



Capilano University > Media

April 25: Capilano to become a university

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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(NORTH VANCOUVER, B.C.)—The Government of British Columbia today announced that Capilano College has been redesignated a university. The institution's new name will be Capilano University. The news comes one year after the institution began a well-supported public campaign following the release of the Campus 2020 report.

"With this announcement, the government has recognized Capilano's teaching excellence, educational innovation, and the fact that we have been granting degrees for 15 years," said Capilano's president, Dr. Greg Lee. "We would like to thank the Government of B.C., the minister of Advanced Education, and all our supporters – especially our region's five MLAs, First Nations leaders, mayors and the thousands of people who signed our petition."

Over the past 40 years, Capilano has earned an international reputation for quality teaching, programs and services. The economy of its vast region is closely intertwined with programs and activities at its three campuses. The North Shore, Howe Sound and Sunshine Coast communities also benefit from the \$20 million injected annually by Capilano's international students and from the financial spin-offs generated by student spending as a whole.

"Becoming a university will help strengthen Capilano's commitment to building upon its outstanding reputation worldwide as a provider of quality educational services," Lee said. "Today's announcement is especially good news for our students and for the economy of the communities within our region."

Capilano serves the communities of the Lower Mainland, Howe Sound, and the Sunshine Coast through campuses in North Vancouver, Squamish and Sechelt. Enrolment totals 6,700 students in credit programs each term with an additional 7,000 people taking non-credit courses annually. Capilano offers a complete range of preparatory courses, university transfer courses, business and management studies, creative and applied arts programs, health and human services programs, plus a range of services in support of student learning and success. Credentials awarded include bachelor degrees, associate degrees, post-baccalaureate diplomas, advanced diplomas, diplomas, certificates and statements of completion.

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What difference will this new designation make?

- We will be able to provide our students with many more options.
- Residents in our distinct and vast region will be able to receive a university education without leaving their home communities.
- Our already strong First Nations programs will be enhanced.
- Capilano U will continue to develop its international programs, offering students from around the world a university degree and injecting millions of dollars into the local economy.

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April 25, 2008: Province to establish Capilano University

For Immediate Release

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Office of the Premier

NORTH VANCOUVER - Capilano College will become a university, to be called Capilano University (CU), Premier Gordon Campbell and Advanced Education Minister Murray Coell announced today.

"The creation of Capilano University will mean thousands of students throughout the Howe Sound Corridor will have access to degree granting programs and be able to reach their educational goals close to home," said Premier Campbell. "Capilano University will build on its already first-rate international reputation for programs like animation, tourism, and the arts, including the largest film program in Western Canada."

Pending amendments to B.C.'s University Act, the new Capilano University will focus on the training needs of the region and build on its provincial, national and international reputation in its key areas of specialization and excellence which include its Tourism and Outdoor Recreation programs and Entertainment Arts programs.

"The consultations conducted as part of the Campus 2020 process clearly identified that British Columbians want to access university degree programs in all regions of the province." Coell said. "With a new university serving the North Vancouver-Garibaldi region, students will be able to access degree programs closer to home."

Capilano was established in 1968 and has campuses in North Vancouver, Squamish and the Sunshine Coast.

"Capilano is a teaching institution that has been meeting the education needs of our communities since we first opened our doors 40 years ago," said Capilano College president Greg Lee. "We've had a long history of degree-granting in partnership with the British Columbia Open University, and most recently in our own name, and we're looking forward to expanding opportunities for our students."

"I have long been a proponent of creating Capilano University to enhance the schools status as a destination of choice for students from all over the Lower Mainland," said Daniel Jarvis, MLA for North Vancouver-Seymour.

"Capilano College has historically demonstrated innovative teaching practices and leading edge programming; the new Capilano University will provide exciting educational opportunities for students," said Katherine Whittred, MLA for North Vancouver-Lonsdale.

"This new university will provide opportunities for specialized studies in tourism and film, which are among our greatest economic drivers," said Ralph Sultan, MLA for West Vancouver-Capilano.

"This is great news for students from across the region, this means they'll be able to get a first class university education closer to home," said Joan McIntyre, MLA for West Vancouver-Garibaldi.

More than 8,700 students enrolled in programs at Capilano College last year, including 745 international students. Since 2001, the Province has increased operating funding for Capilano by \$5.8M and invested \$3.4M in capital projects.

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