

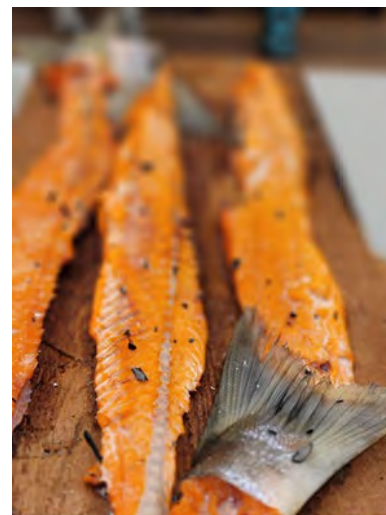
**NORTH ISLAND COLLEGE BOARD OF GOVERNORS
COLLEGE HIGHLIGHTS REPORT
OCTOBER 2022**

ACCESS AND REGIONS

MIXALAKWILA CAMPUS

We are delighted to offer the Human Service Worker certificate program in the Mixalakwila Campus region in partnership with the Mount Waddington Literacy Society for a second time, starting September 2022. The certificate was offered in combination with Port Alberni campus in 2020, where students participated in the program digitally and completed practicums locally. Many participants were already working in the field in uncertified positions. All 10 students at the Mixalakwila campus completed the program and continued careers as education assistants, community support staff, or went on to further education. We look forward to similar success with this strong cohort.

In July, the first cohort of Professional Cook 1 students completed the program delivered in partnership with Gwa'sala- 'Nakdwaxda' xw Nations (GNN), Kawat'si Economic Development Corporation and Kwa'lilas Hotel. Students studied in the evenings at the new commercial kitchen at GNN school under the direction of Red Seal Chef and Chef de Partie, Sean McSavaney.



Students learned traditional food preparation techniques, such as the barbeque salmon (photos above) during the fall pathway semester, and culinary standards such as stock making, plating, and baking through the program.



CONTINUING EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Continuing Education and Training (CET) Overview

Bob Haugen, Director, Continuing Education & Training

We are expanding our focus on developing training programs designed to meet the economic development priorities of our region while continuing to provide excellent customer service to our students and communities. As a cost recovery department, we are also focussed on achieving our financial goals. Meeting these priorities would not be possible without the skilled and dedicated staff we have in all of our campus locations.

In addition to our credit programs, Hospital Unit Clerk, Adventure Guiding, Metal Jewellery & Design, Animal Care Aide and Activity Assistant we deliver a wide assortment of vocational and one-time funded programs and courses. Our Wildfire, Farming and Craft Brewing programs have been very successful and have resulted in our students finding excellent employment opportunities. We are also working with Nuu Chah Nulth Employment and Training Program (NETP) in Port Alberni and our Trades department to deliver a Level 1 Carpentry Program in Port Alberni. The program started this month with 14 students. We also delivered a very successful Facilities Maintenance Program to Tseshah First Nation in Port Alberni. This program is also being considered for Alert Bay and Rivers Inlet.

Comox Valley Campus

Susan Murray, Continuing Education & Training Officer

First Aid Training

First Aid training continues to thrive and grow. We are currently adding new clients to our contract training list and, as COVID slows, the number of the public courses are increasing. We have been very busy training all our trades and health care students. We are offering an Emergency Medical Responder (EMR) course in November to help BC Emergency Health Services (BECHS /Ambulance) with training and recruitment of employees.

Regenerative Farming Program

The third cohort of the sustainable farming program which has been renamed the Regenerative Farming program (RGF-FT) has been going very well and is wrapping up the end of October.



Microbrewery Operator Program (NEW)

We are excited to announce that we received funding approval for this new program in our brewing portfolio. The program will start on October 17th with 12 spots available. The program will guide students through every aspect of licensing, costing, financing, building, and operating their own brewery project. By the end of the program, each student should have a completed business plan and have the knowledge of how to succeed in the growing industry of BC craft brewing.

Digital Elevation Expertise Program (DEEP) & Business Management

We are excited to announce that we received funding approval for the DEEP program with the addition of a 5-week Business Management component. The program will start on October 20th with 12 spots available. Students will develop knowledge and skills in digital branding, communications, marketing, online sales, and business management.

Comox Valley Campus

Julian Benedict, Continuing Education & Training Officer

The Animal Care Aide Program

The NIC Animal Care Aide Program continues to be one of the most popular programs at the College. The Fall 2022 cohort (starting in early October 2022) is already full, with a waitlist. Some applicants are now already considering applying for the second cohort, starting in early January 2023. The animal care sector is a growing field, as the shift to work-from-home arrangement has seen many more people seeking animal companionship while telecommuting. This digitally delivered program is committed to meet the growing demands of this sector across Vancouver Island, and beyond. To learn more, and apply online, visit: www.nic.bc.ca/animal-care.

