



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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Federation Agreement Strengthens Training in the Northwest

Education and training opportunities for the Northwest have been strengthened with the signing of a new Federation Agreement between Northwest Community College (NWCC) and Kitimat Valley Institute (KVI).

The collaborative relationship of the two institutions will eliminate the duplication of program offerings and involve the sharing of resources and expertise. Together they will work to develop joint certificate, diploma, and associate degree or applied degree programs in the areas of academic, vocational, career/technical, trades, and continuing community education for adult learners.

"I would like to start off by thanking Deborah Wilson-Green (President, Kitimat Valley Institute Corporation (KVIC)) and Roger Leclerc (KVI Institute Manager) for all of their efforts in working with NWCC to prepare the Working Relationship Agreement between KVI and NWCC," comments Robin Lapointe, Chair, KVIC Board of Directors. "I feel the strengths of the two organizations complement each other and will provide a broader range of educational services to the Kitimat-Terrace Region and specifically to Kitimaat/Kitimat valley, as our facilities are here in Kitimat. We look forward to developing a positive and long-term relationship with NWCC."

"This agreement is a testament to the commitment the College and KVI have in ensuring learners in the Northwest are given the best possible education opportunities we can offer," states NWCC President, Stephanie Forsyth. "Each institution brings a wealth of expertise and resources which when combined will produce more extensive and collaborative educational offerings to our shared community."

A key aspect of the Agreement is the commitment each institution has made to create sensitive and effective relationships with First Nations peoples and to that end will be enriching program content with culturally relevant information and teachings.

At present, both institutions are working on the development and delivery of First Nations Foundation Trades training. Delivery is slated for this fall.

Other program areas in discussion include Instructor Training and Certification, Heavy Equipment Simulators, Occupational Health and Safety, Essential Skills for Office Careers, and Marine Training.

Northwest Community College is a public, fully accredited post-secondary education institution that offers a range of comprehensive courses and programs to the northwest region of British Columbia. It serves this area through campuses in Haida Gwaii (Qay'Innagaay, Masset, Queen Charlotte), Hazelton, Houston, Kitimat, Nass Valley, Prince Rupert, Smithers, and Terrace. The College region is home to seven First Nations whose students make up over 39% of the College's student population. NWCC celebrates the diversity of its northern and First Nations populations and reflects this diversity in its programs, services and workforce.

Kitimat Valley Institute (KVI) is an accredited private post-secondary educational institute located in Kitimat BC., delivering a variety of programs and services. KVIC is a joint venture between the Haisla Nation and Rio Tinto Alcan and operates under a legal registered corporation "KVIC". As owners of an accredited post secondary institution, KVI is able to design and deliver culturally sensitive programming through an accredited educational facility, while at the same time continuing to provide a variety of educational, industrial specific, trade and university programming to the broader communities of the northwest. KVI is a school where Education, Industry and Culture come together.

Image available.

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