

**NANAIMO LADYSMITH PUBLIC SCHOOLS
STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS COMMITTEE
PUBLIC MEETING
INFORMATION SHEET**

DATE: February 11, 2026
TO: Strategic Directions Committee
FROM: Brett Hancock, Director of Instruction, Priority Populations
SUBJECT: Career Technical Centre (CTC) Update

Background

The Career Technical Centre (CTC) includes a staff of four: one clerical staff member, a VIU coordinator, a Trades Trailer instructor/Work in Trades coordinator, and the principal. A temporary employee is currently supporting Work Experience for trades students.

CTC offers and manages all Dual Credit programming in our district, including Youth Train in Trades (14 trades). Partners include VIU, BCIT, Camosun, and Quadrant Marine.

Certificate Programs (7)

- Health Care Assistant
- Office Administration
- Education Assistant
- Early Childhood Education
- Business
- Recreation
- Information Technology

Dual Credit Enrichment

Single university courses students may apply toward a certificate, diploma, or degree.

Additional CTC Programs

- Career exploration programming
- Work in Trades (apprenticeship)
- Work Experience
- Trade Sampler

Participation

CTC currently supports:

- 80+ students in Trades
- 13 in Certificate programs
- 52 in Trade Sampler (with 13 seats reserved for Indigenous students and 13 for women)
- 35+ in Work in Trades
- 100+ in Work Experience
- Students completing approximately 175 individual Dual Credit Enrichment courses

Most students attend on-campus programming, with some participating online. CTC reserves seats for Indigenous students across all trade and certificate pathways.

Discussion

CTC supports students in transitioning from high school into meaningful career pathways. A key goal of CTC programming is helping students discover their purpose. Students who feel a sense of purpose demonstrate greater engagement, direction, and improved well-being.

CTC presents its program options annually to all Grade 9–11 students across the district, with ongoing communication to students and families to ensure programs align with individual interests, goals, and readiness. The application process is tailored by grade level:

- Grade 9 and 10 applicants review an informational video outlining program expectations and opportunities.
- Grade 11 applicants and their families attend a live information session to support informed decision-making.
- Applicants to Trades and Certificate programs participate in a 20-minute in-person interview, with questions provided in advance to support preparation.

Admission decisions focus on student readiness, maturity, and consistent attendance. Seats are intentionally reserved for Indigenous students and for women pursuing opportunities in the trades, reflecting CTC's commitment to equitable access and participation.

The Trade Sampler program is exploratory and operates on a first-come, first-served basis. Students who have been disengaged at their catchment school often thrive in this environment, developing perseverance, confidence, and a renewed sense of purpose. These skills support both graduation and next steps beyond high school.

The Dual Credit Enrichment program allows students to take up to four university-level courses. A key outcome is learning how to navigate post-secondary systems. No interview is required for entry. CTC also coordinates one-day exploratory opportunities, allowing students to visit VIU, local mills, women's first responder programs, the armed forces, the Canadian Navy, health care settings, BC Ferries, and more.

Next Steps

CTC continues to respond to student interests by developing new opportunities each year. The school is expanding individualized work experience placements for students exploring specific fields such as animal health and architecture. In collaboration with catchment schools, CTC also offers blended schedules that allow students to divide their time between school and work; this flexible model has increased engagement for many students who struggle within traditional classroom settings. In addition, CTC is exploring the development of new certificate pathways in Business, Recreation, and Graphic Design.

CTC is also launching a "Pathways to Work" pilot program for diverse learners, designed to build employability skills and connect graduates with Community Living BC. In partnership with SD69 (Qualicum) and VIU, fourteen NLPS students will attend VIU every Friday from February 6 to June 2026, studying areas such as automotive, culinary arts, and baking. Students will also participate in work experience placements that may lead to paid employment during the summer or after graduation. The initiative is supported through grants, community donations, and school-based contributions, and early planning is underway to explore a similar model for newcomer students, pending the results of this pilot.