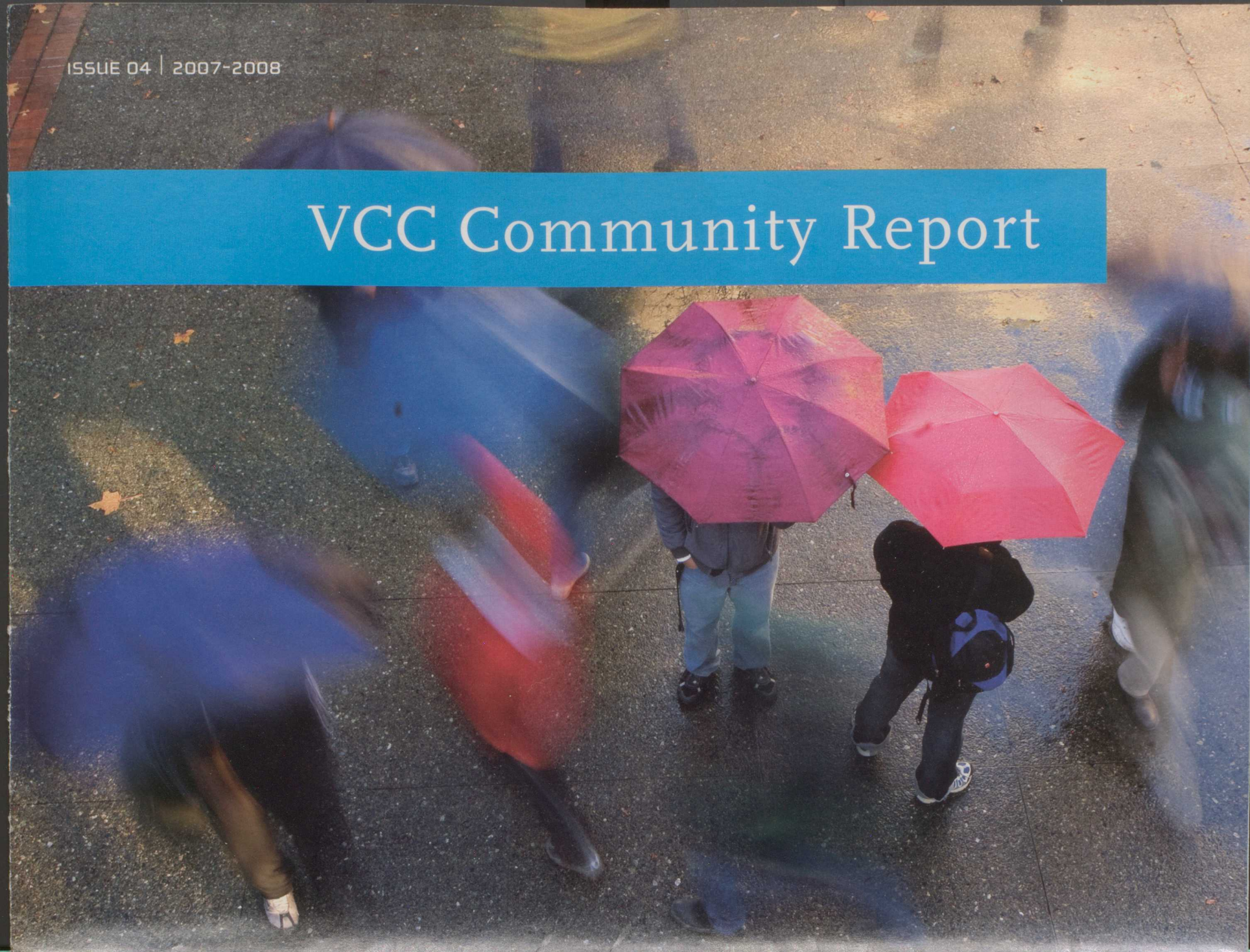


# VCC Community Report



VANCOUVER COMMUNITY COLLEGE IS  
EVERYWHERE — FROM COMMUNITY  
CLASSROOMS AND ENGINE SHOPS TO  
HOSPITALS AND CHILD CARE CENTRES.  
FOR MORE THAN 40 YEARS, WE'VE BEEN  
WORKING WHERE IT MATTERS MOST:  
IN YOUR COMMUNITY, HELPING PEOPLE  
GAIN THE SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE  
TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THE WORLD.  
TAKE A LOOK. YOU'LL SEE.



