



NORTH ISLAND COLLEGE



**NIC**

INDIGENOUS EDUCATION

# Indigenous Education Handbook

Your guide to supports and services for self-identified  
Indigenous students at North Island College.

## Nuu-chah-nulth

## Kwak'wala

ʔaʔaʃuθəm-Salish

North Island College is honoured to acknowledge the traditional territories of the combined 35 First Nations of the Nuuchahnulth, Kwakwaka'wakw and Coast Salish traditions, on whose traditional and unceded territories the College's campuses are situated.





The NIC region includes the northern half of Vancouver Island from the Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District in the west; Courtenay, Campbell River north to Port Hardy, as well as the BC mainland from Desolation Sound to Klemtu. All Nuu-chah-nulth nations are shown at the request of the Nuu-chah-nulth peoples.



# Campus Locations



Comox Valley campus



Campbell River campus



Port Alberni campus



Mixelakwila campus



**KELLY SHOPLAND**  
K'ÓMOKS FIRST NATION  
DIRECTOR,  
ABORIGINAL EDUCATION

## Gilakas'la

NIC is honoured to welcome Aboriginal learners from many Nations and cultures and recognizes the wealth of traditional knowledge students bring to the college community. We strive to create a welcoming environment that nurtures your success.

**6**

Elders in Residence  
across all NIC  
campuses

**1,246**

Indigenous  
students

**5**

Indigenous-specific  
programs

**50+**

events across  
all campuses



## Highlights



# What you will find at NIC

NIC offers more than 80 programs and hundreds of courses. Our commitment to Indigenization has led to revamping of our curriculum to incorporate Indigenous history, ways of knowing and being, literature, culture and language.

NIC works closely with Regional Aboriginal Advisory Committees and the Indigenous Education Council to develop programs and courses informed by Indigenous ways of knowing and being and Indigenous language courses such as Kwak'wala and Nuuchahnulth.

## Programs

Aboriginal Leadership certificate

Awí-nakola Land-based Learning

Indigenous Language Fluency certificate



## Courses

### Indigenous Languages

Explore Indigenous languages through individual courses, or through NIC's new Indigenous Language Fluency certificate.

### Individual courses:

- Introduction to Kwak'wala (KWA-096)
- Introduction to Kwak'wala II (KWA-097)
- Kwak'wala Intro to U'Mista Orthography (KWA-098)
- Introduction to Nuuchahnulth Language (NCN-096)
- Introductory Nuuchahnulth Language II (NCN-097)

### Upgrading

- Enhance your study skills or explore the history and present day context of First Nations peoples in BC with First Nations Studies.
- First Nations Student Skills I (FNS-060)
- First Nations Student Skills II (FNS-061)
- BC First Peoples Studies (FNS-096)

### Transferable Courses

Explore courses with an Indigenous-focus, which are fully transferable to universities across BC and beyond.

- Foundations of Ethnobotany (BIO-170)
- Essay Writing & Indigenous Perspectives (ENG-116)
- Indigenous Literatures in Canada (ENG-127)
- First Nations Education: Traditional and Contemporary (FNS-160)

**"Reconciliation is something all Canadians have a role in – both Indigenous and non-Indigenous. Indigenization of the academy, from a local Indigenous perspective, is a big part of reconciliation; the dialogues that occur between our students will lay the foundation for transforming relationships. "**

**SARA CHILD**

**NIC'S INDIGENOUS EDUCATION FACILITATOR**

## Elders-in-Residence

Elders in Residence are an important part of NIC's college community. They offer their wisdom, traditional knowledge and cultural guidance to students, staff and faculty at NIC and act as liaisons with First Nations communities. They offer support to our academic departments to incorporate Indigenous teachings, customs and knowledge as it relates to course and program content.

Elders are available if you would like to learn more about Indigenous protocols and practice.



