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# ACE-WIL Town Hall: COWIL Panel Discussion – Insights on Three Work-Integrated Learning Initiatives from Northern and Interior B.C.

Hosted by BCcampus

## Facilitators:

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**Association for  
Co-operative Education  
and Work-Integrated  
Learning BC/Yukon**



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# Land Acknowledgement

# Agenda

- Welcome – Worst job ever chit chat in breakouts
- COWIL Initiative Updates – Brian Train
- Panel – COWIL Initiative Projects in the Interior and North
- Follow-up on spring PD on Sustainable Development Goals in WIL
- ACE-WIL Updates & Wrap-up



# Breakout rooms (4 people each)

Introduce yourself to your partner then share:

**What's the worst job you've ever had? Why?**



# Update on the Co-op and Work Integrated Learning Initiative – Brian Train

- Phase 1 final report and accompanying dashboard is now complete
  - Report provides a good summary of the outcomes of the initiative, highlights several institutions and projects specifically, outlines the number of placements and provides a guide to resources
  - Plan is to send it out from the Ministry to Vice Presidents Academic first, then promote through ACE-WIL
- Phase 2 is well underway, most projects are to be completed by August 2022 with all complete by December 2022

# Panel — Insights on Three Work-Integrated Learning Initiatives from Northern and Interior B.C.

- **Panelists:**

- Margaret Hohner: Implementation of Co-op and Enhancement of WIL Opportunities at NVIT
- Melissa Fournier: Northern WIL Hub
- Jessi Guercio: Tri-University Interior and Northern WIL Hub and Outreach Strategy

# Implementation of Co-op and Enhancement of WIL Opportunities at NVIT



Margaret Hohner, Nicola Valley Institute of Technology



Goals	Challenges	Accomplishments
Continue partnership with Merritt Chamber of Commerce	Lack of capacity; Chamber Coordinator recruitment & ongoing funding a challenge	Excellent working relationship with the Chamber plus a position on the Board; closer relationship with City of Merritt & NGO's
Build awareness in of NVIT & WIL in the community	Despite outreach, Co-op and WIL are difficult to "sell". Lack of capacity reduces ability to mentor.	Direct contact made with over 300 local businesses multiple times. Permanent assets created through collaborative partnerships.
Support employers in hiring WIL students and accessing wage subsidies	Businesses unable to access wage subsidies: missed deadlines, waitlists, unpredictable funding	39 businesses accepted one or more students 31 businesses were Indigenous owned
Target 50+ WIL placements for NVIT students (80+ Indigenous)	Student Recruitment; Student challenges	Placed 100% of students resulting in 63 Co-op/WIL experiences-51 Indigenous
Support new forms of WIL at NVIT	COVID – International Practicum, hindered participation student & partners	Helped facilitate two nursing students to complete their practical experience in Uganda

# Northern Work Integrated Learning Hub

**Melissa Fournier, College of New Caledonia**

- Ongoing partnership between Coast Mountain College and College of New Caledonia
- Raise awareness of the benefits of WIL among local employers and communities
- Support employers to provide information for funding resources
- Target 100+ WIL opportunities
- Supporting faculty through WIL processes





# Tri-University Interior and Northern WIL (INWIL) Hub and Outreach Strategy

**Jessi Guercio, Thompson Rivers University**

- Partnership between UBC Okanagan, University of Northern British Columbia and Thompson Rivers University
- Support employers in Interior and Northern Communities to hire students for 130 WIL placements
- Target to recruit 250 new employers and 20% of new WIL placements in rural and Indigenous communities



# Spring PD Follow-up: Sustainable Development Goals in WIL

**United Nations Sustainable Development Goals in WIL and Career Curricula page on the Resource Hub:**

<https://acewilbc.ca/resource-packs/united-nations-sustainable-development-goals-un-sdgs-in-wil-and-career-curricula/>

**We are looking for additional resources!**

Please contact Meg Thompson (Chair, PD Committee) at [megt@uvic.ca](mailto:megt@uvic.ca) if you have additional resources that showcase initiatives, programs and experiences that contribute to the UN SDGs.



# ACE-WIL Updates

## Annual Conference – 2023

### Looking for Co-Chairs & Committee Members:

- Program Committee
- Sponsorship Committee
- Communications Committee
- Social Committee
- Venue/Logistics Committee
- Registration Committee
- Finance Committee & Conference Financial Officer

Interested? [Contact: Stephanie Greaves <stephanie\\_greaves@sfu.ca>](mailto:stephanie_greaves@sfu.ca)





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**Thank you everyone!**



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