

# Comox Valley Record

## New NIC president shares vision with supporters

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Dr. Jan Lindsay is passionate about education and optimistic about North Island College.

The college's new president shared that optimism with college supporters during a North Island College (NIC) Foundation breakfast reception Thursday at the Old House Restaurant.

"I'm very excited to be moving here to the Courtenay area and being at North Island College," she said. "I realize this is a tremendous honour. The college means a lot to the community and the other communities it serves."

Lindsay, who began serving as the college's president Sept. 1, has worked in B.C.'s post-secondary education system since 1977 and comes to NIC from Douglas College

During the reception, she acknowledged the work of those who donate to the North Island College Foundation, which last year provided more than \$180,000 in bursaries to 280 students throughout the college region.

"It is absolutely phenomenal the type of thing you do and the support it provides to students," she said. "We're very concerned about access and have worked hard to keep our fees down, but it is still very much a struggle for students."

Lindsay shared her beliefs and her priorities for North Island College with guests.

She believes education has the power to change lives.

"I so strongly believe in education and the value of education," she said, noting she comes from a family of educators and she has worked in education all her life. "I just believe so strongly in the fact education is the most powerful thing we have in building a just society."

Lindsay also believes strongly in the mandate and design of community colleges, which were historically developed to provide access to more students, she told guests.

"We have never lost sight of our mandate of access," she said. "We have kept our classes small, kept tuition down as much as possible and done everything possible to make sure students will have that access to education."

Lindsay wants to ensure NIC serves the needs of the communities in which it is situated, that it offers education of the highest quality that is extremely relevant and that it is as innovative as possible in

terms of delivering education.

Lindsay would also like to build and enhance partnerships between NIC and the community, and she will look for opportunities for more partnerships.

"I would really like to see the college serve as the heart of the social and economic development of the region," she said.

Lindsay would also like to see North Island College expand its applied degree programs.

The College Act has changed to allow colleges to offer applied degrees in certain areas, such as nursing and business, explained Lindsay, adding many students want to be able to start and finish their education at the same institution.

Lindsay sees many areas at NIC that have a great deal of potential, including international education, construction trades and sustainable building development, the First Nations population, hospitality and tourism, health and allied health programs, and fine arts.

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