

College of New Caledonia



NEWS RELEASE

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Conference to focus on benefit of International Students

The College of New Caledonia is proud to be involved in the international education conference, which begins tonight in Prince George.

The conference kicks off tonight at 6 p.m. with a reception for invited guests in CNC's restaurant, Kodiaks. On Friday, April 8, UNBC will host a panel presentation and workshop from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. with education and community leaders from across northern BC. Invited guests will discuss the economic, social and cultural benefits international students bring to communities in the North.

"International students bring so much to the community both financially and in terms of culture that we are just delighted to be a part of this conference," said Barbra Old, CNC dean of community and international education.

According to the BC Council for International Education (BCCIE), international students spend about \$24 million annually in northern B.C. on tuition, housing, goods and services. The spending creates about 250 jobs for the region.

"We are pleased to host such an event in Prince George and understand the great benefits that come along with welcoming international students to our community," said Mayor Dan Rogers. "As a result of strong partnerships, we hosted the City's first ever International Students Welcome Event this past fall, showcasing the importance of developing an inclusive community."

B.C. is one of the leading destinations for international students in Canada. The BCCIE estimates international students are responsible for \$1.8 billion in annual revenue for BC.

"As I continue to think about economic development for British Columbia, international education should clearly be considered," said Pat Bell, Minister of Jobs, Tourism and Innovation. "International students from all over the world, especially Asia represent considerably economic impact for the province and especially smaller communities."

The conference is being put on by the BCCIE, UNBC, Initiatives Prince George and CNC.

CNC hosted 251 international students in 2009/10. The majority of CNC's international students, 178, came from Asia. A total of 129 came from China, 28 from Korea and 7 from Japan last year. Saudi Arabia is the next largest group with 47 students in 2009/10. CNC also hosts students from Africa, Europe and South America.

"It's a growing industry and has potential to increase, especially in markets like India where new regulations make it easier for students to come to Canada," Old said.

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