



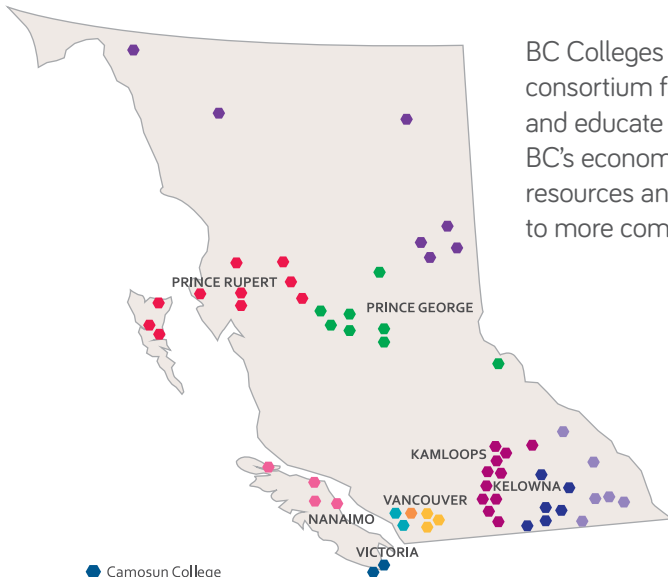
BC COLLEGES

BC's Most Accessible and Affordable  
Pathway To Post-Secondary Education

Briefing Book for Minister Amrik Virk,  
Ministry of Advanced Education – June 2013

[www.BCColleges.ca](http://www.BCColleges.ca)

## BC's Most Accessible and Affordable Pathway To Post-Secondary Education



- Camosun College
- College of New Caledonia
- College of the Rockies
- Douglas College
- Langara College
- North Island College
- Northern Lights College
- Northwest Community College
- Okanagan College
- Selkirk College
- Vancouver Community College

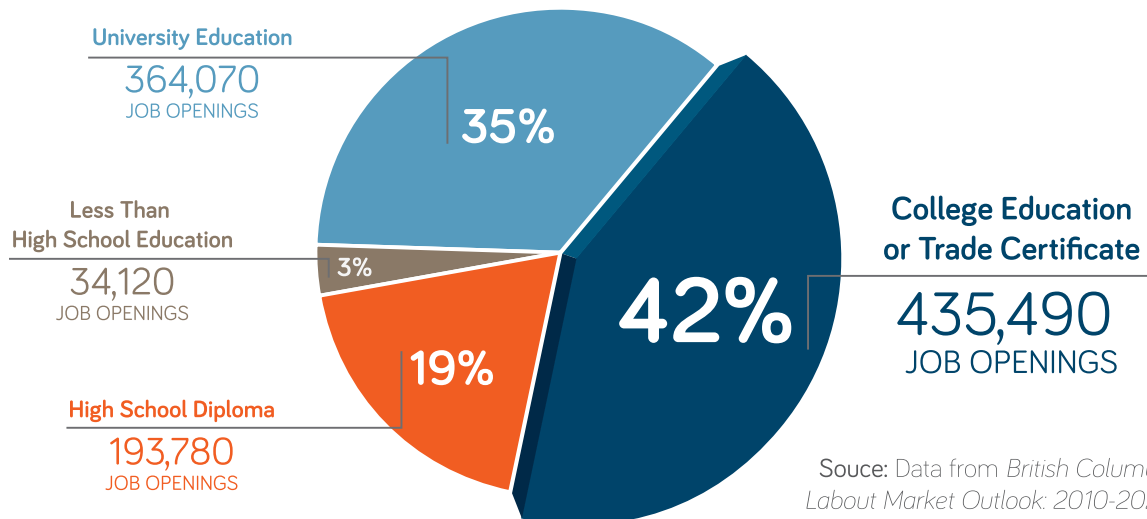
BC Colleges is a consortium of BC's 11 public, post-secondary colleges. The consortium facilitates collaboration between the colleges to effectively prepare and educate the highly skilled, job-ready workforce that is needed to strengthen BC's economy. By collaborating as a system, BC's colleges can leverage resources and provide education and training opportunities more efficiently and to more communities throughout the province.

Our colleges are recognized for their relevant and innovative programs designed to deliver the graduates needed for in demand jobs and careers. We monitor changes in labour market forecasts and adapt to meet the changing needs of British Columbia.

