

# McNair Secondary February 2018 Newsletter

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February 2018

*Home of the Marlins and a great place to learn... since 1974.*

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## Principal's Message:

Semester Two is now well underway and students are settled into their new courses. Spring Break is coming up, and the school will be closed from **March 16-April 2** and we will re-open on Tuesday, April 3. If going away, enjoy and create some memories. If staying local, be sure to reconnect with your family and friends and take in all this province has to offer.

Highlights of the past month include the conclusion of our Basketball seasons, and all teams need to be commended for their efforts, improvements and great sportsmanship. The teams represented themselves and our school very well. Special thanks to all the coaches and sponsors who gave so much time to make these important events happen. Grade 12's are getting ready for the conclusion of their high-school lives, and they are eagerly anticipating all that is on the horizon. Please be sure to sign up and pay for Valedictory, The Dinner/Dance, Dry After Grad and give us the information we need for your Grad Gown Size and Grad comment. This can be done online-please check the McNair website.

Our incoming Marlins are also in the school soon, playing in the very exciting **McNair Invitational Grade 7 Basketball tournament March 12 and 13**. The teams are always excited to be here, our Athletic Council and Mr. Dhaliwal organize the event, and everything should be very exciting. Come out and support your old Elementary School.

We have also spent the last couple of weeks doing Program Planning for 2018-19 with all our returning students. It is very important that students complete the course selection paper and enter their choices online via the school website. Once that has been done, return the form to your Counsellor. Remember, it is very important that you choose courses carefully, since we build the timetable for next year based on what you tell us you want. It is very difficult to change your mind next year, so choose wisely.

Also coming up before Spring Break is the Theatre program's production of **II Campiello**. As always, the entire school community is very excited about the upcoming performances, and the cast and crew are busy getting ready for the show that runs from **March 5-9**. The entire cast and crew deserve kudos for the quality of the show the set and the energy and enthusiasm they are sure to bring to the performances. Thanks also must go out to **Mr. Soriano and Mrs. Watts** for all they do to make the show a success and inspire the actors and crew to such outstanding performances. Be sure to get your tickets! ---Mr. Jason Leslie

## Important Dates:

Mar 5-9	Spring Production of <i>Il Campiello</i> (or the Nasty Neighbours)
Mar 7	Collaboration Day (late start 9:50am)
Mar 8	Flex Day
Mar 8	Interim Report sent home
Mar 11	Daylight Savings (Clocks Spring forward)
Mar 12-13	Elementary School BB Tournament
Mar 13	PAC Meeting (7:00pm)
Mar 15	Flex Day
Mar 16-29	Spring Break (school closed)
Mar 30	Good Friday (school closed)
Apr 2	Easter Monday (school closed)
Apr 3	School re-opens
Apr 4	Collaboration Day (late start 9:50am)

## Flex Time in Semester Two:

In Second Semester, McNair introduced **Flex Time**. **Every Thursday, students now have a block of 40 minutes to see the teacher of their choice and get some assistance or do some catch up work.** This opportunity is designed to give students some ownership of their learning and get help in courses they may be struggling with. It allows students who have busy lives outside of school hours (work and/or extra-curricular commitments) or who take the bus to Hamilton to see teachers who can help them feel more confident and ready for upcoming exams and assignments. This instructional time is not to be used for hallway wandering or wasting of time. **ALL students are supposed to be in a learning space, working with classmates and/or teachers in pursuing their education and in the first three sessions students have used the time very effectively.** Attendance has been taken, and McNair will continue testing it for the rest of the school year to see if it helps students become more successful. If not used properly, we will not continue with it next year. For more information, please see our website. If you have any questions about the program, please contact the school. <http://mcnair.sd38.bc.ca/news/2017/12/14/flex-time>