### **FERNANDA PARE**

Fernanda's traditional name is Nagega, and she is of Kwakwaka'wakw, Namgis, K'ómoks and Carrier Sekani ancestry. She makes traditional button blankets, attends numerous potlaches, and believes we must practice and live by our traditional ways with honour and dignity. She has worked as an administration assistant with the City of Toronto's Finance and Land Use Planning departments. Fernanda and her husband have one son and five grandchildren, and they reside on traditional territory in K'ómoks.

fernanda.pare@nic.bc.ca | 250-334-5000 ext. 4020  
Room 218, Discovery Hall, Comox Valley Campus



### **EVELYN VOYAGEUR, RN, BSCN, PHD**

Evelyn is of the Kwakwaka'wakw Nation, of the Dzawadainox tribe. She speaks Kwak'wala fluently. She has worked in hospitals and communities in Alberta and BC, as well as taught and developed nursing curricula at UVic and NIC. Evelyn counsels survivors for the Indian Residential School Society. She has received many awards for her contribution to Aboriginal nursing, including becoming one of Health Canada's First Nation and Inuit Branch's first recipients of the Award of Excellence in Nursing.

evelyn.voyageur@nic.bc.ca | 250-334-5000 ext. 4054  
Room 209, Puntledge Hall Comox Valley Campus



### **DARYLE MILLS**

Daryle is of Cree, Dene, Stoney and Irish heritage. He participates in local cultural events and activities, where he shares his cultural background and Cree and Lakota teachings. His family is from Fort Chipewyan, north of Fort McMurray on Lake Athabasca, where he is known by his Cree name of Tipiskowpisimwikimusqua. A former millwright and trades person, he has provided social services and youth support for the last 16 years.

daryle.mills@nic.bc.ca | 250-923-9700 ext. 7885  
Room C217, Campbell River Campus



If you are pursuing education away from home or are recently beginning to explore your indigenous identity and would like to connect with one of the Elders in Residence, please see their contact information below.



#### **MAGGIE SEDGEMORE**

Maggie is a member of the Kwakiutl First Nation. Originally from Alert Bay, she has lived all over the world, connecting with indigenous peoples from other countries, including the Maori in New Zealand. When she returned to Canada she studied to become a nurse and then trained to be a counsellor. She worked part-time at the Royal Jubilee Hospital in Victoria, while doing her Master's degree at the University of Victoria. Maggie worked at the Port Hardy Secondary School as an Aboriginal Youth Counsellor for 13 years, helping students, providing support and encouragement through their journey, then started her own counselling business, counselling Residential School survivors and their families.

maggie.sedgemore@nic.bc.ca | 250-949-7912  
Mixalakwa Campus



#### **JUNE JOHNSON**

June's traditional name is 'Um'agalis. She is from the Wewaikai Nation, Cape Mudge, the daughter of the daughter of Charles and Elizabeth (Dick) Peters. She is an elder in the community, the mother of two and grandmother to six. She completed her Developmental Standard Term Certificate in Language Revitalization at UVic in 2009, going on to teach Liqwala/Kwak'wala language and culture in SD 72. She believes that teaching and learning together foster a sense of pride and belonging. As coordinator of the Ligwiltach Elders and Youth Culture Group, she teaches youth the cultural protocol of the Big House and traditional dances. She also teaches First Nations traditional plants and medicinal workshops, blanket making, traditional food cooking and cedar weaving.

june.johnson@nic.bc.ca | 250-923-9700 ext. 7887  
Room C219, Campbell River Campus



#### **JANE JONES**

Jane is an Elder from both the Nuu-chah-nulth (Tseshaht) Nation and the Kwakwaka'wakw (Mamalilikulla) Nation. She has over 41 years' experience working with Aboriginal students from preschool through to post-secondary, and she is very proud of the work she began in the early 1970s to develop and open the Kwak'wala preschool in Campbell River, which sparked further work to include Kwakwaka'wakw culture and language into the school district to the grade 12 level. Jane also served as the Cultural Coordinator at Haahuupayuk School in Port Alberni, where the first structured Nuu-chah-nulth language lessons were delivered and continue today as a foundation for the school's K-7 curriculum.

jane.jones@nic.bc.ca  
250-724-8724  
Port Alberni Campus



**"I feel a strong sense of community at NIC. There is a lot of support available. The Elders in Residence are a real encouragement, keeping me on track and helping me look at the world in a new way."**

**ALANNA MITCHELL**  
**ASSOCIATE OF ARTS DEGREE (UNIVERSITY TRANSFER), K'ÓMOKS FIRST NATION**



# Student Services

Student Services provides a wide range of resources and supports to help you reach your goals. Whether you need help planning your education, securing funding or accessing support services, we're here to help.