BC's colleges provide a highly skilled and educated workforce that helps to mitigate the skills gap and ensure a competitive and economic advantage both at home and abroad. Research

shows there is a direct link between having skilled and productive workers and a higher provincial GDP. This goes a long way to ensuring a debt free BC. With more opportunities for education and training, BC will be more competitive globally and able to seize opportunities for trade through the Asia Pacific and Northern developments projects, including LNG, thus ensuring BC's future growth and economic prosperity.

### The Largest Percentage of Projected Job Openings will Require College Education



Source: Data from *British Columbia Labour Market Outlook: 2010-2020* (2011 update)

# How BC's Colleges Can Help Put BC On The Path To Economic Prosperity

## #1 Ensure A Skilled And Educated Workforce For British Columbia

COLLEGE GRADUATES ARE ESSENTIAL TO BC'S ECONOMIC GROWTH AND PROSPERITY.

- A WorkBC Report on High Opportunity Occupations underscores the growing need for graduates including nurses, lab technicians and health care aides.
- The Government of Canada recognizes that graduates such as pipefitters, marine trades people, construction workers and transportation managers will be critical to sustain an open economy and believes the skills gap is one of the biggest challenges facing Canada.
- Labour Market Forecasts estimate the need for workers with advanced education will exceed the capacity of the BC system by more than 10,000 college and other post-secondary graduates annually by 2020.

## #2 Enhance BC's Competitive Advantage In Knowledge & Skills

SKILLED AND EDUCATED WORKERS ARE THE 21ST CENTURY'S MOST CRITICAL RESOURCE.

- BC's colleges offer individualized attention, flexible programming and innovative delivery models to ensure a world-class, job-ready education.
- BC's colleges also teach essential skills to help students evolve with a changing workplace.
- And, our colleges have the advantage of being able to respond quickly to industry requirements and develop programming to meet demand.

## #3 Build Strong And Vibrant Communities In BC.

BC'S COLLEGES CREATE POSITIVE ECONOMIC BENEFITS FOR COMMUNITIES.

- There are college campuses and learning centres in over 60 locations throughout BC.
- More locations mean more students can keep costs down by studying closer to home.
- Research shows graduates are more likely to work where they have studied.
- Colleges are uniquely positioned to respond to regional opportunities and challenges and positively impact the communities they serve.

By 2020 BC's colleges plan to deliver 2000 new college graduates annually in high demand areas including **business & management, health & applied sciences and trades & technology** to help mitigate the coming skills gap.

To maintain and improve BC's competitive advantage at home and abroad, BC's colleges plan to expand essential skills programming, match college programming to industry demand and capitalize on Federal & Provincial programs to upgrade teaching infrastructure and training equipment.

BC's colleges are key drivers of regional prosperity and provide accessible and affordable post-secondary education and training close to home for all British Columbians.

It's Time To Think Of Advanced Education And Skills Training As An Investment, Not An Expense.

- The cost of tuition at a BC college is considerably less than other post-secondary options.
- The combined annual contribution to BC's economy of BC's colleges and their graduates is over \$7 billion.
- College graduates are skilled and job-ready. They help mitigate the skills gap, enhance BC's competitive advantage and contribute to BC's economic growth and future prosperity.
- Return on every \$1 of taxpayer support: \$3.80.
- Continued investment in BC's colleges helps ensure labour market demand is met.
- Increased investment in colleges will result in a higher standard of living, reduced social costs and vibrant and sustainable communities throughout BC.

## BC's Most Accessible and Affordable Pathway To Post-Secondary Education.

BC Colleges is a consortium of BC's 11 public, post-secondary colleges. The consortium facilitates collaboration between the colleges to effectively prepare and educate the highly skilled, job-ready workforce that is needed to strengthen BC's economy. By collaborating as a system, BC's colleges can leverage resources and provide education and training opportunities more efficiently and to more communities throughout the province. Our colleges are recognized for their relevant and innovative programs designed to deliver the graduates needed for in demand jobs and careers.

We monitor changes in labour market forecasts and adapt to meet the changing needs of British Columbia. For more information about our members, please see the brief description for each college and the region they serve.