## Program Planning:



Matthew McNair counsellors have visited all Grades 8-11 classes in B block over the past few weeks and all students got Programming Information and received a personalized course selection form. They learned about options for courses, changing graduation requirements and post-secondary prerequisites and were prepared for choosing their courses for next year. Our timetable and staffing for 2018-2019 is determined based on student enrollment and course requests, so students must select carefully, taking into consideration their summer school and online learning plans. It is difficult to make course changes later in the process. Grades 8-11 students will have an opportunity to check and confirm that their course selections are accurate later in the spring. Students and parents are encouraged to read the online course descriptions, discuss options with their classmates and current teachers and choose courses thoughtfully. Please read the 2018-2019 McNair course descriptions online at: <http://mcnair.sd38.bc.ca/school-information/program-planning-2018-2019> and be sure to get your completed course selection form signed by parents submitted to your Counsellor

when your class is brought into the computer lab and library to enter your courses. If you have any questions about the course selection process, contact your counsellor.

## **Transfers: (Important Notice from The District)**



Richmond students wishing to transfer to a non- catchment school must apply by filling out an RSB-SA23 Transfer Application form. Non-Richmond residents must complete an SA-73 TA form and both forms are available in every school office in Richmond. The form must be initialed by the catchment school, and then submitted to the requested school beginning **Thursday, January 11, 2018**. The final deadline for school transfer applications to be submitted to the office of the “requested school” was 4 p.m. on **Friday, February 2, 2018**. Please note that out-of-catchment students applying for the IB program must also complete the school transfer form. Applications received at the requested school by February 2 may be approved to attend, based on the criteria established by the Richmond School District (published on the form). Parents/legal guardians will be informed of the status of the transfer application at a date to be determined by the district. If parents wish to appeal a transfer denial, they can do so in writing. All transfer appeals must be submitted to the Office of the Superintendent of Schools. Transfer students wishing to play athletics must also complete the RSB Eligibility Form and attach it to their Transfer form. It is important to note that students who reside in Richmond and are currently attending Richmond Secondary School on a previous transfer do not need to reapply each year. **For more information on school transfers, contact the Richmond School District.**

**\*\*The district continues to work through enrolment, transfer, and staffing considerations for the 2018/2019 school year. No decisions on 2018/2019 placements or transfer rules have been made, and we thank you for your patience at this time.**

## **Grade 7 Basketball Tournament:**

Students from our neighborhood Elementary schools will be coming to McNair on **March 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>** to participate in our annual **Marlins Invitational Grade 7 Basketball Tournament**. It is always an exciting event, and we look forward to working with our next group of McNair athletes. The tournament is a fantastic introduction to the school for the athletes, who love playing on our big floor. It is also a great time for the Elementary school graduates to see old teachers and friends. We look forward to a great tournament and hope many of you come to cheer on the teams from schools you attended. There will be teams there from **Hamilton, Walter Lee, Kingswood, Woodward and Thomas Kidd**. The Girls teams will play on March 12<sup>th</sup> and the Boys will compete on March 13<sup>th</sup>.



## **Graduation Numeracy Assessment:**

The Ministry of Education has eliminated Provincial Exams in English 10, Math 10, Science 10, Social Studies 11 and, after 2019, English 12. There are two new provincial assessments that all students will be required to write – the **GRADUATION**

**NUMERACY ASSESSMENT (GNA) and the GRADUATION LITERACY ASSESSEMENT (GLA).** All McNair students in Grade 11 will write the GNA exam this June 2018. Numeracy is the willingness and perseverance to interpret and apply mathematical understanding to solve problems in contextualized situations, and to analyze and communicate these solutions in ways relevant to the given context. The new Numeracy Assessment is not a typical “*math test*.” It will include 24 common questions and a student choice section (answer 2 of 4). The questions will be context placed problems that students will read, think about and then write a solution. The GNA measures 5 numeracy processes, including students’ abilities to ***INTERPRET, APPLY, SOLVE, ANALYZE and COMMUNICATE*** solutions. The GNA be not be attached to any course, but reported separately on each student’s official Transcript using a 4-point scale –

