

Cap College wants to be a university

College responds to government report

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IN the wake of a government report recommending colleges be banned from offering degrees, North Vancouver's Capilano College — which boasts a substantial and growing list of degrees among its programs — may have found a tidy solution: become a university.

The report, called *Access and Excellence: The Campus 2020 Plan for British Columbia's Post-Secondary Education System*, was submitted by former attorney general Geoff Plant to the province's advanced education minister on April 23. It outlined 52 recommendations intended to improve British Columbia's post-secondary education system. Among them was a suggestion to preclude community colleges from granting degrees in order to "restore (their) primary focus."

The idea didn't sit well with Capilano College.

While many of the institution's programs involve professional certificates of one type or another, several, including business, tourism, jazz studies and music therapy, lead to degrees. Eight more degree programs are planned.

If Plant's recommendations are adopted by the province, all that would end.

"There would be a huge limitation on what's available to students, particularly in our region," said Greg Lee, president of the college. "(Our) degrees are not general arts degrees or general science degrees, they're employment focused degrees. . . . Those are things that just wouldn't be available."

Plant argued his recommendation would help the province's education system as a whole, since it would avoid overlap between different types of