

January 16th, 2026

Jason Dewling
President and Vice-Chancellor in-waiting (effective March 2nd, 2026)
Capilano University
2055 Purcell Way
North Vancouver, British Columbia
V7J 3H5

Hello Jason,

On behalf of the Colleges and Institutes Canada (CICan) team and myself, I would like to congratulate you on your recent appointment as President and Vice-Chancellor of Capilano University (effective this March) and welcome you to the CICan community!

CICan represents Canada's publicly supported colleges, institutes, CEGEPs, and polytechnics, working to strengthen the sector and amplify its impact nationally and internationally. Guided by our [Roadmap to 2026](#), we have advanced strategic priorities that reflect extensive engagement with our members, partners, and Board. At the upcoming [CICan Connexions Conference](#) in Ottawa, April 21–23, under the theme Building a Strong and Secure Canada, we will unveil new directions to shape the future of our sector. This premier event brings together college leaders to collaborate, forge partnerships, and develop Canadian-made solutions for learners, businesses, and communities. We hope you and your team will join us in Ottawa soon!

To support our advocacy and policy work, I collaborate closely with leaders of regional and provincial associations, representing colleges and institutes, including Greg Stone at BC Colleges, through regular virtual and in-person meetings. This coordination is critical as we navigate current challenges and engage with the federal government to address economic priorities and build a more resilient Canada.

We also prioritize convening college leaders through initiatives such as our Futures Forum and Presidents Circles. In 2025, our inaugural Leaders' Summit gathered 130 presidents and VPs to explore Canada's key challenges, government priorities, and opportunities in postsecondary education. These conversations inspired the launch of the [College Defence Training and Innovation Network](#), showcasing the sector's role in workforce development and innovation for the defence industry. The [Presidents Circles](#), hosted by me, offer peer-to-peer dialogue on pressing issues and actionable insights for leadership growth. Following each call, I send out a report on key takeaways to share with your executive team. This month, on Thursday, January 22 at 1 pm EDT, we'll look at priority topics for the coming season of the Presidents Circle and what's on your leader's mind.

I very much look forward to meeting you for an onboarding chat on your priorities and how CICan can support you. A member of my team will be in touch to set up a conversation in the coming weeks along with our Director of Member Relations, Joëlle Deschambault.

Please also note that Lisa Domae, President and CEO, North Island College, Ajay Patel, President and CEO, Vancouver Community College and Maggie Matear, President and CEO, Selkirk College are members of the CICan Board of Directors. They are copied on this letter.

Congratulations once again on your new role and looking forward to connecting very soon.

Sincerely,



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Pari Johnston
President and CEO

c.c. Lisa Domae, President and CEO, North Island College
Ajay Patel, President and CEO, Vancouver Community College
Maggie Matear, President and CEO, Selkirk College