1. Emerging
2. Developing
3. Proficient
4. Extending

Students can score a 0 for not attempting to answer questions and must score at least 1 to graduate. Students will be allowed to rewrite the GNA two times over their high school years (3 total attempts). Students can “practice” the exam online now. For more information, parents are encouraged to read the information contained in the link here: [https://curriculum.gov.bc.ca/sites/curriculum.gov.bc.ca/files/pdf/Graduation\\_Numeracy\\_Brochure.pdf](https://curriculum.gov.bc.ca/sites/curriculum.gov.bc.ca/files/pdf/Graduation_Numeracy_Brochure.pdf)

### **Pink Shirt Day:**

McNair students and staff are encouraged to **wear pink on February 28<sup>th</sup>** and join thousands across B.C. in a symbolic celebration of inclusion. Originally started in 2007 in Nova Scotia by two students after hearing that a younger schoolmate was picked on for wearing a pink polo shirt. They purchased 50 pink shirts at a local discount store and spread the word online, hoping for a “**sea of pink**” and the response at school the next day was overwhelming. The awareness movement has grown in popularity and in 2012 the U.N. declared a day in May as “**Anti-Bullying Day**”. McNair Secondary School students are **always** encouraged to act with **kindness, care and respect** in their everyday interactions with all people and we hope the school will be a sea of pink on February 28<sup>th</sup> to show our support for this important ideal.



## McNair Idol:

Congratulations go out to all the courageous and talented performers who competed in February to be McNair's representative in **RichCity Idol**. The McNair competitors were all extremely gifted performers and the choice for winner was a difficult one. We want to wish good luck to McNair's Idol, **Grade 8 student Teilani Rasmussen** and wish her all the best as she has advanced to **RichCity Idol** in March. Good luck!



## Math Contests:

Congratulations go out to all of the McNair students who participated in the Math contests that were written on **February 27<sup>th</sup>**. McNair students traditionally do extremely well in these contests, having been the top-ranked school in Richmond and Delta for the past several years. Contests included the **Pascal, Cayley and Fermat** National Contests. We had a large contingent of participants, and wish them good luck. We are now awaiting contest results and will let you know how our competitors did!



## Education Week:

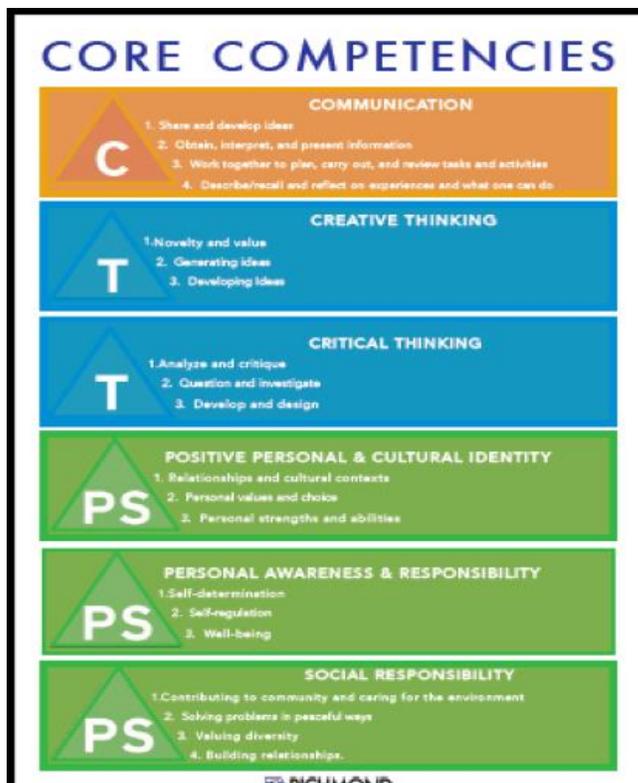
Every year Richmond School District No. 38 celebrates the diversity and excellence of public schools in Richmond at "**Education Week**". From **February 25 to March 3**, parents and all members of our community are welcome to attend a variety of public events and showcases. Numerous sponsors support this event and contribute to a feeling of inclusiveness that is vital to this celebration. It is through these partnerships that a true sense of community and civic pride in the City of Richmond can be shared. We hope that you attend a few of the events and take part in the excitement. Education Week is an opportunity to meet elected Richmond School Trustees, district teachers and administrators and see student learning in action. It is truly a celebration of public education! To see the schedule and find out more, check out:

<http://edweek.sd38.bc.ca/about> Our own McNair Cafeteria students made some of the cakes on display. Check them out!