## We can help with

- ✓ Educational and Financial Aid Advising
- ✓ Assessment Services
- ✓ Admission and Registration
- ✓ Student Employment Services

## Supports & Resources

- ✓ Counselling
- ✓ Accessible Learning Services
- ✓ Library & Learning Commons
- ✓ Student Technical Services



Did you know you can [book appointments](#) with NIC advisors and counsellors [online](#)? Visit [www.nic.bc.ca](http://www.nic.bc.ca)

## Aboriginal Advisors

At times navigating through post-secondary can be overwhelming. The Aboriginal Educational Advisors are available to help navigate and support your experience. Each advisor has an open door, drop-in policy. Appointments can also be made online at [www.nic.bc.ca](http://www.nic.bc.ca).



**Sarah Lawrence BSW, RSW, MACP**  
*Cowichan Tribes*  
Comox Valley campus  
[sarah.lawrence@nic.bc.ca](mailto:sarah.lawrence@nic.bc.ca)  
(250) 334-5029



**Luke George BA (VIU)**  
*Tseshah First Nation*  
Port Alberni Campus  
[luke.george@nic.bc.ca](mailto:luke.george@nic.bc.ca)  
(250) 724-8746



**Rylee Latrace BSW, MSW Student**  
*Cree/Métis, Anishinaabe*  
Campbell River Campus  
[rylee.latrace@nic.bc.ca](mailto:rylee.latrace@nic.bc.ca)  
(250) 923-9741



**Sandra Mountain BA**  
*Mixalakwa Campus*  
[sandra.mountain@nic.bc.ca](mailto:sandra.mountain@nic.bc.ca)  
(250) 949-7912 ext 2863





## Self-declare your Indigenous Ancestry

We encourage you to declare your Aboriginal ancestry. No proof of ancestry is required. You can declare when you apply or after you become an NIC student.

The Aboriginal Ancestry Declaration form is available at [www.nic.bc.ca](http://www.nic.bc.ca)

### Why Self-identify?

- You are helping to identify how many Indigenous students attend NIC
- Gain access to information on awards, scholarships and bursaries, as well as programs, supports, and services
- Gain access to Priority Admission on select Health and Human Service programs:
  - Bachelor of Science in Nursing
  - Practical Nursing
  - Early Childhood Care and Education
  - Human Services
  - Health Care Assistant

To be considered for a priority admission seat, Aboriginal students must:

- Self-identify as an Aboriginal person
- Meet NIC's general admission requirements, and/or specific program requirements

# Finding Community

Make the most of your NIC experience by connecting with students and participating in activities, councils, and student-led events.

## Student Leadership Team

[www.nic.bc.ca/life-at-nic/  
student-involvement/  
student-leadership-team](http://www.nic.bc.ca/life-at-nic/student-involvement/student-leadership-team)

## Indigenous Social & Cultural Events and Workshops

## Board of Governors

## NISU

North Island  
Student Union

## Education Council

## Aboriginal Scholars

## Join us on Facebook

[www.facebook.com/groups/  
NICAoriginalStudents](https://www.facebook.com/groups/NICAoriginalStudents)

## Indigenous Student Lounges



"NIC's Aboriginal Scholar program has provided me connections to a wide variety of supports and services that I would not have known existed. Having made these new connections, I am now a student leader and honing my business skills on the Education Council, Planning and Standards Committee and Curriculum Committee. Without NIC's Aboriginal Scholar program, none of this would have been possible."

**CHRIS SCARLATTI**  
BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION STUDENT, OJIBWAY NATION





## Aboriginal Student Lounges

Whether you want to hang out with other students or chat with an Aboriginal educational advisor, Aboriginal student lounges are a great place to connect. Locations include lounges in Campbell River, Comox Valley, Port Alberni and Port Hardy

Drop in to plan an event, study, or discuss your education and career goals with an advisor.