### ◆ CAMOSUN COLLEGE

**WEBSITE:** [www.camosun.ca](http://www.camosun.ca)

**YEAR FOUNDED:** 1971

**REGION SERVED:** Vancouver Island/Coast

**MAIN INDUSTRIES:** Trades and emerging "green" technologies, Marine, Hospitality, Business, Health, Human Services and Provincial and Federal Government Services

**LOCATION:** Victoria

**CAMPUSES/LEARNING CENTRES:** 2

**CENTRE FOR EXCELLENCE:** Trades Learning Centre for Excellence – opening 2014

**STUDENTS SERVED ANNUALLY:** 20,000+

**PROGRAMS OFFERED:** 160+ certificate, diploma, apprenticeship, bachelor degree and continuing education programs for full or part-time study.

Camosun, a comprehensive college dedicated to improving regional economic prosperity through education and strategic partnerships, enrolls 20,000 learners annually, including 1,000 Aboriginal students from 50 nations and 600 international students. Offerings include arts, sciences, business, health and human services, trades, technologies, sport education, Aboriginal studies and adult upgrading. Community outreach includes research, innovation and prototyping services for industry; contract training for business; and well-prepared co-op students and interns for employers.

College of New Caledonia



### ◆ COLLEGE OF NEW CALEDONIA

**WEBSITE:** [www.cnc.bc.ca](http://www.cnc.bc.ca)

**YEAR FOUNDED:** 1969

**REGION SERVED:** Cariboo

**MAIN INDUSTRIES:** Agriculture/Ranching, Forestry, Mining and Tourism

**LOCATIONS:** Prince George, Burns Lake, Fort St. James, Mackenzie, Quesnel and Vanderhoof

**CAMPUSES/LEARNING CENTRES:** 7

**STUDENTS SERVED ANNUALLY:** 5,000+

**PROGRAMS OFFERED:** CNC offers more than 50 programs in health sciences, trades and technologies, social services, business and university studies.

The College of New Caledonia (CNC) is located in BC's central interior with its main campus in Prince George and 5 additional campuses/learning centres serving other Cariboo/Chilcotin communities. CNC provides practical, hands-on learning in small classes, making it easier for students to achieve their goals. In as little as 10 months, students can acquire the skills they need for a stable and successful career.



#### ● COLLEGE OF THE ROCKIES

**WEBSITE:** [www.cotr.bc.ca](http://www.cotr.bc.ca)

**YEAR FOUNDED:** 1975

**REGION SERVED:** Kootenay

**MAIN INDUSTRIES:** Forestry, Mining and Tourism

**LOCATIONS:** Cranbrook, Creston, Fernie, Golden, Invermere and Kimberley

**CAMPUSES/LEARNING CENTRES:** 7

**STUDENTS SERVED ANNUALLY:** 12,800+

**PROGRAMS OFFERED:** A comprehensive mix of vocational, trades, career technical, health, business and academic programs, bachelor and associate degrees, diplomas and certificates and continuing education.

The College of the Rockies (COTR) is located in the Kootenay Rocky Mountains of southeastern BC. The main campus and Gold Creek campus are in Cranbrook with regional campuses in Creston, Fernie, Golden, Invermere and Kimberley all offering unique programs and courses. COTR offers smaller class sizes, personalized instruction, state-of-the-art technology, great support services and professional, friendly staff who are dedicated to student success.



#### ● DOUGLAS COLLEGE

**WEBSITE:** [www.douglascollege.ca](http://www.douglascollege.ca)

**YEAR FOUNDED:** 1970

**REGION SERVED:** Mainland/Southwest

**MAIN INDUSTRIES:** Business and Commerce, Social Sciences, Health Care and Sport Science

**LOCATIONS:** New Westminster, Coquitlam and Surrey

**CAMPUSES/LEARNING CENTRES:** 3

**STUDENTS SERVED ANNUALLY:** 25,000+

**PROGRAMS OFFERED:** Bachelor degrees, post-graduate programs, diploma programs, associate degrees, university transfer and continuing education.

Douglas is BC's college of doing and discovery, offering degrees, diplomas, post-degree diplomas and other post-secondary credentials with an applied focus. Centrally located in Vancouver, Douglas has campuses in New Westminster and Coquitlam, as well as a Training Centre in Surrey. Currently, the college offers nine bachelor's degrees, 24 associate degrees, dozens of career programs, 10 post-degree diploma programs and hundreds of credit courses that transfer to major Canadian universities.