## Core Competencies:

As they did last year, all students in British Columbia will complete a self-assessment of a group of core competencies. These are a set of intellectual, emotional, social and personal proficiencies that every student will need to develop. They include: **Communication Skills, Critical Thinking Skills, and Personal/Social Responsibility Skills**. Teachers will highlight and teach these competencies in all classes during the year, and they will complete a self-assessment of growth in these areas that will be included with the June Report Card. For detailed information, check out <https://curriculum.gov.bc.ca/competencies> and have a look at the poster below for a simple overview.



## Yearbook:

Every year we publish a beautiful 200+ page yearbook and this keepsake includes all students' names and photos as well as all of the teams, clubs and special Marlins events from the school year. For 2017-2018, more than 600 students have already purchased their yearbook and these will be distributed on June 22<sup>nd</sup>. As we need to commit to the publishing company months in advance, the **final day** to purchase a yearbook will be **Tuesday, April 3**. If you want a yearbook and have not yet purchased one, please see Ms. Yee in the Business Assistant office to get yours before April 3 – don't miss out! The yearbook cost is **\$40**.

## Parent Survey:

Every year the Ministry of Education asks parents of students in Grades 4-7 and 10-12 to complete an online survey about what they think about their child's learning at school. Parents of RHS students in Grade 10 and Grade 12 are asked to click on the link below and complete the survey. The survey takes less than 10 minutes to complete and is available in 18 languages. Once you log on, go to **DIRECT ACCESS** in the bottom right

corner, choose **SD38 RICHMOND** for District and **MCNAIR SECONDARY** for school, choose your language (English is the default language) and answer the questions. Thank you! <https://www.awinfosys.com/SurveyFull1/central/main/accessParentAuto.asp>

## Interim Reports – Semester 2:



Parents are reminded that all McNair students will bring home their Interim Reports from Semester two on **Thursday, March 8<sup>th</sup>**. Parents are asked to read and discuss the information on the Report with their child. If they have more questions, parents can phone the school or email teachers directly – all contact information is available on the school website. <http://mcnair.sd38.bc.ca/>

## Marlinares:



**Marlinares** continues their partnership with Shoe Bank Canada to collect used or new shoes for their Million Shoe Mission! Since starting in early February, the Marlinares campaign—under the leadership of **Aly Williams, Isabel De Conti, and Eilat Marom**—has enjoyed tremendous support from staff and students, collecting nine shoe-filled boxes already with used shoes. The campaign continues until **Tuesday, June 5<sup>th</sup>** all semester long! Donations may be brought to the collection box outside the office.

## Anime Club:

McNair's newest club has been formed: **the Anime Club!** The Anime Club meets every Tuesday at lunch in Room 137. New members are always welcome to join the club. Our activities include watching new, exciting Anime series and enthusing about different characters and costumes. We also are looking to attend an Anime convention in March! Any questions can be sent to the club's sponsor, **Mr. Yu**, at [pyu@sd38.bc.ca](mailto:pyu@sd38.bc.ca).



## Drama/Theatre:

After hundreds of hours of hard work and preparation both on stage and behind the scenes, Theatre McNair is proud to unveil its latest creation. **Il Campiello (or The Nasty Neighbours)** is a quick paced, comic romp, set in a very small town square during the celebration of Carnival in 1950's Italy. Don't miss this fun, zany show! The show will run at 7:00pm **Monday March 5<sup>th</sup> through Friday March 9<sup>th</sup>** and tickets will be \$15.00.



