
NEWS RELEASE

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Office of the Premier

PROVINCE TO ESTABLISH CAPILANO UNIVERSITY

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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