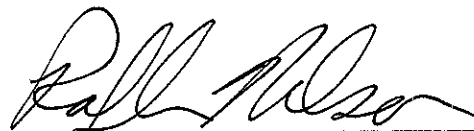
The Terms of the agreement shall be effective as of January 19, 2010 and are valid until written notice to terminate. The specific Terms and continuation of this bi-lateral agreement will be reviewed annually by both parties. Either party may terminate the agreement at any time upon providing written notice to the other party. The agreement can be amended only by an instrument in writing signed by both parties.

Signatory for North Island College



Jan Lindsay, PsyD
President
North Island College

Signatory for Vancouver Island University



Ralph Nilson, PhD
President and Vice-Chancellor
Vancouver Island University