



News Release

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Governments to provide \$30 million for CNC expansion

CNC will receive almost \$30 million from the federal and provincial governments to build and renovate buildings at its campuses in Prince George and Quesnel thanks to an announcement Wednesday.

A total of \$19.7 million will go towards the construction of a new Technical Education Centre building in Prince George and completion of renovations to the John Brink Trades and Technology Building.

A new trades and technology training building will also be built in Quesnel for \$9.8 million.

“This is absolutely wonderful news. Today’s announcements represent the largest single capital investment in our college in more than 30 years,” said CNC President John Bowman.

“It will allow us to translate the college’s vision for expanding and diversifying technical education in Northern B.C. into a reality. Our facilities capacity will be renewed and expanded by over 600 student seats for trades and technology programs.”

The project is funded under a 50-50 cost sharing between the provincial and the federal governments.

“These projects will also provide a substantial economic stimulus for Prince George and the Central Interior region, with 200 jobs created over the two-year-construction project in Prince George, and 100 jobs created in Quesnel,” said Bowman. “The timing is perfect given the current economy.”

Completion of this project will enable the addition of 360 FTE student training spaces in Prince George, which is about 10 per cent of the college’s current enrolment. Over time, there will also be an additional 22 instructor and staff positions created in Prince George.

The first stage in Prince George will be proposals for work from contractors to complete renovations to the John Brink building. Tenders will close in April, with construction to begin in May.

The second stage will involve work on site services and excavations for the new TEC Centre Building in August.

The TEC Centre building will be purpose built for technology and trades training and will replace the existing 48-year-old trades training building called the 800 Block.

The new TEC Centre Building will accommodate a total of 792 full-time equivalent (FTE) student spaces, which will be an increase of 312 FTE (+65%) above the existing 800 Block building capacity.

“Some of the shop spaces will be able to accommodate the delivery of a variety of instructional programs, rather than use by only a single program,” said Jan Jonker, Dean of Trades and Technology programs.

“The new purpose-designed and purpose-built facilities will also incorporate advanced learning technology capabilities, such as Smart Boards, interactive videoconferencing and high speed internet, which are not available in the current building.”

The new building will include a total area of about 7,000 square meters of instructional shops, classrooms, lab and office space. It is scheduled for completion in February 2011.

Red Seal trades and other technical programs to be delivered in the new building include: welding, machinist, industrial mechanic/millwright, planer mill technician, automotive collision repair, plumbing, engineering technology, mining technician, process operations, transportation and logistics, and environmental technician.

About 500 square meters of unfinished space within the John Brink Trades and Technology Building will become four classrooms, a multi-purpose lab, and instructor offices.

Quesnel

The \$9.8 million for Quesnel will complete Phase 2 of the North Cariboo Community Campus project. It will more than double the current training spaces in Quesnel for technical and trades training to 276 FTE from the current 136 being delivered at Maple Drive Junior Secondary School. When complete it will also have capacity for an additional 14 instructor and staff positions.

“It’s fantastic news for Quesnel,” said Regional Director Betsy Ives. “So many people were pushing for this -- the City has made Phase II its Number 1 project for that past few years and the whole town has been 110 per cent behind this initiative.”

Construction is to begin in late summer with completion expected by February 2011.

“This project is a key component of the BC-North TEC initiative and the 3,800 square metre building will have four teaching shops, eight classrooms, two computer labs and 10 offices,” said Ives.

“The building will accommodate a variety of trades and technical programs, including: Welding, carpentry, electrical, plumbing, mechanics, power engineer, agro-forestry, horticulture and animal science.”

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