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Vancouver  
Community  
College







Mark Stock

Dale Dorn

## OUR VISION IS BOLD. OUR PLANS ARE AMBITIOUS.

Throughout its history, Vancouver Community College has had one mission: to serve its learners.

VCC understands its community, and understands the needs of its learners. This understanding, combined with strong industry and community support, ensures that VCC graduates not only succeed with entry to the workforce, but succeed in their careers.

We are proud to serve our learners, and our high graduate employment and satisfaction rates reflect that pride. We are B.C.'s No. 1 college.

This has been a year of exciting developments, both at VCC and within the post-secondary sector. We continue to add much-needed infrastructure; our Broadway campus expansion is on schedule, and our new building is expected to open in early 2009 with expanded health sciences programs.

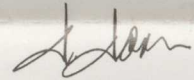
We are actively involved in policy discussions, and will work closely with the provincial government as it moves forward with analysis and planning flowing from the recent Campus 2020 report on post-secondary education in B.C. We are pleased with the government's recent move – announced at an event at VCC – making adult basic education tuition-free; this provides increased access to developmental programming.

VCC continues to adapt amid changing social and economic landscapes. We are constantly working to enhance our offerings to best serve the needs of community, students and employers, and we continue to develop distance, online and part-time programming to ensure access for all learners, regardless of their situation.

A major strategic planning initiative, started in late 2007, is an important part of defining the college's future; as we continue into 2008 we are engaging in wide-ranging consultations inside and outside the college about the kind of institution we want VCC to be in the coming years.

Our commitment to students and their success is stronger than ever. That commitment will serve us well as VCC moves into a new and exciting phase of growth and change, led by a vibrant strategic plan that prepares the college to meet the future needs of our communities, our region and our province.

  
MARK STOCK  
BOARD CHAIR

  
DALE DORN  
PRESIDENT

OUR PROGRAMS GIVE STUDENTS THE SKILLS THEY NEED TO SUCCEED IN LIFE, IN THE CLASSROOM AND AT WORK. WE'RE B.C.'S NO. 1 COLLEGE, AND WE'RE A KEY PLAYER IN HELPING SOME OF B.C.'S MOST IMPORTANT SECTORS MEET THEIR NEEDS FOR HIGHLY SKILLED STAFF; OUR GRADUATE PLACEMENT RATES ARE AMONG THE HIGHEST IN THE PROVINCE.

VCC'S DENTAL CLINIC SERVES MORE THAN 1,000 PATIENTS PER YEAR, PROVIDING LOW-COST DENTAL SERVICES TO SENIORS AND OTHERS IN NEED.

SUCCESSFUL COURSES IN FAMILY LITERACY – DRAWING MANY TIMES THE ANTICIPATED NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS – PROMPTED VCC TO EXPAND THE TRAINING INTO A FULL CERTIFICATE PROGRAM.

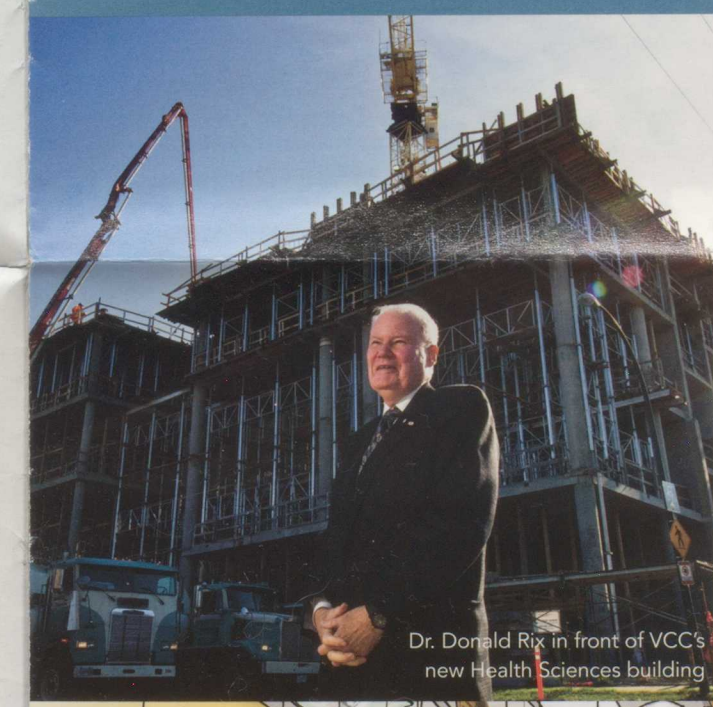
VCC'S CULINARY ARTS PROGRAM WON THE GEORGIA STRAIGHT'S 2007 BEST OF VANCOUVER AWARD AS THE CITY'S TOP COOKING SCHOOL.