### **Campbell River campus**

Room C217

Open during campus hours

### **Comox Valley campus**

Discovery Hall, Room 218

Open during campus hours

### **Port Alberni campus**

Room N104

Open during campus hours

### **Mixalakwa campus**

Open during campus hours

# Funding my Education

**EMERGENCY FUNDS:** If you face unexpected financial hardships while attending NIC, you can meet with an Aboriginal Education Advisor to arrange emergency funding.

**NATION OR BAND FUNDING:** Some bands and nations have funding to support your education. Contact your band, nation or Aboriginal Educational Advisor for more information.

**INDIGENOUS ORGANIZATION FUNDING:** Possibly funding options are available within Indigenous community organization (such as North Vancouver Island Aboriginal Training Society NVIATS and Métis Nation BC). Talk with an Aboriginal Educational Advisor for more information

**NIC FOUNDATION AWARDS:** Every year, as a new, continuing or graduating NIC student, you are eligible to apply for hundreds of scholarships and bursaries to help pay for college

**EXTERNAL SCHOLARSHIPS & BURSARIES:** Bursaries are available through a variety of organizations including unions and employee groups, major employers, non-profit organizations and the government (eg. Indspire, Irving K. Barber Award, New Relationship Trust, BC First Nations)

**STUDENT AID:** Helps students with the cost of post-secondary education through student loans, grants, and scholarships

## NIC CERTIFICATE AND TRADES FOUNDATION PROGRAMS

Funding Source	Year 1
Nation or Band Funding	✓
NVIATS	✓
Métis Nation	✓
NIC Foundation Awards	✓
External Scholarships/Bursaries	✓
Student Aid	✓

## NIC DIPLOMA PROGRAMS

Funding Source	Year 1	Year 2
Band Funding	✓	✓
NVIATS		✓
Métis Nation	✓	✓
NIC Foundation Awards	✓	✓
External Scholarships/Bursaries	✓	✓
Student Aid	✓	✓

## NIC FOUR-YEAR DEGREE PROGRAMS

Funding Source	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4
Band Funding	✓	✓	✓	✓
NVIATS				✓
Métis Nation			✓	✓
NIC Foundation Awards	✓	✓	✓	✓
External Scholarships/Bursaries	✓	✓	✓	✓
Student Aid	✓	✓	✓	✓



# NIC Lingo

## Becoming a student

**APPLICATION:** Your formal submission, either online or by paper, for a particular program. Online it is done through the Education Planner BC portal and has a \$25 charge.

**ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS:** The requirements you need to meet to enter the program you are applying to. Requirements vary by program.

**COURSE PRE-REQUISITE(S):** A course(s) that is required before another course can be taken.

**TRANSCRIPTS:** An official, permanent record of the number of courses you have completed and your marks in those courses.

**PLACEMENT ASSESSMENT:** NIC accepts English and Math placement tests in lieu of transcripts. Students can either provide a high school transcript or take a placement test to ensure that they have the necessary English and/or Math skills for their studies.

**INVITATION:** Being accepted into a program after the requirements for entering the program have been met.

**TUITION DEPOSIT:** A non-refundable tuition deposit prior to registration, it will then be applied towards the tuition amount. Tuition free courses/program do not require a tuition deposit.

**REGISTRATION:** Signing up for a specific section of a course, so you have a seat in that course.

## When you're a student

**ACADEMIC CALENDAR:** List of important dates for the school year and where you will find drop/add dates, holidays and breaks, withdrawal deadlines and exam dates.

**SEMESTER/TERM:** The divisions of the academic year. NIC has 3 terms:

- Fall – September to December
- Winter – January to April
- Spring/Summer – May to August
  - Note: from May to August, you can register in classes that run in just Spring (7 weeks), just Summer (7 weeks) or throughout the Spring/Summer term (14 weeks)

**PART-TIME AND FULL-TIME STATUS:** Refers to the number of credit hours you are enrolled in each semester. Students enrolled in nine or more credit hours are considered full-time.

**ADD/DROP:** The period of time at the beginning of each semester when you can change the courses you are registered for without a penalty.

