

President's Update to the College Community

Serving the communities of Northwestern BC

December 1, 2009

News from the Ministry of Advanced Education, Labour Market Development (ALMD)

➤ Introducing ALMD's new Acting Deputy Minister

Lorne Brownsey began acting as ALMD's Deputy Minister on November 2, 2009. Lorne was also recently appointed Deputy Minister of Corporate Initiatives and Intergovernmental Relations and maintains his responsibilities there while on this term with ALMD.

Lorne joined the Government of British Columbia in 2001. He was the Deputy Minister of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation from 2003 to January 2009, followed by an appointment as Deputy Minister of Tourism, Culture and the Arts. Prior to joining the provincial government, Lorne held a number of senior positions in the federal public service. He is familiar with federal and federal/provincial organizations and processes, and in 2005 co-chaired a national committee of deputy ministers established to support a First Minister's Meeting.

For a number of years, Lorne directed and managed research at the Institute for Research on Public Policy on governance, free trade, Asia Pacific relations and land claims.

➤ StudentAid BC Initiatives

The Government of BC has engaged in the following initiatives and activities directed at improving student access to financial assistance:

- BC has increased the automobile exemption from \$5,000 to \$15,000; additionally, leased automobiles will only be assessed as a resource if lease payments exceed \$325 per month. These changes in the needs assessment calculations will result in a greater number of students qualifying for student financial aid.
- The Ministry has launched a new upfront BC Access Grant to replace the BC Permanent Disabilities Benefits Program. The BC Access Grant will reduce the amount of debt students with disabilities have upon graduation.
- Work is underway to develop a transitional DVD and other new communication materials targeted towards disabled students (and their parents) transitioning from the K-12 system into post-secondary studies.

UNION ELECTION RESULTS

BCGEU Support Staff

Chair: John Ross,
Webmaster & NWCC Board
Representative, Terrace

Member: Eleanor Dacey,
Program Assistant, Terrace

Member: Sherry Eidsvik,
Student Services, Prince Rupert

Member: Matt Chayba,
Computer Services, Terrace

AWU Faculty

President: Mia Reimers,
Social Sciences, Terrace

Vice President: Eric Turner,
Sciences, Terrace

Treasurer: Reto Riesen,
Sciences, Prince Rupert

Recording Secretary:
Germaine Mistry,
Sciences, Terrace
(effective January 2010)

Corresponding Secretary:
David Heinemann,
Humanities, Terrace

➤ "Wood First" Policy

The 2009 Throne Speech made a commitment to require the use of wood as the primary building material in all new publicly funded buildings. In response, the Ministry has been invited to work with the team developing the legislation and subsequent regulations to ensure the provisions of the Act work with the Ministry's procurement process.

The new British Columbia building code permits wood construction up to six levels. Wood manufacturing has now advanced to the point where beams can be engineered and built sufficient to replace steel beams in many applications.

There are many new applications for wood. Mechanical, chemical and fermentation processes can convert cellulose from wood chips, lignin from the pulping process, and even effluent sludge into highly evolved products including food sweeteners. Car tires and other rubber products can substantially extend their lifespan and durability through the use of "carbon black," a wood product substitute.

As the policies currently under development have application in many walks of life, one of which is building, there are many other Wood First applications. New paper products will be able to detect, capture and deactivate pathogens. Protective safety clothing, face masks and air filters made from bio-active paper will help protect people.

➤ SMARTTOOL Launch

The tracking of all fuel, electricity and paper goes into effect January 1, 2010 and consumption reports are to be submitted to the Ministry on a quarterly basis. Cindy Harmel, Director, Facilities Maintenance, has been charged with the responsibility of tracking and reporting this information for NWCC, but everyone must be involved in cutting down consumption.

The College has implemented several initiatives to reduce our carbon foot print, and is currently exploring a composting system for the cafeteria, composting strategies for each of the campuses, making better use of the internet to conduct 'live meetings' and reduce travel, and moving to paperless office operations.

DRIVING SAFETY

It's that time of year again and a reminder to all employees that unless it is absolutely essential that you travel in the region for work, please stay off the roads from now until the weather improves (hopefully by February).

If you must drive to other campuses or communities, for your safety, all employees are required to let the campus contact (see below) know when you are leaving, where you are going and when you anticipate returning. If you haven't returned by the specified time, we'll be sending out a search team! So please call in if you are delayed. For those that may be travelling on the weekend, please notify your Administrator. Thank you!

Campus Contacts for driving safety:

Haida Gwaii

Ruth Wheadon

Hazelton

Margaret Brown

Houston

Marni Laroque

Kitimat

Kay Wild

Prince Rupert

Emilia McConville

Smithers

Mary Hiemstra

Terrace

Shelley Koopmans

Terrace-based Administrators

Laurel Payjack-Mohler

Program News

Essential Skills for Work (ESWK) — Students paddle canoe carrying Olympic torch

The ESWK program is up and running at the Kaay Llnagaay Haida Heritage Centre. Two ESWK students were among the paddlers of the canoe that carried Olympic torch bearer Percy Williams.

Health Care Programs

• **Aboriginal Health Access Programs receive funding**

A winning NWCC proposal was approved by Health Canada and the First Nations Health Council of BC. *Implementation of Aboriginal Health Access Programs in Remote First Nations Communities in Northwest BC* was approved in the amount of \$300,000.

• **Home Support Worker/Resident Care Assistant program name change**

It's new name is Health Care Assistant program.

• **New Program - Community Mental Health Care Worker Certificate**

The new Community Mental Health Care Worker Certificate will begin in January at the Smithers Campus.

Business Technology Program

The BTEC program is maintaining its target FTE goals again this year. The program is making increased use of *Adobe Connect* to provide a "live" online environment for students. Feedback has been positive. The program is also working with the North Coast Distance Education School to articulate a dual credit opportunity for its online students. We are starting with Accounting but there is potential for other courses.

Northern Collaborative Information Technology (NCIT) Diploma

The NCIT Diploma is off to a good start. The first year is now serving 39 students, necessitating an increase in course offerings.

Business Administration Program welcomes Qingdao students

Last week, the program welcomed two exchange students from our partner college, Qingdao Technical College in Qingdao, China. The students, Lin Sheng and Chunlong Li, are staying in our dorms and will be here until the end of the spring semester. They will be staying in Terrace over Christmas and are always looking for opportunities to see more of the region. If you are interested in hosting our guest students for an outing or an event, please contact David Try.

UPCOMING DATES TO NOTE

**Freda Diesing School of
Northwest Coast Art**

**Art Exhibition
and Christmas Sale**

December 4

Waap Freda, Terrace Campus

**Challenging the Paradigm
Gathering**

May 5 - 8, 2010

Terrace Campus