Activity Assistant Certificate Program

The NIC Activity Assistant Certificate Program keeps expanding. For a second year in a row, NIC is offering a third cohort of this innovative program in the Spring/Summer semester – meaning we have intakes in January, May, and September annually. Word is also spreading well beyond Vancouver Island. In early 2022, the program invited a group of participants from Northern Health, which proved very successful – and the authority is now sponsoring additional students for the upcoming fall term. The program continues to see students offered conditional employment upon completion of the program due to the desirability of the graduates. We anticipate additional enrollment growth when the Hospital Employees Union (HEU) signs its new healthcare worker contract with professional development funds for existing hospital employees. To learn more, and apply online, visit: www.nic.bc.ca/activity-assistant

Advanced Memory Care Returns!

This in-depth 8-week online course is designed for healthcare workers providing frontline care to patients with dementia. Students will learn about how the brain functions, and how to identify at least eight types of dementia. Better understanding of these diverse diagnoses will assist staff in applying strategies for success in a needs-based, person-centered care model. The course first launched in Fall 2021 and started its second cohort in mid-September 2022. To learn more about future course offerings, visit: www.nic.bc.ca/memory-care.

Comox Valley ElderCollege (CVEC)

Comox Valley ElderCollege is thrilled to be returning to the physical classroom in the Fall 2022. Indeed, about 85 percent of CVEC courses this fall are back on-campus, where students can mix and mingle. Select courses, however, will remain via Zoom for both variety and suitability. The Fall information forum was particularly popular, generating about 300 RSVPs (a combination of in-person and Zoom-in registrants) – about 90 more registrants than the physical room could have hosted pre-pandemic. Fall courses and lectures begin in early October 2022 – you can learn more by visiting: www.nic.bc.ca/CVEC.

Campbell River Campus

Sandy Rose, Continuing Education & Training Officer

Hospital Unit Clerk

It has been an exciting start to the term with a brand-new instructor who comes to NIC with real life experience as a working Hospital Unit Clerk. With a wealth of experience in both Vancouver Coastal and Island Health authorities, students will reap the benefits of an instructor who knows firsthand the full scope of the role. Hospital Unit Clerks continue to be high in demand with great employment opportunities which prompted the decision to expand the class to 14 students providing work ready talent come Spring 2023.

Heavy Equipment Operator – Foundation & Level 1 Technical Training

Funding has been secured through the Community Workforce Response Grant (CWRG) to deliver the Heavy Equipment Operator, Foundation and Level 1 Technical Training at the Campbell River campus. This training prepares successful participants for employment in the forestry and construction industry where they will begin to meet local industry demand for this high opportunity occupation. Ten participants will be ready to write the Industry Training Authority (ITA) Roadbuilder and Heavy Construction Foundation and the Level 1 Technical Training exams. Recruitment is in full swing for this exciting training and is scheduled to begin on October 11 and will run until December 21st.

Wildfire Crew Member Training

A little change to our plans this year with CET submitting to the CWRG's Skills Training for Economic Recovery (STER) stream as the grant proponent with Strategic Natural Resource Consultants writing a letter of support for the project. This year will see programs offered in the Campbell River and Port Alberni campuses with up to 24 individuals receiving a well-rounded curriculum that prepares them for entry level positions in time for the 2023 fire season. With continued historical adverse weather events ravaging the province, this training will provide a much-needed influx of job ready individuals to assist with wildfires next year.

Campbell River Campus

Renee Reedel, Continuing Education & Training Officer

Marine Training

Marine training remains in demand with courses once again delivered over the summer at the campus and a contact in Bella Coola. Fall classes are filling up, Port Alberni deliveries will be added for fall delivery and several contracts are in the works.

Metal Jewellery Design

Metal Jewellery Design Certificate program was recently relocated, and the space came together in the final hour with nine keen students in attendance.

Campbell River ElderCollege (CREC)

Campbell River ElderCollege registration opened on September 21. CREC is offering 24 courses and currently has 67 members registered to attend. All classes are face to face.

Port Alberni Campus

Leanne Moore, Continuing Education & Training Officer

Facilities Maintenance Fundamentals

CET delivered a 6-week Facilities Maintenance Fundamentals program to the Tseshah First Nation community. The training program was funded by a Community Workforce Response Grant which Tseshah First Nation was successful in obtaining. The students worked on the community's Language House and learned new skills, including flooring installation, mouldings, painting, basic plumbing and electrical. Many of the students have gone on to find employment as a result of the training.