## WELCOME TO VCC

Welcome to Vancouver Community College. Inside this community report you'll find out about our plans for expansion, learn about our successes and meet some of our notable faculty and graduates.

Look around and you'll see a college – B.C.'s No. 1 college – enhancing its service to students, employers and the communities it serves; beginning a much-needed facilities expansion, moving ahead with new bachelor's degrees and expanding programming to help address the province's skills shortage.



Dr. Donald Rix in front of VCC's new Health Sciences building



## NEW HEALTH SCIENCES BUILDING

### Sharing a vision, supporting students

Passersby see the comings and goings of heavy equipment, the concrete walls rising higher every month, and the swing of the construction crane. Dr. Donald Rix, though, sees something other than the construction of VCC's new School of Health Sciences building – he sees potential.

That's the promise of VCC's newest facility, which will let the college cut course waiting lists and boost enrolment in key health programs – providing well-trained graduates to support a strong B.C. health-care system.

And that's why Rix has lent his support to VCC and the college's Vision for the Future fundraising campaign; his gift of \$500,000 through the Rix Family Foundation is the largest individual donation in VCC's history.

"I've always thought that education is the key to a lot of things," he says. "It's the key to people getting good jobs, and it's the key to settling a lot of misunderstandings.

"I really see education as the key to the future of humanity. I'm a big believer in education and the things it can accomplish," says Rix, who's well-known as a businessman, philanthropist and doctor; he knows from experience that good labs and good equipment are vital to student success.

VCC's new building will have those in earnest: its seven storeys and 133,000 square feet will include roughly 36 classrooms and 24 high-tech training labs, simulated hospital wards and pharmacies to give students hands-on experience in a realistic setting.

It's expected to open for classes in January 2009 and will serve more than 1,000 full-time students in VCC's health sciences programs.

Key to the success of the college's fundraising campaign – and indeed the college's programming – is the support of sector and community leaders.

"Dr. Rix's gift is a huge endorsement of VCC's efforts to meet the training and education needs of our community," says VCC president Dale Dorn. "Highly qualified health-care professionals are in demand, and this investment in infrastructure is critical to ensure we are meeting B.C.'s health-care training needs now and into the future."

Total cost of the new facility is \$55 million: \$44 million from the provincial government and the balance from VCC and the community through the Vision for the Future fundraising campaign, which is led by leaders from B.C.'s business, health care, hospitality and transportation sectors:

### Campaign co-chairs

Julia Levy, Co-founder  
QLT Inc.

Ed Levy, Adjunct professor  
University of B.C.

### Campaign members

Gordon Barefoot, President  
Cabgor Management Inc.

Ida J. Goodreau,  
President and CEO  
Vancouver Coastal Health

Philip Barnes,  
Past Regional Vice-President  
Fairmont Hotels and Resorts

Karim Kassam, Franchise Owner  
Boston Pizza

Larry Belsito, President  
Ashling Connection Inc.

Kirk Kuester, Managing Director  
Colliers International

Jack Carthy, President  
Sound Energy

Graham MacLachlan,  
Regional President for B.C.  
RBC Financial Group

Stephen M. Darling,  
Regional Vice-President  
Shangri-La Hotels and Resorts

Bruno Marti, Chairman  
Canadian Culinary Federation

Dale Dorn, President  
Vancouver Community College

Linda Martin,  
Vice-President of Advancement  
and Education Services  
Vancouver Community College

Bob Elton, President and CEO  
B.C. Hydro

Stan Fuller, President and CEO  
Earls Restaurants Ltd.

Gottfried "Guff" Muench, President  
Cummins Western Canada

Yuri Fulmer, President and CEO  
Fulmer Development Corp.

Allan Skidmore, Co-chair and CEO  
TCG International Inc.

Rusty Goepel, Senior Vice-President  
Raymond James Ltd.

