

Premier Campbell, Minister Coell, your Worships, Chiefs of the traditional territories, students, employees, and all our community friends, I am delighted that you could come to Capilano for this historic announcement.

I would like to recognize and thank the many supporters of Capilano that helped bring about this change in designation, and to thank the Premier and the Minister for their understanding and sharing of that vision. The support of all our MLAs, our mayors and chiefs and our chambers of commerce has been unwavering. The response to our community petition is humbling. Student support remains fantastic. Thank you all

Mr Premier, Minister Coell, this decision is the right one!

Capilano College is now entering its 40th year of operation, and the world has changed dramatically since that day in the fall of 1968 when 784 students began their studies in high schools and church basements across north and west Vancouver. Since 1968, by all measures, the world has become more complex. Globalization has increased the expectation and desire of students for more advanced education and the competitive environment has made such attainment an economic imperative.

In 1987, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development in recognition of the changes that had occurred, and were occurring at an increasing rate, published a paper Universities Under Scrutiny. This paper outlined the changes that would have to occur in post secondary, education, including the argument that

...advanced degrees are now expected for many middle-level positions which in the past required only a school-leaving certificate.

As a result, in 1991 Capilano College included in its strategic directions the objective of granting four year degrees in specialized areas of study - with the clear understanding that our values would remain those of an institution where teaching is paramount and that the granting of such degrees would be but one of the missions of the institution.

Capilano soon thereafter began collaborative degrees with the Open University of BC and became their largest institutional partner. By 1997, Capilano offered four degrees in this collaborative arrangement. In 2002, the province expanded degree-granting opportunities introducing the Degree Authorization Act which greatly expanded the range of institutions authorized to grant degrees. Capilano took the lead in arguing that colleges also needed to

be able to grant degrees in this new, more open, paradigm. In 2003 Capilano was the first college to offer degrees in its own name.

Why this history lesson at this time? Because it is important to understand that when the Campus 2020 report was released, almost exactly one year ago, it proposed new institutions that:

- are teaching-intensive
- serve the regions of the province with “developmental, vocational and undergraduate education”;
- are called universities “in the recognition that university status opens up opportunities for community development”;

This type of institution described Capilano, its programs and its direction that have been established over 17 years.

Our strong campaign to be included as one of these new universities was not a result of discovering this new idea, it was a result of a long held and well established direction and set of values. We will maintain those values as a teaching and learning university.

And that is why this decision is the right one!

I applaud the province for taking the initiative to establish these new, and different, teaching and learning focused universities. I am very pleased that Capilano will be among them.

As the world comes to our region in 2010, our opportunity for tourism, outdoor recreation and business programs to take advantage of this change is obvious.

Maybe not so obvious, but equally exciting, is the opportunity for our creative and performing arts programs, especially film, to make significant contributions to the local economies and the local communities.

And there are more innovative programs to come that will meet the changing demands of the region we serve.

We are excited at the possibilities. We know there is a lot of work ahead. And we can hardly wait to get going.

Our mission is to enable student success. Being known as Capilano University will help us continue to do that.

Thank you again, to everyone.