



**faculty association
of the college of new
caledonia**

Presentation to the College Board

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Building Awareness and Support for Better Funding

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On behalf of faculty, we would like to thank Art Robin for allowing the Faculty Association to address the Board with an agenda item at each of the Board Meetings this year. We would like to take this opportunity to focus our first presentation on a summary of our provincial campaign, "Better Funding of BC's Post-Secondary Education System". The campaign is composed of several elements, starting with an Ipsos Reid Poll. We will then build on public support for increased funding for post-secondary education through a province-wide ad campaign, take forward to the Minister and Deputy Minister of Advanced Education and to the Canadian Federation of Students the need for a broader discussion of the Campus 2020 review, and present to the Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services. Finally, we will continue the coordinated lobby aimed at our local MLAs. All of these will provide the Faculty Association with means for highlighting the increasing demands for CNC programs in the North and the need for adequate funding to meet the needs of the communities served by the College.

The following is an overview of the campaign along with suggestions on how all of the stakeholder groups at CNC could draw from the campaign as a resource. The primary reason we have chosen this topic for our presentation is because we believe that the issues animating the campaign draw from mutual interests between students, faculty, the administration and the Board. It is our hope that Board members will consider working together with the Faculty Association in highlighting the unique attributes of the College and its programs.

Ipsos Reid Survey

The survey of public opinion on the provision of post-secondary education was carried out in July, 2006 as part of an "omni" survey of British Columbians and included a sample size of 800. The results show very strong support for increasing funding, reducing student costs and the need for refocusing investment in public colleges, universities and training institutes to solve the skills shortage (90%). The results also indicate that public awareness of the funding gap is increasing. A summary of the polling results is attached to our report.

Province-wide Ad Campaign

Print ads are running in 40 community newspapers across the province, including the Prince George Citizen. The half-page ads will run once a week for a period of five weeks. They are designed to provide information on the problems created by inadequate funding, high costs for students and how these factors work against addressing the skills shortage in BC. A copy of the local ad is also attached to this report.

Lobbying Government

The Faculty Association will be making a presentation to the Standing Committee on Finance at its pre-budget hearing in Prince George on October 4. Our representatives will also be participating in the FPSE Presidents' presentations to the Standing Committee in Victoria on October 16th in Victoria. We will also continue to lobby our local MLAs.

Campus 2020

Our Federation has been lobbying Government to conduct a comprehensive review of the public post-secondary system for the last five years. While it is encouraging to see that a review is now set to take place, "Campus 2020: Thinking Ahead", it is disappointing that those who work and teach in the post-secondary system are being excluded from the process. While FPSE will continue to lobby Government for access to the process, at the local level, the Faculty Association will be developing material addressing the unique attributes of the College of New Caledonia and the obstacles the College faces in continuing to offer a full range of programming to individuals and groups within its communities. We would like the Board to know that the Faculty Association appreciates John Bowman's invitation to have faculty representation on the College 2020 committee and we look forward to participating.

We would like to complete our presentation with some ideas we believe are most relevant to the 2020 review.

CNC and the 2020 Review

The BC College system is in a unique position to fulfill the demands of the current skills shortage across the labour market. Colleges need to take advantage of current Provincial and Federal budget initiatives for meeting the post-secondary education, training and retraining needs of individuals within the communities they serve. Given the comprehensive program mandate of CNC, we believe that our stakeholder groups can work together in lobbying both Government and Industry for funding to meet the demands, both continuing and emerging, in North Central BC.

In addition to addressing the general Skills Shortage, CNC has opportunities to build upon and/or develop programs that will address the changing economy in our region. Given the potential economic repercussions of the Pine Beetle infestation, as well as mining, transportation and oil and gas development in the north, we believe that CNC has a crucial role to play in serving the shifting

economy in the region. The following are suggestions for building upon the program resources at the College:

- Renewing and developing Technology programs: Renewing - Electronics, Engineering Design Technology, Computer Information Systems, Wood Technology and Wood Manufacturing, Geographic Information Systems - Although these programs have been suspended, they remain offerings that were, to various degrees, unique to CNC. In order to mitigate the efforts of other public or private institutions developing these programs in our communities, we believe the College needs to consider appealing for increased funding in order to meet emerging business and industry development and their labour force requirements.
- The College might also consider the opportunity of program partnerships to ladder our technology programs to degree programs elsewhere. For instance, CNC already has the basis for a two year completion toward an Engineering degree. The College might also consider developing a Mining Technology Program to meet emerging regional needs, as well as building upon current Health Sciences offerings, i.e. reconsideration of a Pharmacy Technician program.
- The College is involved in accessing funding from ITA to meet the growing student demand in the Trades. CNC is also in a unique position in regard to the success of the CTC programming in the Trades as well as in the other CTC programs at the College. We believe that CNC could also put itself in a position to receive additional funding support by spearheading a call for the reintroduction of a Women in the Trades initiative by the Province. The gender wage gap is particularly wide in our region, and with the current demand for training in the Trades, initiating programming aimed at women may be attractive to both federal and provincial governments.
- The Faculty Association strongly supports the College attempts to build university transfer partnerships, particularly the recent 2+2 agreement with Thompson Rivers University. However, if this partnership is to be successful, the College will be required to maintain two year programs in the Arts and Science Division. Although CNC continues to have more diverse offerings than UNBC in the academic disciplines, if the erosion of course offerings continues, partnerships like the one with TRU will be made impossible. At the same time, the Faculty Association would like to encourage the College to work toward negotiating a more cooperative relationship with UNBC. We believe

that the competition from TRU and UBC-O that UNBC is currently facing places CNC in a strengthened position for negotiating partnerships with UNBC. One example would be the development of a new partnership between our Human Kinetics program and Education at UNBC.

- Maintaining College Programs: Last spring, the Deputy Minister of Advanced Education told FPSE that she was aware of concerns about UNBC's incursion into areas that have, traditionally, been part of the mandate of Colleges i.e. ESL, and CNC's provision of the first half of 3rd year Nursing. She is also aware of an issue raised over the monetary incentives being offered by UNBC to potential students. The Deputy has said that she is looking at an oversight committee in our region and we would like to encourage the College to join the Faculty Association in our effort to lobby for such a committee as a means for protecting the current programming at CNC.
- Finally, we believe that much of the reason behind the drop in enrolment at the College has been the result of increasing tuitions and service fees for students. More and more students cannot afford to come to the College. We would like, once again, to encourage Board members to consider reducing the barriers that have been created for people who would like to enroll at the College of New Caledonia