

Capilano College becomes Capilano University

**Province now holds 11
universities.**

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BLACK PRESS

The B.C. government has bestowed university status on Capilano College and Emily Carr Institute of Art and Design, going beyond the university expansion recommended in a review of the province's post-secondary system completed last year.

Capilano College president Greg Lee outlined the projected impact of the re-designation: "We're quite sure it will mean greater recognition that we grant degrees ... secondly it will allow us to attract international students and faculty who want to teach."

The institution currently offers degree programs, but Lee said he expects the number of degree programs to increase. He also indicated hopes for increased enrolment as a result of the degree designation.

Lee stressed the difference between traditional and special-purpose university teaching, making the distinction between traditional universities such as UBC or SFU where "everyone in every faculty must do research" and "teaching universities" such as Capilano where "we're looking for (faculty who are) teaching people with experience."

Those faculty should have applicable real-world experience and at least master's degrees, but not necessarily PhDs.

Lee said students graduating from

degree programs at the institution before the re-designation is finalized, most likely sometime in the next school-year, will receive university degrees. Students graduating before the official re-designation will receive college degrees or diplomas.

The latest changes bring the total number of B.C. universities to 11. Last week the province's three remaining university colleges, which were already offering some four-year degree programs, were granted university status. The creation of Nanaimo-based Vancouver Island University (formerly Malaspina University College), Surrey-based Kwantlen Polytechnic University and Abbotsford-based Fraser Valley University follows the recommendation of former attorney-general Geoff Plant's Campus 2020 report to end the overlap between two-year colleges and four-year universities.

The creation of North Vancouver-based Capilano University leaves 11 community colleges around the province. The promotion for Emily Carr, a boutique art school on Vancouver's Granville Island, leaves B.C. with three institutes: B.C. Institute of Technology in Burnaby, the Justice Institute of B.C. in New Westminster and Nicola Valley Institute of Technology in Merritt.

Nicola Valley is the province's first aboriginal post-secondary facility. Started as a private college by Merritt-area native bands in 1983, it became a provincial institute in 1995 and last year opened a campus in Vancouver.

-with files from Kelly McManus