

# President's Update to the College Community



*Serving the communities of Northwestern BC*

June 3, 2005

## Staffing Updates

### **Vice-President, Education & Student Support**

Selection Committee activities for this position have been concluded. I'd like to extend my gratitude to all who participated in this work. Upon review of the needs of the College and our decentralized program structure, I have decided that a Dean of Instruction would better fill this vacancy. Given our decentralization and large geographic distances, it is clear that we need an administrator with educational leadership and development responsibilities. These roles and responsibilities are inherent in the position of a Dean and will be best performed by someone whose responsibilities are not focused solely on the overarching functions of a Vice-President.

Our goal now is to attract a Dean who is interested in residing in Prince Rupert, and in taking on various programs and development opportunities in the western region. To that end, we have initiated a search for a Dean of Instruction, Prince Rupert campus, and hope to have this position filled by September. This administrator will be instrumental to the achievement of our future goals in this part of our region.

We are now in the fortunate position of having a very strong complement of Deans at the College who will all be sharing specific Vice-President roles when Beth Davies leaves.

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### **Director, Human Resources**

John Dafoe will be leaving the position of Director of HR. After being in this role for a year, John has decided that he would like to explore alternate opportunities. He will be leaving the College later this summer.

I am pleased to announce the appointment of Michael Schuster as Director of HR. Michael is currently operating his own consulting practice in northern BC, working on a number of human resource and business management issues with various small and medium sized organizations. Prior to this, he has had experience working with such organizations as Alcan, Health Authority of Alberta, Greenhills Workers Association, and the Food & Service Workers (union) of Canada. Michael holds a Law degree from Osgoode Hall Law School at York University and, has been engaged in human resources work for several years.

Michael begins with the College on July 4<sup>th</sup>, and will be getting around to a number of the campuses in late summer.

### **Registrar & Director of Institutional Research**

I am pleased to announce that Cathay Sousa is the successful candidate for this position. Cathay has been with the College since 1987 and has a strong instructional background. She was previously the Coordinator of the Business Administration Dept in Terrace, and oversaw the development and launch of the First Nations Public Administration program. Cathay holds a Masters of Education, the Provincial Instructor's Diploma, an Intermediate Certificate in Municipal Administration and is a CGA.

Cathay will be taking a one-year leave of absence from her BCGEU instructional duties to try on this new position, which begins on August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2005. I am delighted that we are able to appoint this role to one of our own employees. As per our usual custom, we will be providing Cathay with a thorough orientation and training schedule.

Please join me in congratulating Cathay and welcoming her to the management team.



## NWCC awarded CIDA funding

As you may be aware, The Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) has approved funding for 21 new international development projects to be implemented in 16 countries. The goal of all these projects is to build capacity in developing countries and provide opportunities for the exchange of knowledge and human resource skills.

NWCC is one of 21 Canadian Colleges and Institutes to be awarded a \$400,000 4/year development grant for our project, Integrated Rural Development in Bolivia. The process of writing this proposal was a long and arduous one, starting in mid-2003 and involving several NWCC members. This initial work included establishing a relationship with potential Bolivian partners and successfully completing the grant. Our current NWCC project team includes: Arlene Herman, who will provide overall direction and management of the project; Deb Stava, who will be our CIDA Liaison; Pouyan Mahboubi, who will be responsible for field coordination; Cynthia Preyser, budget officer; and Margo Van der Touw, CIDA resource person. Our Bolivian partners are NUR University and FUNDESIB, a non-governmental agency concerned with poverty reduction and community economic development.

Our project has us collaborating with NUR and FUNDESIB to deliver a unique program of rural education to three Bolivian communities, each of which has extremely low education levels - a grade 3 equivalent on average. This project will involve the development of an 'alternative' high school level curriculum, along with the development of community service projects where students can apply their learning to the enhancement of their communities

This project launches NWCC into a new forum of opportunity and challenge. Not only will our faculty, students, and the larger community have the opportunity to broaden their horizons and apply their skills to assist people from across the globe, but also, what we learn from this project will give us new insights and tools to assist in the educational development of our own rural communities.

There will be many opportunities for NWCC members to play a role in this project - whether by traveling to Bolivia (faculty and students), or participating in 'think-tank' meetings to address and derive solutions to specific problems and challenges, or working with the Bolivians who will travel to Canada each year. In addition it is our intention to build relationships between the indigenous communities within Bolivia and our own First Nations communities in the Northwest Region.

The inaugural project meeting will be held this summer in Moncton, New Brunswick and in Bolivia. Our NWCC project team will be reporting on project developments in the fall and we can look forward to learning more about Bolivia, our partner organizations and communities at that time.

<sup>1</sup> FUNDESIB is the Foundation for the Integral Development of Bolivia - a non-governmental organization based in Bolivia.

## Strategic Plan

Since February of last year, consultations and discussions to shape our new strategic plan have taken place in communities and campuses throughout the northwest. A final draft is posted on the NWCC Strategic Planning intranet site and I encourage everyone to read it.

The Strategic Plan will be presented at the next Education Council meeting (June 10<sup>th</sup>) and then sent to the Board for their meeting on June 17<sup>th</sup>. Following these discussions, the plan will be sent for final editing and formatting. Copies of the plan will be distributed at our NWCC Day, on August 31<sup>st</sup>.

The next step for all of us is to consider the implications of the plan for our individual departments and campuses. Department and campus implementation plans will be requested of all areas of the college.

I would like to thank all the members of the Strategic Plan Task Force for their work on this project: Mona Izumi, Patty Bruce, Stella Webster, Katherine McIndoe, Lynne Nordstrom, Rocque Berthiaume, Alice Maitland, Richard Jenne, Simon Thompson, Melissa Munn, Deb Stava, Holly-Anne Burrows and Heather Stewart (consultant).

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### NWCC Day

August 31<sup>st</sup> is the date for our annual NWCC day. An agenda for the day will be circulated later this month. Please mark your calendars now and plan to take part in this event.

### Changes at Terrace Campus

Some changes will be occurring this fall at the Terrace Campus. To accommodate a new initiative at the College, a Learning Centre will be established in Room 1108 of the Cedar Building. The Centre is being created to provide enhanced support to students.

Tony Reddy will be moving into the Spruce building and occupying the space which formerly housed testing and learning assessment activities. These activities will now take place in the new Learning Centre.

