



The Best Place on Earth

JUN 6 2008

Our Ref. 62929

Mr. Bruce Sutherland
Chair of the Board
College of New Caledonia
3330 - 22nd Ave
Prince George BC V2N 1P8

Dear Mr. Sutherland:

I am writing to express my appreciation for the vital role community colleges play in the public post-secondary education system in British Columbia and to reaffirm the mandate of the college sector.

Government recognizes that comprehensive course offerings allow colleges to respond to the workforce needs of its community and the specific social and cultural needs of its students. The diversity of programs – from Adult Basic Education and foundation training through to applied baccalaureate programs – provides relevant opportunities and many pathways to employment or further education.

These contributions are particularly crucial in the context of current and future skill shortages. Colleges and institutes are the primary supplier of skilled workers for our economy. An estimated 42 percent of skills shortages are in occupations that require college or apprenticeship training.

The community colleges of British Columbia are mandated to:

- Provide education and training to all who choose to attend a community college at any point in their adult life;
- Focus on teaching-intensive activities using state of the art pedagogical practices that reflect the experiences, culture and social context of their students;
- Design and offer programs and courses that reflect the current and emerging needs of business and industry, and the needs of the province's society in general;
- Graduate students whose knowledge and skills satisfy employers and institutions that receive them as transfer students; and,
- Work with local groups and organizations to promote the continuous growth and development of the local community.



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Within this context, community colleges are mandated to offer programs in the following categories:

- Para-professional, career, technical and applied studies;
- Trades and apprenticeship;
- Developmental education, including programs for students with disabilities;
- Undergraduate degree programs in applied areas; and,
- University transfer studies and associate degree programs.

As conveyed in the 2008/09 Government Letter of Expectations, the Ministry and institutions will work together to further clarify details on each institution's mandate by the end of the 2008/09 fiscal year.

Thank you once more for your contribution to the success of the community college sector in British Columbia.

Sincerely,



Murray Coell
Minister of Advanced Education

pc: Mr. John Bowman, President
College of New Caledonia

Dr. Moura Quayle, Deputy Minister
Ministry of Advanced Education

Mr. Jim Reed, President
British Columbia Colleges and Institutes

Ms. Dawn Minty, Director
Colleges and University College Branch
Ministry of Advanced Education