## Music/Band:

The McNair Jazz Band and Combo participated in the 2018 **Surrey International Jazz Festival on February 17<sup>th</sup>**. Both groups made McNair proud and did excellent work in their performances and workshops. The Jazz



Band was selected as a top two in their category and were asked to perform in the evening Showcase Concert for a large crowd at the Bell Centre. Additionally, we had some individual award recipients. **Clayton Lobo** was awarded the **William & Alice Singular Scholarship** to a summer music camp of his choosing, as well as being awarded best trumpet player in his category. **Anthony Sproviero** was awarded **Best Guitarist** and **Francis Naluz** received a gift card in recognition of his work. We are proud of McNair's performances both as an ensemble and as individual musicians.



## Athletics:

The McNair **Basketball seasons** are now finished and all of our teams represented themselves and the school very well. Each team played hard and advanced to the District playoffs. The Senior Boys and Girls teams both qualified for the Lower Mainland Championships after finishing Richmond play in second place.



Unfortunately, both teams came up just short of qualifying for the Provincial Championships. All athletes and coaches need to be commended for a very successful basketball season that brought good times to the McNair gym! Special Thanks go out to all the coaches and sponsors:

**Grade 8 Girls-Binwant Atwal and Ikaria John**  
**Grade 9 Girls-Kirsten Abo and Helan Aly**  
**Senior Girls-Jason Leslie and Denise Busayong**  
**Grade 8 Boys-Ranj Sangra and Garret Holmes**  
**Grade 9 Boys-Rob Vint**  
**Grade 10 Boys-Michael Jaswal**  
**Senior Boys-Ranj Sangra and Jessy Dhillon**

The **Table Tennis** team is still involved in league play, and our Senior Boys team has been very competitive. Continued good luck to Mr. Liao and all our Table Tennis players!

Next season sports are the Spring teams, which will include **Junior Boys Volleyball, Rugby, Track and Field, Ultimate Frisbee, Badminton and Girls Soccer**. Be sure to try out and be part of the action!

## Valedictory:

Plans for our **June 8<sup>th</sup>, 2018** Valedictory ceremony at the **South Delta Baptist Church** are well underway. All students will want to be part of all the events associated with Graduation, so please be sure you are signed up and have paid the associated costs. See **Ms. Yee** (our Business Assistant) to ensure you are paid up. We are presently

recommending that all students in Grade 12 apply for Scholarships (please go the school website link: <http://mcnair.sd38.bc.ca/news/2018/01/30/grade-12-scholarship-application>) Not all scholarships are based on marks, so be sure to put your application in to be considered. We also need all Grade 12 students to complete the information about Gown size and the Graduation Comment that gets read as you cross the stage at Valedictory. This information needs to be submitted ASAP, so please go to the following link: <https://survey.sd38.bc.ca/TakeSurvey.aspx?SurveyID=grad/gown/comment>



### PAC and Dry Grad Meetings:

The McNair PAC executive invites you to attend PAC meetings held on the second Tuesday of the month in the conference room. These meetings provide an overview of what is happening at school and an opportunity to ask questions and provide feedback. Our next PAC meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday March 13<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 p.m.** This meeting is open to all parents. We hope to see many of you there!



The **Dry After Grad** is a party for Grade 12 students, to be hosted by Parents after the **Dinner/Dance on June 26<sup>th</sup>**. This great event requires a large amount of fundraising and planning by the parents. The committee will be meeting on **March 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm**. We will be sending out messages to inform parents of the next meeting date. We have a **Cineplex Movie Ticket Fundraiser** on right now until Monday, February 26th. Orders will be available for pick up at McNair on Monday, March 12<sup>th</sup> and/or Tuesday, March 13<sup>th</sup> from 2:30 to 5:00 pm. Need any assistance or have any questions please contact Cindy Bradley at [Occbradley@shaw.ca](mailto:Occbradley@shaw.ca) or call 604-805-4312. Please stayed tuned for more fundraisers in March and April.

