

College of New Caledonia



NEWS RELEASE

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Med Rad Tech to begin September 2011

The provincial government will provide the College of New Caledonia with nearly \$2.7 million in one-time funding to establish a Medical Radiography Technology (MRT) program.

The Ministry of Advanced Education and Labour Market Development and the Ministry of Health Services have finalized an agreement with CNC for the funding of the two-year program, which will start in September 2011. The agreement will see the province provide ongoing annual operating funding totaling \$591,000 when it is fully enrolled with students.

“We are very excited to be implementing the MRT program at CNC. It will fulfill a critical need for skilled medical imaging technologists to work in hospitals as well as in support of the Northern Cancer Control Strategy and new cancer clinic in Prince George,” said CNC President John Bowman. “The new MRT program here, would not be possible without the support of our health and education system partners and the tireless effort and vision of CNC’s Vice-President, Community and Student Services Cathe Wishart and our Dean of Health Sciences, Patricia Covington.”

Bowman said the College’s partners include the provincial government (Ministries of Advanced Education, and Health Services), Northern Health, the Northern Medical Society, Interior Health and British Columbia Institute of Technology.

“Having health care professionals trained in northern B.C. is a critical component of our strategy to ensure patients can be treated as close to home as possible,” said Shirley Bond, MLA for Prince George-Valemount and Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure. “As we work toward the completion of the Northern Cancer Centre, additional training programs like this are essential.”

The one-time funding will go towards facility renovations, new equipment and start-up costs associated with the 16 seat diploma program, which will be delivered at CNC’s Prince George campus.

“CNC continues to offer students in the northern part of our province a high quality education that prepares them for successful careers,” said Moira Stilwell, Minister of Advanced Education and Labour Market Development. “This new program will also help ensure our province has the skilled medical professionals to meet the needs of residents.”

CNC will use the funding to build an MRT radiography suite, with three radiography rooms on the third floor of the Prince George campus. The college will use state-of-the-art educational and radiographic technology, including advanced online learning systems.

“It’s another first for CNC and another first for northern B.C.,” said Dr. Bert Kelly of the Northern Medical Society. “We extend our congratulations to those excellent folks at the College.”

CNC is in a provincial partnership with BCIT to expand delivery within British Columbia. CNC's program will be based on the BCIT model, which is currently being revised.

“This is a very intense program, with nearly two years of straight theory, lab and clinical placements for the students,” said Patricia Covington, Dean of Health Sciences. “The majority of clinical placements will be outside of Prince George so that our students can obtain all the learning experiences necessary to complete their training.”

Covington said potential students should check BCIT's MRT program for anticipated entry requirements to the CNC program. Additional information will be made available as soon as possible about the CNC program requirements and application timelines. Prospective students can call 250-561-5841 to get their name on CNC’s interest list.

“We already have more than 230 people on an interest list for 16 seats, so applicants should get everything together and be ready to apply,” Covington said.

Under the guidance of a medical radiologist, the medical radiographer plays a vital role in the diagnosis and treatment of many injuries and illnesses through the use of X-rays. The technologist produces X-rays in either digital or film form and the radiologist interprets them to aid in medical diagnosis.

In hospitals, medical radiographers work in the medical imaging department, the Emergency department, the operating room, and at the patient’s bedside. Career advancement opportunities in the hospital include management, mammography, interventional radiography, and clinical teaching.

There is a severe shortage of radiography technologists in northern B.C. and across the province. There is also a national shortage of technologists.

For more information and updates go to www.cnc.bc.ca

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