#### ● LANGARA COLLEGE

**WEBSITE:** [www.langara.bc.ca](http://www.langara.bc.ca)

**YEAR FOUNDED:** 1965 (established as part of VCC), 1994 (established as an independent public college)

**REGION SERVED:** Mainland/Southwest

**MAIN INDUSTRIES:** Arts, Early Childhood Education, Journalism, Healthcare, IT and Recreation

**LOCATIONS:** Vancouver

**CAMPUSES/LEARNING CENTRES:** 1

**STUDENTS SERVED ANNUALLY:** 23,000+

**PROGRAMS OFFERED:** University studies, career studies and continuing studies programs and courses.

Langara College is a public degree-granting college in Vancouver that serves approximately 23,000 students annually through its university career, and continuing studies programs. Langara College is recognized as a leading undergraduate institution with a reputation for providing exceptional learning opportunities. Through the collective contributions of an outstanding faculty and staff, Langara's programs and services continue to grow and innovate to meet the changing needs of the community.



## **NORTH ISLAND COLLEGE**

### ◆ **NORTH ISLAND COLLEGE**

**WEBSITE:** [www.nic.bc.ca](http://www.nic.bc.ca)

**YEAR FOUNDED:** 1975

**REGION SERVED:** Vancouver Island/Coast

**MAIN INDUSTRIES:** Aquaculture, Canadian Forces Base, Forestry, Health, Mining and Tourism

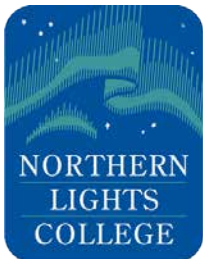
**LOCATIONS:** Campbell River, Comox Valley, Port Alberni, Mount Waddington and Ucluelet

**CAMPUSES/LEARNING CENTRES:** 5

**STUDENTS SERVED ANNUALLY:** 10,000+

**PROGRAMS OFFERED:** Certificates, diplomas, degrees and post-degree diplomas in a wide range of areas including trades and technology, health and human services, fine arts, business, tourism, university studies, adult upgrading and more.

North Island College (NIC) is located on northern Vancouver Island. NIC is committed to excellence in its programs and services and collaborating to create pathways for learning. NIC offers over 900 courses and 70 credit programs. Emphasis has been placed on working in-community, with community and First Nation partners. This new regional model of education sees programming and instruction delivered at our partners' locations, based on the specific community's needs.



### ◆ **NORTHERN LIGHTS COLLEGE**

**WEBSITE:** [www.nlc.bc.ca](http://www.nlc.bc.ca)

**YEAR FOUNDED:** 1975

**REGION SERVED:** Northeast

**MAIN INDUSTRIES:** Oil & Gas and Mining

**LOCATIONS:** Chetwynd, Dawson Creek, Fort Nelson, Fort St. John, Tumbler Ridge, Atlin, Dease Lake and Hudson's Hope.

**CAMPUSES/LEARNING CENTRES:** 8

**CENTRES FOR EXCELLENCE:** Centre of Training Excellence in Oil & Gas, Centre of Excellence in Aerospace and Clean Energy

**STUDENTS SERVED ANNUALLY:** 10,000+

**PROGRAMS OFFERED:** Certificates, diplomas and associate degrees.

Northern Lights College (NLC) is BC's Energy College, serving northern BC. The province's Centre of Training Excellence in Oil & Gas at the Fort St. John Campus includes a Simulated Well Site Training facility and a full-sized drilling rig. NLC is also a centre of excellence in Aerospace and Clean Energy offering the only BZEE international certification for Wind Turbine Training at its state of the art Energy House in Dawson Creek.



### ◆ **NORTHWEST COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

**WEBSITE:** [www.nwcc.bc.ca](http://www.nwcc.bc.ca)

**YEAR FOUNDED:** 1975

**REGION SERVED:** North Coast & Nechako

**MAIN INDUSTRIES:** Agriculture, Export, Fishing, Forestry, Mining, Tourism and Transportation

**LOCATIONS:** Hazelton, Houston, Skidegate, Kitimat, Masset, Prince Rupert, Queen Charlotte, Smithers and Terrace

**CAMPUSES/LEARNING CENTRES:** 9

**TRADES FACILITIES:** Prince Rupert, Terrace, Smithers campuses plus mobile training units and school district partnerships

**CENTRE FOR EXCELLENCE:** School of Exploration and Mining Centre for Excellence

**STUDENTS SERVED ANNUALLY:** 8,000+

**PROGRAMS OFFERED:** Certificates, diplomas and associate degrees in access, business, health, university credit and trades and apprenticeship training programs.