Farmworker Fundamentals

In partnership with the Port Alberni Shelter Society, CET delivered another CWRG-funded 8-week Farmworker Fundamentals program this summer.

The Farmworker Fundamentals program took place at the Shelter Farm. The students had the opportunity to learn the skills they need to be productive agricultural workers in greenhouses and market garden farms. The course includes modules in greenhouse operations, planting and transplanting, fieldwork, harvesting and farmer's market sales. The program is presented by experienced organic farmers and horticulturalists.



Supported Carpentry Level 1 – NETP Partnership

On September 12, CET in partnership with Trades, ITA and Nuuchahnulth Employment and Training Program (NETP) commenced delivery of a 14-week supported Carpentry Level 1 program at TEBO Vocational Centre. Students will be preparing to write the ITA Level 1 exam to be held in December. As part of the training, there will be a community project for students to use their newly acquired skills.

Mixalakwa Campus

Jennifer Case, Continuing Education & Training Officer

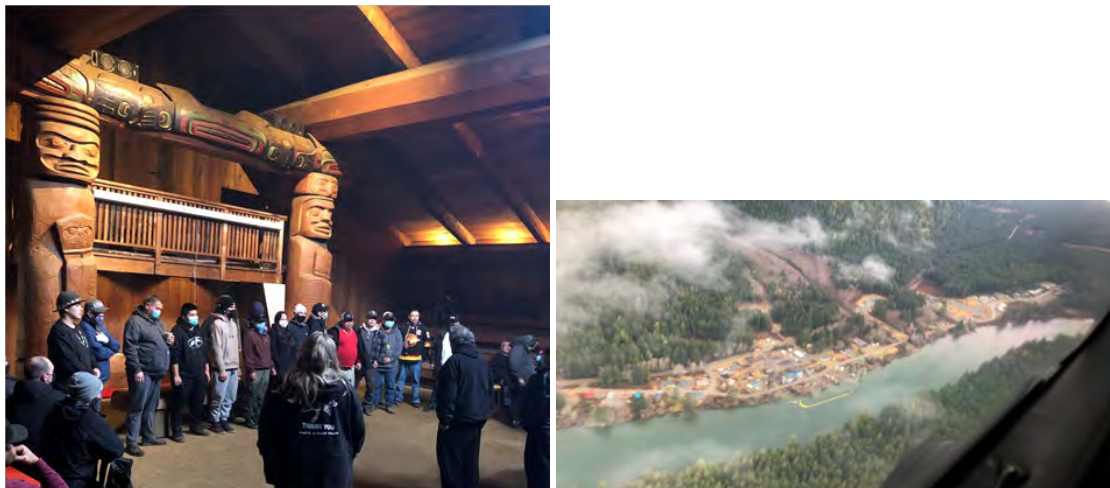
Kayak Guiding Fundamentals

CET delivered Kayak Guiding Fundamentals in the spring to prepare students for positions this summer in partnership with the Mount Waddington Regional District and funded through the CWRG. Students earned provincially recognized certificates as kayak assistant, overnight guides and sea kayaking levels 1 and 2, wilderness first aid, Foodsafe for remote environments, and marine interpretation. All participants moved into employment in adventure tourism.



Heavy Equipment Operator Training

In partnership with Wuikinuxv Nation, CET innovated to deliver the Heavy Equipment Operator program in the community of Oweekeno supported by the CWRG. Unfortunately, due to Covid-19 cases in the community, the program was relocated to Port Hardy and the final two weeks of practical training took place in Nanaimo in partnership with the Vancouver Island University. Fifteen students completed the ITA certified Roadbuilders and Heavy Construction and Level 1 Technical Training programs.



ARTS, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Department of Social Sciences

Submitted by Jenny Botica, Department Chair, Faculty

This report is the first to feature separate Humanities and Social Sciences Departments. Previously, the large Department of Humanities, Social Sciences, and English brought together a wide group of interests and disciplines. In August 2022, the Department of Social Sciences was born, encompassing the disciplines of anthropology, criminology, geography, political science, psychology, sociology, and women's studies. The two departments look forward to continued collaboration for student and faculty success.

FACULTY ACHIEVEMENTS

There have been some shifts within the team of Social Sciences. Dr. Jenny Botica has accepted the role of Chair, in addition to teaching anthropology and history. Ryan Blaak remains Chair for Humanities and English (history, liberal studies, modern languages, philosophy, and English). Some faculty remain on leave, and we look forward to welcoming them back in future. In the meantime, we have hired several enthusiastic sessional instructors.

