

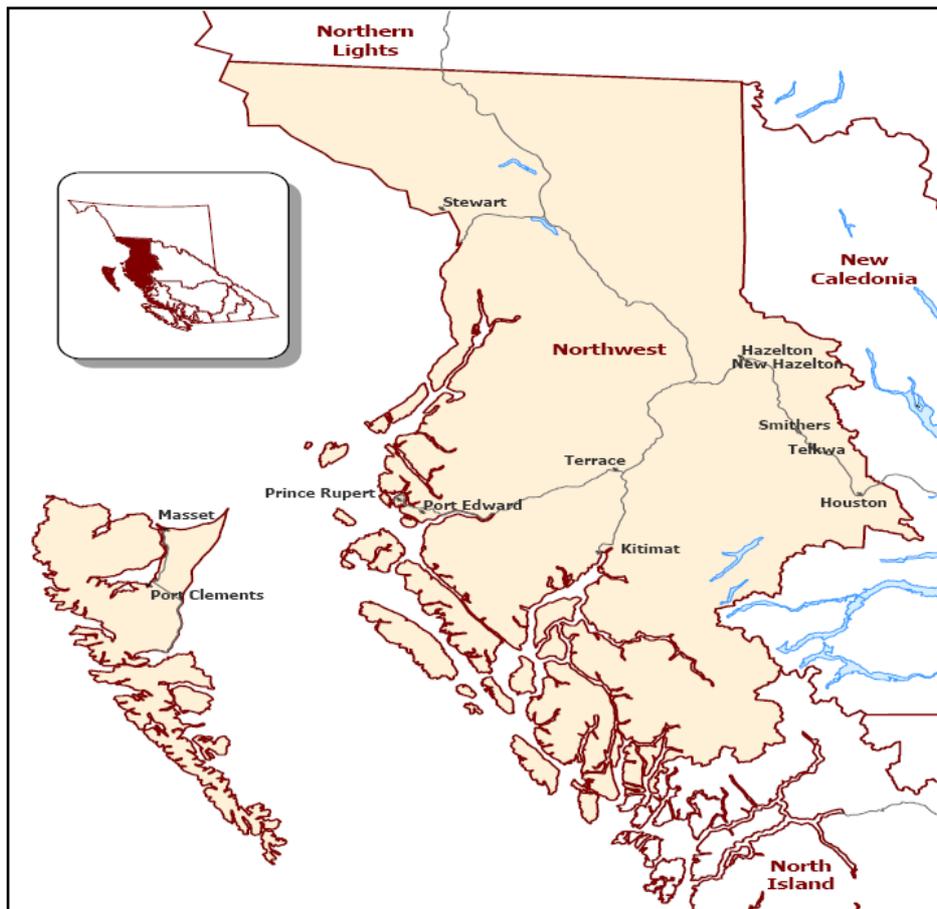
NWCC INSTITUTIONAL OVERVIEW

NWCC's region encompasses 102,247 square kilometres, is home to 72,148 people, 30%¹ to 32%² of whom are Aboriginal. It should be noted that the Aboriginal youth population (age 15 – 24) makes up 38%³ of our region. According to BC Stats 2006 census data this is by far the largest percentage of aboriginal population as percent of total population of all college regions in British Columbia. The geographic boundaries are defined by Haida Gwaii on the West, Houston on the East, Hazelton to the North, and a less defined Southern boundary about 800 km due north of Vancouver.

The geography profoundly affects travel in the region. Communities are most accessible in the summer, and travel may require floatplane, boats, and ferries or long hours of ground transportation to reach a major centre. Travel issues often prohibit students from commuting to and from communities during the winter, as travel is often hazardous and sometimes impossible.

Within the vast geographical area covered by NWCC our campus locations reflect the population densities and strive to provide educational opportunities to students where they live. Our locations campus and learning centre locations include: Hazelton, Houston, Kitimat, Kaay Lnagaay, Masset, Prince Rupert, Village of Queen Charlotte, Smithers, and Terrace.

Northwest Community College Region³



¹ http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/data/sep/col/college_12.pdf

² <http://www.snds.bc.ca/2006rural.pdf>

³ <http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/data/cen01/abor/cr06/aborcr12.pdf>

The Strategic Plan outlines a number of directives that emphasize the value and importance NWCC places on our First Nations communities and learners and acknowledges our demographic reality by setting the college on a path of indigenization. This is not to the exclusion of other populations in the northwest; rather it is an acknowledgement that our demographic make-up is what makes NWCC uniquely different from other colleges and institutes in BC and Canada. NWCC is a community college that celebrates the diversity of our northern and Aboriginal populations and we reflect this diversity in our programs, services, workforce and operational processes. We are actively engaged in this transformative journey and are well on our way to becoming a bicultural college.

The Northwest Community College region serves 27 First Nations communities representing seven First Nations in a large, remote and rugged geographic area. It further serves the Tlingit and Tahltan of the far northwest corner of British Columbia (communities in the CNC college region). Historically the hunting and gathering routes for these Nations were more north/south focused and it is easier for the Tahltan to access NWCC via Highway 37 and the ocean than it is to access NLC. As a result, many Tahltan students are attending NWCC, and the education coordinators for the Tahltan Nation are members of our First Nations Council.

First Nations within the Northwest Community College Region

Tribal Council/First Nations	Members Bands
Gitksan	1. Gitanyow
	2. Gitanmaax
	3. Gitseguekla
	4. Gitwangak
	5. Sik-E-Dak
	6. Kispiox
Wet'suwet'en	7. Hagwilget
	8. Moricetown
Tsimshian	9. Hartley Bay
	10. Kitasoo
	11. Kitkatla
	12. Kitselas
	13. Kitsumkalum
	14. Metlakatla
	15. LaxKw'alaams
Haisla	16. Kitamaat
Nisga'a	17. Gitlaxdamix
	18. Gitwinksihlkw
	19. Laxgalts'ap
	20. Gingolx
Haida	21. Old Masset
	22. Skidegate
Nisga'a Nation Urban Societies	23. Terrace
	24. Prince Rupert/Port Edward
Tahltan Nation Communities*	25. Iskut
	26. Dease Lake
	27. Telegraph Creek

*In consultation with Northern Lights College, NWCC works to address the various education and training needs of the three (3) communities of the Tahltan territory.