Northwest Community College (NWCC) serves the rich and diverse communities and learners of BC's northwest region including Haida Gwaii and the Great Bear Rain Forest. NWCC has nine regional campuses serving 34 communities where the College provides students with innovative programs that lead to sustainable careers for people in the North. NWCC is a recognized leader in Aboriginal education where Aboriginals make up roughly 40 per cent of the student body.



#### ● OKANAGAN COLLEGE

**WEBSITE:** [www.okanagan.bc.ca](http://www.okanagan.bc.ca)

**YEAR FOUNDED:** 1963 as BC Vocational School

**REGION SERVED:** Thompson-Okanagan

**MAIN INDUSTRIES:** Agriculture and Tourism

**LOCATIONS:** Four major campuses: Penticton, Kelowna, Vernon and Salmon Arm

**CAMPUSES/LEARNING CENTRES:** 14 (Revelstoke to Oliver)

**STUDENTS SERVED ANNUALLY:** 21,000+

**PROGRAMS OFFERED:** A wide range of academic, vocational, trades, apprenticeship and continuing education programs and courses.

Okanagan College serves the largest number of post-secondary students in the BC Interior at 14 different locations. Okanagan College is the largest college outside the Lower Mainland and is one of BC's largest trades training institutions. It offers approximately 140 different programs, including two baccalaureate degrees (Business Administration and Computer Information Systems). Through a host of program advisory committees and instructor and student activities, it is intimately connected with local industries and communities.

## Selkirk College



#### ● SELKIRK COLLEGE

**WEBSITE:** [www.selkirk.ca](http://www.selkirk.ca)

**YEAR FOUNDED:** 1966

**REGION SERVED:** Kootenay

**MAIN INDUSTRIES:** Forestry, Mining, Power Generation and Tourism

**LOCATIONS:** Castlegar, Grand Forks, Kaslo, Nakusp, Nelson and Trail

**CAMPUSES/LEARNING CENTRES:** 8

**TRADES FACILITIES:** Nelson, Silver King Campus

**CENTRES FOR EXCELLENCE:** Regional Innovation Chair in Rural Economic Development (RIC), Selkirk College Geospatial Research Centre (SGRC), Rural Development Institute (RDI) and MIR Centre for Peace.

**STUDENTS SERVED ANNUALLY:** 11,000+

**PROGRAMS OFFERED:** Over 60 certificate, diploma and degree programs.

For almost 50 years Selkirk College has been providing innovative and unique learning opportunities. Through our 60+ nationally recognized programs and eight campuses and learning centres, Selkirk ensures our graduates are career (and life) ready. Over 230 international students, from over 20 countries, study in over 20 program areas and over 260 aboriginal learners study in over 35 program areas. Selkirk College delivers exemplary teaching and outstanding learning experiences.



#### ● VANCOUVER COMMUNITY COLLEGE

**WEBSITE:** [www.vcc.ca](http://www.vcc.ca)

**YEAR FOUNDED:** 1965

**REGION SERVED:** Mainland/Southwest

**MAIN INDUSTRIES:** Culinary, Hospitality, Health Sciences (Nursing) and Transportation Trades

**LOCATIONS:** Downtown Vancouver and East Vancouver

**CAMPUSES/LEARNING CENTRES:** 2

**STUDENTS SERVED ANNUALLY:** 23,000+

**PROGRAMS OFFERED:** 78 certificates, 28 diplomas and 3 bachelor degrees in a variety of career disciplines including health, hospitality, applied business, transportation and other skilled trades.

Uniquely positioned to offer both access and applied post-secondary/career-oriented programs, Vancouver Community College (VCC) prepares a diverse student population for ongoing education, direct entry into employment, career advancement and greater participation in the community. VCC is committed to increasing student access and success through collaborative relationships with others in the post-secondary sector and through strengthened partnerships with industry.