The last couple of years have resulted in some reduced course offerings in Social Sciences, though that trend seems to be changing. Most courses are being offered in a face to face or hybrid setting, with instructors returning enthusiastically to the classroom.

Faculty continue to impress with innovative ways to engage learners in the classroom. For example, Gary Green (Criminology instructor), has been using qualitative approaches for experiential learning, including talking circle format, Pecha Kutcha presentations, and digital storytelling. He's also used [ventriloquism for role plays](#) and forensic presentation (images below).





Finally, we are looking forward to continuing NIC's commitment to global engagement with an optimistic outlook towards overseas field schools. In partnership with Dr. Debra Foran at Wilfred Laurier University, NIC is offering its students an archaeological field school in Jordan. The NIC team, led by Jenny Botica, will be participating in the [Town of Nebo Archaeological Project](#), which combines archaeological excavation, analysis, and literature to offer students an immersive experience. Students will live and work within an active archaeological students and Jordanian researchers, as they explore the importance of trade, religion, and landscape for the people of the TransJordan.



STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

Our students continue to impress with their resiliency and innovation. One of our psychology sessional instructors, Emma Mork, has passed on some remarks from students upon their return to campus: "This is the first time I've been around people in three years!" and "It's so nice to touch paper, after being fully digital for years." This positivism extends to classroom engagement, with a general trend towards seeking connections with students through positively based discussions ("sounds good" instead of "no problem", and "what makes a good person?" instead of "what makes a bad person?"). The importance of positive language is an unanticipated, but welcome, outcome of COVID.

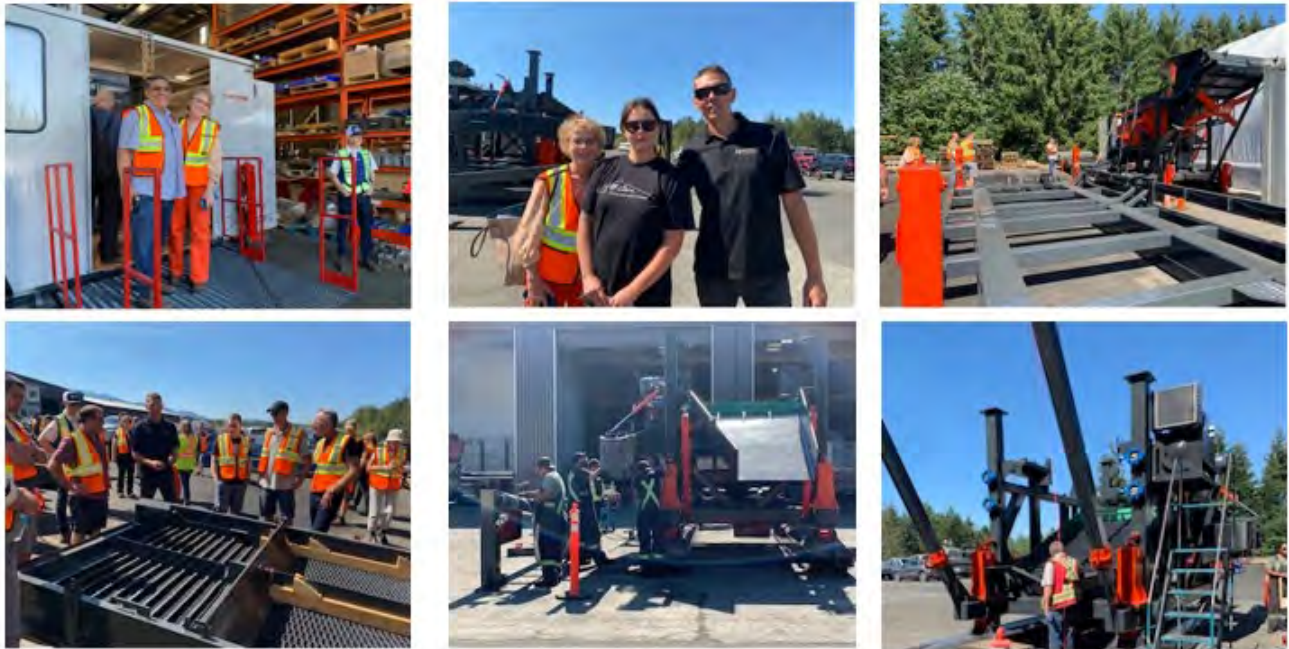
TRADES AND TECHNICAL PROGRAMS

The noticeable chill in the morning air and the early fading of the afternoon sun from the sky can only mean one thing, summer is inevitably relinquishing its hold as we make our way through September. Soon, leaves will be dancing on the brisk evening breezes and warm fuzzy sweaters will once again make their way from seasonal hibernation back to first pick at the front of our closets to ward off the impending drop in temperatures that Autumn brings.