James E. Terry,  
Executive Vice-President and COO  
Rocky Mountaineer Vacations





Les Patterson

Sandy Scofield

Tony Humphries

Mérida Anderson

VCC GRADUATED ITS FIRST CLASS OF  
HOSPITALITY MANAGEMENT DEGREE STUDENTS  
IN 2007, MARKING A MILESTONE FOR THE  
COLLEGE'S FIRST BACHELOR'S PROGRAM.

FRIENDS OF VICTORY SQUARE – A COMMUNITY  
GROUP THAT INCLUDES VCC – WON A 2007 CITY  
HERITAGE AWARD FOR ITS WORK IMPROVING THE  
VICTORY SQUARE PARK DOWNTOWN.

STUDENTS FROM VCC TRADES PROGRAMS SWEEPED THE  
SKILLS CANADA B.C. COMPETITION IN 2007 AND WON  
MEDALS IN EVERY CATEGORY THEY ENTERED.

## WINNING PEOPLE & PROGRAMS

### From garden to grill – and back again

Small changes can have a big impact. That's what food services manager Les Patterson found when he looked at ways to cut waste at VCC's downtown campus – and he was so successful that his efforts won the college a major environmental award from the Recycling Council of B.C.

Take-out containers, veritable fixtures in any large cafeteria or food service operation, were his first target: he switched to a biodegradable sugar cane version and eliminated 180,000 of the plastic foam boxes from local landfills each year.

"You can grow a crop of sugar cane three to four times a year, so this is both a sustainable and renewable product," he says of the new containers.

Next to draw his attention were kitchen scraps and cuttings – roughly a garbage truck-load a week – which are now sent to International Bio Recovery in North Vancouver to be turned into fertilizer instead of ending up at the dump.

"I was interested in solutions that would offer environmental lessons for the entire college community without adding a lot of cost," says Patterson, who has several other recycling initiatives in the works at VCC.

### Nurturing new musical talent

They came. They performed. They collaborated.

Working and aspiring Aboriginal musicians from across Canada came to VCC for the province's first Aboriginal Music Lab, a high-energy gathering that featured some of the top names in the field.

Making the event successful was the mentoring from seasoned Aboriginal music-makers, notes Metis/Cree/Saulteaux artist and VCC graduate Sandy Scofield, a recent Canadian Folk Music Award-winner and two-time Juno Award nominee. "This is in line with a critical component of Aboriginal culture – the oral tradition of passing teachings and knowledge from one individual to the next."

VCC has several other initiatives with Aboriginal music in the works for the coming year – each of them expanding the college's relationships with artists and building to a planned Aboriginal music program.

Next for VCC's School of Music: helping share Aboriginal music with an international audience. VCC is working with the Four Host First Nations and the Chinese cultural community on a major presentation showcasing Aboriginal music at B.C. Canada House at the 2008 Olympics in Beijing.

### A hands-on approach to a team effort

Keep customers happy, and you'll keep them coming back. It seems like an easy equation – and a basic part of running a restaurant – but Tony Humphries knows there is more to service than smiling.

"Attentive, unobtrusive and courteous service is the key," says Humphries, whose approach to keeping customers happy won him a VCC Award for Excellence in Customer Service.

Now in his 11th year as an instructor with the college's Culinary Arts program, Humphries began his career at the age of 15 in one of Britain's top hotels, an experience he draws on in his own teaching. "I still use the hands-on approach with my students today that was so influential on me years ago," he says.

Today he oversees JJ's, the college's fine dining restaurant, where students complement their kitchen skills with experience tableside.

"I try to instill in my students that success comes through team effort," he says. "There is nothing more rewarding than getting a visit from a former student who tells me that I've had a positive influence in their life."



Top: Jewellery graduates (from left to right) Shannon Stewart, Patsy Kolesar, Melissa Hudson, Pluie Metivier in the midst of their creative work.

Above: Superstar Chef Gurj Dhalialwal's future looks bright.

## OUR GRADUATES SUCCEED

### Jewellery graduates meld into Alloyed Arts

Patsy Kolesar, Pluie Metivier, Melissa Hudson and Shannon Stewart met in class at VCC, where they bonded over metal and gems to become Alloyed Arts Studio.

Tucked away in a small workshop near an industrial strip, the four graduates from VCC's Jewellery Art and Design program enjoy a creative energy that they bring to their rings, necklaces, pins and other items.

"We are all perfectionists," says Stewart, who came to B.C. from Ontario to take the VCC program, attracted to its combination of artistic and technical training. "We support each other and give advice on pieces."

