

President's Update to the College Community

Serving the communities of Northwestern BC

November 2, 2009

Association of Canadian Community Colleges (ACCC) Board Meetings

At the ACCC Board meeting, October 1 and 2 in Ottawa, the ACCC Board Directors and senior staff met with various federal politicians. This was an extremely well orchestrated event that provided an opportunity to have some dedicated time to advocate for colleges on specific issues:

1. *Funding cap for Aboriginal students*
2. *Applied research and innovation*
3. *Immigrant settlement programs*
4. *Enhancing access for international students*
5. *Knowledge infrastructure program*

As a Board member, I had the opportunity to speak at length with the new Assistant Deputy Minister for Indian Affairs and Northern Development about funding issues for Aboriginal students. The Assistant Deputy Minister is new to this position and has requested a follow-up conversation.

Five Deputy Ministers and the Clerk of the Privy Council & Secretary to the Cabinet were in attendance and follow-up meetings are being arranged.

Jamaican International Student Opportunity under development

On October 8, I met with the Jamaican government representative in Canada. In an effort to heighten the skills of Jamaican people and to provide them the opportunity to work abroad, the government of Jamaica is seeking training opportunities.

In a meeting with the Jamaican representative in Kelowna last week, we explored two potential areas of training that NWCC might provide: Culinary Arts and Electrical. The training we would provide would be focused on preparing students to write their Red Seal. The potential Jamaican candidates would be mature students, who have already had training in their chosen fields and/or several years of experience. While there are still several details to work out, if successful, we could potentially see a pilot group of 16 students arriving in April in Terrace for Culinary Arts and in Prince Rupert for Electrical training.

BC Creative Achievement Awards for Aboriginal Art

This year, the *Lifetime Achievement Award for Aboriginal Art* went to Earl Muldon, the Gitksan artist who led the design and creation of the totem poles for the Hazelton Campus.

The Awards event was held in Vancouver and attended by over 300 guests from the BC arts community, friends and family. The ceremony featured a video presentation of Earl's work including the Hazelton poles project at Northwest Community College.



Earl Muldon is a master carver—carving in wood, bone, horn, ivory, gold and silver—painter and print-maker. He is primarily known for his wood carving and jewelry.

Earl was instrumental in the creation of 'Ksan village and the Gitanmaax School of Northwest Coast Indian Art in 'Ksan in 1969. He was also one of the first graduates of the School that closed three years ago.

Minister Stilwell's visit to NWCC on October 16

Moira Stilwell, Minister of Advanced Education and Labour Market Development, came to Smithers to break the ground for the construction of the Smithers campus project. As this was her first visit to the College, we arranged a full day of meetings to maximize her exposure to Northwest Community College.

She began her visit with a trip to Ganokwa Camp and the School of Exploration & Mining, then to the ground breaking ceremony at the Smithers campus, to Hazelton and finally to Terrace. The Minister's feedback was very positive and her tour to NWCC was highlighted on the Ministry's website www.gov.bc.ca/aved/. Have a look!

Vedder Falls Lodge — Culinary Event

On October 23, Culinary Arts Diploma Program students had the opportunity to prepare a unique menu of indigenous foods from the Nass Valley and surrounding northwest region to a select group of discerning guests. These guests were invited to critique the experience and provide feedback to the students on food presentation, preparation and taste. A five-course meal including Carpaccio of sea lion, cold smoked black cod, pickled pine mushrooms, venison, wild berries and kippered oolichan was accompanied by select wines from Inkameep winery. Freelance food critic and writer for the Globe and Mail, Cinda Chavich, was on hand to offer her feedback and to feature the event in an upcoming edition of the Globe and Mail.

The event was promoted by Northern Tourism BC and comes as a result of discussions between Kim Morrison of the business enterprise arm of Nisga'a Lisims Government and Jonathan Bull of the School of Northwest Culinary Arts. Pending the success of the event, it is hoped that these dining events will form part of a new high-end packaged tour for the Nass Valley and occur at least 4 times per year.



NWCC Culinary Arts Diploma Program students look on as program coordinator Jonathan Bull prepares indigenous foods for guests at Vedder Falls Lodge

Northern Corridor Development Corporation (NCDC)

I made a presentation to the annual conference of the NCDC on October 6, on the role of colleges in the north, citing specific examples of the work NWCC is doing in the area of applied research, mobilizing the aboriginal workforce, supporting social and economic development, and diversifying the northern economy.

The presentation was well received. The conference afforded us the opportunity to raise the awareness of the College's role and to make some promising connections with associations and companies such as the Railway Association of Canada.

Northwest Community College is a member of the NCDC. For information on this interprovincial organization go to nwccorridor.com

Working to prevent the spread of influenza

Please keep up your efforts to curb the spread of colds and flu this year. All staff and students should take extra precautions to ensure that appropriate hygiene is maintained.

Particular attention to hand washing is extremely helpful. To assist, maintenance personnel have completed the set up of hand sanitizing dispensers at the entrances of all Campus buildings.

Please sanitize your hands as you enter buildings and help us keep those infected to a minimum.

Also, take a moment to visit our Pandemic Preparedness pages on the NWCC Web site, accessed via the HomePage nwcc.bc.ca