

WE'RE GROWING

Thanks to your overwhelming generosity the North Island College Foundation is growing and so is our ability to support learners across all communities we serve.

YOUR IMPACT BY THE NUMBERS IN 2023/2024*

\$989,873

Total gifts received

230 Donors gifted

65 First-time gifts

\$796,675

Value of the awards program

583

Individual awards

30

Indigenous focused awards

\$30,000

Emergency funds

240

Students accessed emergency funds

\$74,258

NIC programs

\$13,500

Student housing

\$460,255

Endowment income accrued



*October 2023 - September 2024

THE IMPACT OF GIVING

Your impact stems from every seed you plant. Grounded in strong roots, students can grow, thrive and reach new heights. Together, we are nurturing a flourishing community where education transforms lives and opens doors to brighter futures.



Security

Your gifts create space where students can thrive and pursue their dreams.

Support

Your gifts encourage success, foster confidence and have a lasting impact that will grow for generations to come.

Community

Your gifts inspire learners who know they have the backing of a community that believes in their potential.

Gratitude

Your gifts are transformative. We are grateful to you for making these opportunities possible and for the lasting impact you're having on our students and their futures.



SEEDS OF POSSIBILITY

2023-24 ACADEMIC YEAR IMPACT REPORT

THANK YOU



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WITH GRATITUDE

Thank you for your unwavering support. We are thrilled to share this year's impact report which highlights the outcomes of donations to the North Island College Foundation and how they empower student success. Your kindness is more than a gift; it's the seed of possibility that nurtures growth and connection within our vibrant community.

The foundation's new logo, which you can see in this report, beautifully embodies this journey. At its heart lies a seed, symbolizing the potential and access that education offers. From this seed, strong roots reach out, representing the connections we build together. Above, a vibrant sprout emerges, showcasing the growth and achievements of North Island College students. This visual story reflects our shared commitment to unlocking the potential within every student.

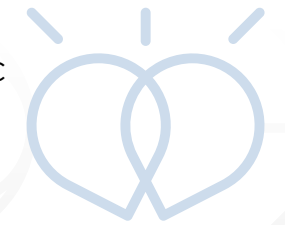
Thanks to your contributions, students are becoming engaged community members, innovative problem-solvers and future leaders, prepared to address the challenges they may encounter. We are inspired by their determination and perseverance as they pursue their goals.



Thank you for helping us create meaningful opportunities for students. Together, we are shaping the next generation of innovators and leaders.

With heartfelt gratitude,

Lisa Domae,
President and CEO of NIC



We're honoured to acknowledge the traditional territories of the combined 35 First Nations of the Nuu-chah-nulth, Kwakwaka'wakw and Coast Salish peoples, on whose traditional and unceded territories the college's campuses are situated.

"I am grateful and thankful for this award, which allowed me to focus on my dreams of becoming a professional chef in my own fusion restaurant."

Kartik G., Culinary Business Operations



THE POWER OF COMMUNITY PARTNERS



Ripple effects

The joy of giving can create a ripple effect. That's what Lara Austin, Senior Portfolio Manager and Wealth Advisor, discovered this year.

Since 2017, she has been supporting students through the Lara D. Austin Financial Foothold Award. In 2024, she came up with a creative pitch for her 9 and Wine fundraisers to bring in more money, beyond her own contribution.

As the main corporate sponsor of the weekly golf events, Lara took the opportunity to further raise funds for the NIC Foundation by leveraging

matching gifts. Participants could win a door prize, which includes a pledge from Lara to match their contribution, dollar for dollar.

The award helps two NIC learners in the Comox Valley planning on a career in wealth management with \$1,050 each, as Lara wants to stress the importance of financial literacy not only as a career option but for personal growth.

Moving forward, the award will now get a boost not only from Lara but the others she has inspired through her efforts.

Race for the cause



Having a little help can make all the difference when you're racing toward your goals. For more than 20 years, hundreds of supporters have laced up their running shoes for Campbell River's Women For Women run.

The event raises funds to help aspiring Campbell River students pursue their educational dreams at NIC. Shelagh Germyn has been organizing the Women For Women run since it began in 2003. Over the years, it has raised \$33,500, and she has been thrilled to support 47 learners through the NIC Foundation to attend NIC. As well, when the 5k- and 10k-run race began, the bursaries were \$500, but because of the event's success, this amount has doubled.

For Shelagh, the significance of the run each September goes beyond a competition. It's really about the cause, so regardless of whoever crosses the finish line first, everyone can feel the joy of knowing that 47 people—so far—have won because of many others who've stepped up to run.



Shelagh Germyn poses with supporters at the Campbell River race event



Inspiration supports education

Inspiration can lead to opportunity. For Gary Watts, his wife Jeanette's dedication as a registered nurse for the Nu-u-chah-nulth Tribal Council's health department sparked his desire to create the Gary Steven Watts Bursary through the NIC Foundation.

Gary, a member of the Tseshaht First Nation, had to leave school at age 14 to help support his family through logging, but he often likes to say, "opposites attract," and he draws inspiration from Jeanette's commitment to education, nursing

and her community. Throughout her career, Jeanette—now retired—mentored younger nurses, and she understands the vital role of establishing an Indigenous nursing framework that is respectful and culturally appropriate.

Inspired by Jeanette's work, Gary admires her dedication while reflecting on his own educational journey. Though he didn't have the chance to finish school, he is devoted to helping Indigenous learners in Port Alberni pursue their nursing dreams through education.



Gary and Jeanette Watts

EMERGENCY FUNDS



Just in time

We recognize that life can be unpredictable. That's why, with your support we offer one-time bursaries to assist students facing emergencies that impact their ability to complete their studies.

The Emergency Fund, also known as the Area of Greatest Need, provides critical financial assistance to students experiencing unexpected circumstances.

Whether it's a sudden medical expense, housing instability or the unforeseen costs of daily living

such as a transit dispute, these funds allow learners to focus on their studies rather than their financial struggles.

In 2023/24, over 240 students accessed emergency funds through Student Financial Aid. Each story behind these requests is unique, but they all share a common theme in that your support has allowed students to continue their educational journeys with hope and resilience.

INDUSTRY PARTNERS SOW SEEDS OF POSSIBILITY



NIC and RBC representatives meet at the Comox Valley campus

A partnership with the RBC Foundation has helped us spread the seeds of possibility for many Indigenous students at NIC.

Through its Future Launch program, the RBC Foundation aims to empower and support young people as they work toward meaningful careers, develop skills and make network connections. As part of this initiative, the RBC Foundation generously donated \$120,000 over three years to support the Aboriginal Scholars Program.

This is a holistic and culturally relevant program that helps students design their own achievement plan, provides supports for them throughout their program, increases a sense of community and fosters supportive relationships.

For the NIC Foundation, this kind of partnership cultivates a fertile environment where Indigenous students can grow and thrive during their time at college—and beyond.



"This award not only honors my achievements but inspires me to continue striving for excellence, as well as contribute positively to my community and chosen field. It reminds me of the support I've received along the way, and I'm deeply grateful."

Pauline P., Access to Practical Nursing Pathway



"My whole purpose is to give my kids the life they deserve and I am grateful for the caring people who help students achieve their dreams. I cannot thank you enough. I have returned to school full-time and I am now also able to work towards a career that will help me support and raise my family."

Tiffany S., Advanced Design and Development Diploma-Design Stream