

## **VIDEO TRANSCRIPT**

**TO:** NSCC COMMUNITY (STUDENTS AND EMPLOYEES)

**FROM:** DON BUREAUX, NSCC PRESIDENT

**DATE:** THURSDAY, APRIL 9, 2020

Hi, everyone.

Typically, at this time of any other year we'd be looking forward to a long weekend. An opportunity to spend time with friends and family. Perhaps to go outside and enjoy this wonderful province. But we know this is not a typical year. And this weekend, like everything else right now, will feel a little bit different.

It's in that context that I want to take a moment to do two things. First, I want to observe where we are as a learning community. And second, I want to celebrate some of the inspiring actions that we're seeing in these troubling times.

In terms of learning, our winter students have resumed their courses remotely. And we are doing everything we can to support that transition from in-person classes to distance learning.

And again, to our students, we so appreciate your resiliency.

We know access to technology can be a barrier to distance learning and if you're experiencing this as a student, we ask that you please raise it with your faculty member because we have a number of options available that may help.

Our NSCC Foundation is at work with our donors to expand our Urgent Aid program. So, if you find yourself suddenly struggling financially and if that's becoming a barrier to learning, we ask that you reach out to your student advisor.

I'm really pleased to announce that a new course has been added to Brightspace for employees and for students. This course is entitled 'Wellness and Change Through Uncertain Times,' and it includes helpful tools and strategies for all of us to use as we navigate these choppy waters.

I know there are some important details still being worked out on a class-by-class basis and I want to thank our incredible academic team for their continuing work. Their work in adjusting the programming always has the students' best interest and safety top of mind.

Now, let's take a moment and celebrate some of the other great things that are happening. Amid all of this uncertainty, our students and our alumni are showing the world what it means to be caring, to be courageous, and to be community minded.

For example, Joan. Joan is one of our amazing culinary arts students who was moved to action after hearing that truckers were having difficulty accessing meals on the road. She worked with

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her husband and her faculty member to come up with a plan. And since then she has provided on average, 150 meals per day to drivers at a local trucking firm.

And then there's Lacey. Lacey works in our Achieve program and her incredible message of hope stomped in the snow went viral and caught the attention of The Weather Network who shared her message nationally.

And finally, I want to give a big shout out to some of our creative alum. Carla Bezanson and Kristen Wells. They've created an online service called 'Covers for Comfort,' and this is really, really awesome. With this service, anyone can request a song and then local musicians put up their hands to perform a cover dedicated to a loved one, a friend, or a colleague who needs a lift.

Folks, that's just a small sampling of the ways members of our NSCC community have responded to this crisis. By sharing their skills, by sharing their heart, and by sharing their compassion to help us all through this crisis.

As we head into this long weekend, my ask is that we please take a moment to reflect on what's right with the world. To seek and celebrate what's good.

And finally, please stay safe, please stay connected, and please stay informed.

Because together, we will get through this. Thank you.