**WITHDRAWAL DEADLINE:** The latest possible dates to withdraw from a class without it affecting your grade point average (GPA). A "W" will show on your transcript, but that course will not be used in the calculation of your grade point average.

**GRADE POINT:** The value of the final mark in a course rated on a scale between 0 and 4.33.

**GRADE POINT AVERAGE (GPA):** GPA is the value of each course final mark multiplied by the credit value of each course, divided by the number of courses taken

## Financial aid

**SCHOLARSHIP:** Financial assistance awarded based on academic merit

**BURSARY:** Financial Assistance based on financial need and/or other specific criteria

**GRANT:** Financial assistance that does not have to be paid back

**INDIGENOUS ORGANIZATION FUNDING:** Possibly funding options are available within Indigenous community organization. Talk with an Aboriginal Educational Advisor for more information

**NATION OR BAND FUNDING:** Some bands and nations have funding to support your education. Contact your band, nation or Indigenous recruiter to learn more

**EMERGENCY FUNDING:** NIC can provide financial support to students dealing with emergencies that would otherwise prevent them from completing their studies

## College credentials

**CREDENTIALS:** The official document you receive when you complete an academic program.

**CERTIFICATE:** One-year program (30 credit hours), also includes trades foundation programs.

**DIPLOMA:** Two-year program (60 credit hours).

**DEGREE:** An undergraduate degree normally requiring four years of full-time study. (Also known as a Bachelor's Degree).

**TRADES FOUNDATION:** Trades program covering foundation knowledge, in-class and hands-on learning which includes Level 1 of apprenticeship training. Employer sponsor is not required.

**TRADES APPRENTICESHIP TRAINING:** A combination of on-the-job and in-school training. Apprentices need an employer sponsor to complete their apprenticeship levels. The in-school training lasts 4-10 weeks, depending on the trade.



# How to Apply

Apply to NIC in four easy steps

1

## Select your program

Go to [www.nic.bc.ca/programs-courses](http://www.nic.bc.ca/programs-courses)

Choose the program you want to apply for and click Apply Now; this will direct you to the EducationPlannerBC website.

2

## EducationPlannerBC

Click on Choose Sign Up for your Education Planner BC Account at the bottom of the page and create your profile.

OR

If you already have an account at [educationplannerbc.ca](http://educationplannerbc.ca), enter your username and password.

Once your profile is complete, select North Island College from the list of institutions.

3

## Complete Application Program Selection

- Select New Applicant
- Select the subject area
- Select the program

4

## Review & Submit

- Pay the application fee of \$25
- Confirm your email address
- Confirm the information is true and correct
- Submit

You'll receive confirmation of your application to NIC from EducationPlannerBC at the email address you've given to EducationPlannerBC.

Please note that admissions to most programs are based on first applied, first qualified, first invited.



## Next Steps

1

### Activate your NIC Email

You'll receive an email from NIC acknowledging your application and giving you your NIC email address and instructions on how to log into your myNIC account.

Log in and activate your account.

All communications from NIC will come to your NIC email.

Visit [library.nic.bc.ca/studenttech/Apps](http://library.nic.bc.ca/studenttech/Apps) for help setting it up on your phone.

2

### Submit documents

- Official transcripts
- Other required admissions documents (such as a portfolio)

3

### Register for courses

Once you've been invited to your program, you can:

- Pay the tuition deposit
- Book an appointment with an educational advisor to timetable your courses
- Register for your courses

4

### Apply for financial aid

Meet with an NIC financial aid advisor to discuss funding options for your education. Be sure to get your applications in by the deadlines!

5

### Welcome!

Join us for orientation to kick off the new school year.

## We're here to help

You don't need to have all the answers. Contact us to book an appointment, or book online:

**1-800-715-0914**

**[futurestudents@nic.bc.ca](mailto:futurestudents@nic.bc.ca)**

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



NORTH ISLAND COLLEGE



NIC

Notes:

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Have more questions? Reach out to us at:

[Indigenousadvising@nic.bc.ca](mailto:Indigenousadvising@nic.bc.ca)

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