

For Immediate Release – **August 20, 2015**  
**Merritt, BC**

## **ADULT BASIC EDUCATION REMAINS FREE AT NVIT**

This September, most post-secondary institutions will begin charging those who have graduated high school tuition to upgrade their courses as a result of funding cuts from the provincial government. The Nicola Valley Institute of Technology, however, recognizes the importance of removing barriers to adult basic education and has committed to keep these courses tuition-free.

"Bridging the gap for those who require developmental level - inclusive of literacy and numeracy - programing to access post-secondary level studies remains a constant priority for the institute," said NVIT President Ken Tourand.

Before January 1, 2015, the provincial government covered the cost of basic upgrading courses for adults, including English as a Second Language (ESL) education.

The [restructured funding](#) means schools now have to charge tuition for – or find another way to cover the cost of – this education. Most schools are waiting until this September to pass on tuition costs to students.

Adult basic education provides learners with courses required to complete their BC Adult Graduation diploma, or fulfill prerequisites for entry into their desired post-secondary program. High-school level education will still be free throughout the province for anyone without a diploma.

As the home of Aboriginal public post-secondary education in B.C., NVIT's student body represents over 70 per cent of the Aboriginal communities across the province. NVIT invites students from around the country to further themselves with over 300 courses and programs ranging from trades training to Bachelor of Social Work. With campuses in Merritt and Vancouver, online courses and community-based deliveries throughout Canada, NVIT serves approximately 1,400 students annually. NVIT also has some of the lowest tuition fees in B.C. and minimal 'other fees' proving to be an affordable choice for a quality post-secondary education.

For information on Nicola Valley Institute of Technology services and programs visit [www.nvit.ca](http://www.nvit.ca) call 1-250-378-3300 or 1-877-682-3300 or visit the campus at 4155 Belshaw Street in Merritt.

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