They credit their VCC classes with instilling in them the importance of collaboration. "Our instructors were tremendous – they forced us to become part of the jewellery community," she says. "It means something when you are learning from people who are still working as artists."

Together they have a focus on the future – as well as their art – and they dream of having their pieces on show at red-carpet galas; now, though, they're working on establishing themselves as serious designers. "We learned the technical skills at VCC to really grow as artists," says Metivier.

### Lights! Camera! Superstar Chef!

Add this to the possible career path for VCC Culinary Arts graduates: television cooking show host.

When finalists from across Canada tested their culinary skills, charm and charisma on the Food Network's *Superstar Chef Challenge 3* – a VCC-trained chef wowed the judges and came out on top: winner Gurj Dhalialwal showed audience rapport, a quick wit and superior technique.

"My training at VCC gave me a foot in the door with the industry – they recognize and know the reputation of the culinary program," says Dhalialwal, whose love for food began when he was a boy joining his mother and aunts in the kitchen as they cooked for his large family.

Since completing his apprenticeship training at VCC, Dhalialwal has worked at notable restaurants locally and abroad; along with bragging rights as a Superstar Chef, he's now working with the network developing his own show.



National accolades for one of its graduates are just part of the recognition the Culinary Arts program has received this year: VCC was named the top cooking school in the city in the Georgia Straight's annual Best of Vancouver awards.

### Fashion designer takes off with PaperBird

From her cousin's basement to her own studio in Gastown – Mérida Anderson started with rough sketches in the TV room and now has her own clothing label that's sold in stores across the country.

Her first piece of fashion wear – a top, when she was in high school – was drawn with the materials at hand. "We used a scrap piece of newspaper and a Crayola marker to draw a rough shape. I loved it.

"Since then I've made everything I wear," says Anderson, who started her own company, PaperBird, right after she finished VCC's Fashion Arts program.

Now she designs for customers who have an eye for the distinctive – and the sustainable: her designs in organic hemp, silk and bamboo are found in stores in Vancouver, Edmonton, Calgary and Toronto.

At VCC Anderson found the program challenging, but essential to the skills she uses today – giving her the artistic and technical know-how to go from a sketched design to finished garment; she enjoyed the teaching style as well. "The program was really accessible," she says.





Silvana Carr and Wayne Robertson

## CONNECTED WITH INDUSTRY AND COMMUNITY

### Online tool helps immigrants navigate legal terms

It's the culmination of five years of work for VCC's interpreter training program – and promises to foster dramatically greater understanding of the courts among B.C.'s immigrant communities.

It's Canada's first online multilingual legal glossary (legalglossary.ca) – free, fast and with 5,000 legal terms from the common to the highly technical, featuring definitions in plain English and their translations in six languages: Chinese, Farsi, Punjabi, Russian, Spanish and Vietnamese.

"Response to the glossary has been extremely positive, including requests for its expansion," says Silvana Carr, the coordinator of VCC's interpreter training programs.

Work on the project was supported by \$375,000 from the Law Foundation of B.C. under the leadership of executive director Wayne Robertson; additional assistance came from the Law Courts Education Society and the Notary Foundation of B.C.

"Legal terminology online breaks new ground in public legal education," says B.C. Attorney General Wally Oppal, a longtime supporter, who helped launch the glossary at a major special event. "It's an innovative approach to improving access to justice among the multicultural community."

Further Law Foundation support of \$225,000 is making it possible to expand the glossary with new translations to include terms from immigration and family law.



Fernando Villagran

### VCC grad delivers global sports events

Fernando Villagran has coordinated the smooth delivery of everything from the Gretzky family luggage to thousands of bottles of water at the Winter Olympics in Torino, Italy.

His work – and his career – is on the move, as it were, just three years after graduating from VCC's Transportation Logistics program.

He's a key member of the global sports events team for Schenker Canada, the official supplier of freight forwarding and customs clearance for the Torino Winter Games and the upcoming Beijing Summer Games. It's a job where he needs to deliver – and to do that he relies on the skills he learned at VCC.

"When you work for one of the largest freight forwarding companies in the world, and it's your job to get goods to the Olympics – 'Games day' is a pretty big concept, and making a mistake is simply not an option," he says.

As one of just 10 employees across Canada considered to represent Schenker at the last Games, Villagran was thrilled to get the nod for the Italian job.

"I haven't looked back," he says. "I have the best job in the world, providing a service I really feel good about – who could ask for more?"