Faculty and Staff of Trades and Technical programs were reunited on August 31 with our annual gathering to catch up on summer events and map out future opportunities for students. Our day wasn't all business – Road Trip! Our morning route took us to Muchalat Construction in Cumberland. Part of the Muchalat Group of Companies that has operated on Vancouver Island since 1979, this division specializes in modular prefabricated homes that are constructed on-site from start to finish and transported directly from the plant. The team, which includes carpenters, electricians and plumbers, is known for the quality and distinction of their built-to-higher-standards units for both commercial and residential projects. It was quite fascinating and informative to walk through their factory witnessing the steps for transforming the component shells to the finished products.



From here, the bus took us south to Parksville for a tour of Macon Industries. Macon is a worldwide supplier and creator of diamond core drilling products and gold mining equipment. They have a team of innovative designers, engineers, mechanics and fabricators focused on constant improvement in the design and development of equipment that is durable, easy to maintain, functional and has the highest recovery rates in the industry – while operating efficiently and safely. With a product line that can suit every scenario of the mining industry, from drills to fly baskets, generators to testing plants and much more. They are industry leaders who continue to grow substantially in this competitive industry. Our tour guide, Ben Marks, was only too happy to answer the barrage of questions as we moved from one area of manufacturing to another. Side note: their equipment has been featured on and is used by Discovery Channel's "Gold Rush: Parker's Trail!"



What a day!

And We're Off!

Fall 2022 is proving to be a busy term for the faculty of Trades and Technical programs. We kicked into gear **11** foundation programs on September 6 that will carry through to 2023, three of which (Automotive, Furniture Design and Welding) are at the Port Alberni campus. We also have the Coastal Forest Worker Certificate program and a 1st year Coastal Forest Technology Diploma running while the 2nd year students from the 2021 Diploma program continue with their program. Professional Cook Level 1, Culinary Business Operations Certificate and Diploma programs also started up at the Campbell River campus with instructor Sunshine Layton at the helm. Throughout the fall term there will also be 10 Apprenticeship programs at the Campbell River campus in Electrical, Heavy Mechanical and Professional Cook 3. Instructors at the Comox Valley campus will be kept on their toes with three Plumbing Apprenticeship programs and five Carpentry Apprenticeships.

Exciting News!

After a two-year hiatus we are excited to announce the Aircraft Structural Technician program is back! One of NIC's own 2007 graduates of the AME-S program has now come full circle to lead 10 of his own budding technicians through the complexities of aircraft structures. Caleb Warder has chosen to transition from a lucrative career into instruction. Since 2007, his career has involved working in Australia, India, Pakistan, Chile, USA, and various Canadian-based projects, including contracts with the Canadian Military. Caleb is a mentor and industry leader who looks forward to sharing his professional experience and knowledge on the aircraft sector's dynamic and unique career options.

Even more exciting news...Fall 2022 is bringing **six** cohorts of Motion Picture Film training! Motion Picture Production Assistant, Grip, Lighting and Set Construction have been popular go-to's for Film training but now we're adding Set Dresser and Greensperson to the mix! These programs will be delivered with both online and hands-on training sessions in partnership with Martini studios over 12 weeks from November 14 to February 10, 2023.

One More New Development!

While we usually find him cooking up a culinary storm Enrique Toledo has been confirmed as our Associate Dean for the Faculty of Trades and Technical Programs.

Not only is Enrique a Red Seal Chef, he also holds his Bachelor of Education, Master of Arts in Leadership, and is a PhD candidate. Enrique is a seasoned educator with instructional roots in the K-12 system. Following his years of instruction at the high school level, Enrique has held faculty and administrative roles with Vancouver Community College, Red River College, SAIT, and most recently, a faculty position with NIC.



He brings experience in program review, development and management, industry engagement, financial and HR management, and external relations. In the capacity of a post-secondary administrator, Enrique has held oversight of multi-million-dollar budgets while supporting a range of programming inclusive of Construction, Energy, Manufacturing and Automatization, Business, and Culinary Arts. While at SAIT, his role was expansive and included an integral role in the capital facilities project related to developing and constructing the renowned SAIT Downtown Culinary Campus. Enrique's portfolio has also included liaising and formalizing transfer credit and pathway programming in support of Military staff while working with Veteran Affairs in support of Veterans as they transition into civilian life and related careers.

His experience is expansive and his passion for educational growth and development is second to none. We welcome him in the position of Associate Dean – but don't worry, he's close to the kitchen too!

Happy Fall and Welcome Back Everyone!