Linda Rider

## INNOVATION AND EXCELLENCE

### Practical education meets community need

More than 1,000 patients a year, and counting: VCC's downtown campus dental clinic is closely connected to the community, where seniors, people with disabilities and families – all of them without dental coverage – find the preventative dental care and denture services they need at minimal cost.

VCC's fully equipped clinic has been a fixture at the campus for more than 40 years, offering a valuable opportunity for dental students to have the hands-on practice that's so important to their education and training.

Students in the certified dental assisting program turn their skills mostly to young patients – ages four to 21 – providing home care education, polishing, fluoride treatment and x-rays; dental hygiene students work mostly with adults and complement treatments with more comprehensive diagnoses and root and gum treatments.

"We're extremely proud of the service we're able to offer the community," says Pat Bawtinheimer, dean of VCC's School of Health Sciences.

### Literacy at the survival level

Think of it as outreach at the farthest edge. VCC's literacy program at the First United Church on Vancouver's Downtown Eastside brings the college's programming to the local community, where the East Hastings church is a lifeline to otherwise inaccessible but much-needed services.

"In our society, literacy is an essential tool to survival and to feelings of self-worth," says the church's reverend, Ric Matthews. "Being able to learn in safe company with others provides the comfort that allows the development of community."

VCC knows well the needs of diverse student populations; as a national leader in literacy programming, the college and its skilled faculty – such as veteran instructor Linda Rider – are expert in providing the welcoming environment that addresses the educational, physical, mental, emotional and spiritual dimensions for these learners.

Classes at the church are the only way many of the local residents would ever come to school, as most of them don't have the comfort level to leave the familiarity of their surroundings; the program was nominated for a 2007 excellence award from the Association of Canadian Community Colleges.

### VCC expertise meets growing overseas need

VCC International continues to forge new partnerships with overseas post-secondary institutions, and this past year reached an agreement to deliver the college's Hospitality Operations training at the Dalian Maple Leaf Institute of Technology in Dalian, China.

"It was a natural choice to connect our expertise in hospitality training with a growing need overseas," says Donna Hooker, director of VCC International, noting VCC's strong reputation in that field.

VCC's program will be delivered in Mandarin, and is aimed at preparing graduates to meet the growing demand for hospitality workers in China. VCC will play an important role in ensuring the offering delivers the high academic and instruction standards of VCC programs.

Sharing VCC programming in Asia is just a natural extension of the college's long-standing excellence in hospitality training here in Canada, notes Jonathan Rouse, dean of VCC's School of Hospitality.

Students at the Dalian institute begin their VCC hospitality studies after the 2008 Chinese New Year.

NOTARY FOUNDATION OF B.C. DONATED  
\$30,000 FOR A SCHOLARSHIP AND BURSARY  
SUPPORTING FULL-TIME STUDENTS IN VCC'S LEGAL  
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT PROGRAM.

CHILDREN FROM BURNABY'S EDMONDS COMMUNITY  
SCHOOL RECEIVED A FREE DENTAL CHECK-UP AND ORAL  
HEALTH EDUCATION AFTER A TRIP TO VCC ABOARD A  
REPLICA TURN-OF-THE-CENTURY TROLLEY.

VCC STUDENTS ENJOY A 12 PER CENT ANNUAL RETURN ON  
THEIR INVESTMENT IN A VCC EDUCATION, SAYS RECENT  
RESEARCH ON THE ECONOMIC BENEFITS OF B.C. COLLEGES.



#### VCC GRADUATE STATS



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#### CALLING ALL ALUMNI

VCC alumni: get in touch.

If you attended VCC over the years, we want to hear from you for our alumni relations program, which helps graduates and former students stay in touch with the college and each other.

VCC's alumni program includes events, networking opportunities, newsletters and the Alumni Award of Distinction, where former VCC students are recognized for success and community involvement.

Graduates and former students can sign up with VCC's alumni program through the 'Contact' page at [vcc.ca/alumni](http://vcc.ca/alumni), by e-mailing [alumni@vcc.ca](mailto:alumni@vcc.ca) or by calling 604.871.7067.



# WWW.VCC.CA

#### FIND OUT MORE ABOUT VCC ONLINE

Visit us at [www.vcc.ca](http://www.vcc.ca) to learn more about VCC, its programs, its faculty and its successes. See our program calendar online for the latest details on program content, admission requirements and more.

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