### Learning Centre Help:

McNair is continuing with its **Learning Resource Centre** model. Students are now welcome to attend the Resource centre on a drop-in basis, provided they have permission from their classroom teacher. Any student who is in need of some extra assistance in a subject area may come to the Resource Centre to get assistance from the teachers in the room. Similarly, we have also created an opportunity for students to access this assistance at lunch and after school. **Mr. McLellan** is a Math/Science specialist, is available to help students **during our lunch hour and until about 3:45** afterschool in the library. If your child can benefit from this extra assistance, please remind them to advocate for themselves and take advantage of this tremendous support. It is open to all students and if you want to know if your child is utilizing it, we have a check in and check out system that tracks who is accessing the system.

### Career Planning:

Check out [SD38careercentre.weebly.com](http://SD38careercentre.weebly.com)

All new information is posted on the Home – New Info page. The calendar is a very important tool on this website as dates from the “Home - New Info” section are recorded here. The other sections will help students in their search for career direction, how to navigate their way through the post-secondary application process in a timely fashion as well as how to find scholarships.

Visit Ms Hudson’s Facebook page for updates:  
[www.facebook.com/MsHudsonCareerCentreNews](http://www.facebook.com/MsHudsonCareerCentreNews)

Drop in to see Ms Hudson, the Career Advisor, in the Career Centre Mon – Fri from 11:15 to 3:15.

### **Grade 12s**

Students should be familiar with each institution’s requirements regarding grade submission. Some schools require that students self-report, others ask that marks be uploaded and others wish to see an official transcript. If required, an official hardcopy transcript from the main office can be ordered. (\$5.00 per transcript).

**Students Transcripts Service (STS)** The Ministry of Education has just launched the *Student Transcripts Service* (STS), a new online application for students to view their marks, scholarships and transcripts, and to have their transcripts sent directly to post-secondary institutions and third parties. Students need their PEN number in order to register.

To access the service, visit the Ministry of Education’s *Order Transcripts and Certificates* website at [www.StudentTranscripts.gov.bc.ca](http://www.StudentTranscripts.gov.bc.ca) and follow the instructions found there. If students require assistance, they can visit Ms Hudson.

**\*Note:** Some Post-Secondary institutions may require student grade information earlier than available through this process. Students should be aware when their grades are due.

Students should register to write the TOEFL/IELTS and/or the LPI if required to do so. Contact the Career Centre or individual post-secondary institutions for requirements and exemptions.

### **2018-2019 Richmond School District Youth Train in Trades Program**

Application Deadlines

**First Deadline:** March 7/18 (application for Baking must meet this deadline)

**Second Deadline:** April 11/18

The Career Programs offer students in Richmond School District opportunities to explore a variety of career options while still in high school. These programs open doors and allow students to:

- move ahead in a chosen career path
- acquire skills relevant to today’s labour market needs
- have flexibility and choice with respect to how, when and where learning takes place

Visit <http://careerprograms.sd38.bc.ca/>

### **Reminder to Grade 11 Students:**

If students are planning to attend a USA post-secondary institution after graduation, it is a good idea to register for and to write the SAT admission exam during the Grade 11 year! This allows enough time to have SAT scores ready for Fall applications. See the College Board website for registration details: <http://student.collegeboard.org/>

### **Scholarships**

The McNair Scholarship application is posted on the McNair website. Students must fill out this application if they wish to be considered for any of the McNair scholarships.

More scholarships are located on the scholarship section of the Weebly website.  
Sd38careercentre.weebly.com

Some websites will match a student with a variety of awards in their database. Register online for this option at:

[https://yconic.com/?redirect\\_from=studentawards](https://yconic.com/?redirect_from=studentawards)

<http://www.scholarshipscanada.com/>

MAR 12/18 deadline to apply for the following scholarship:

The Richmond Community Foundation Scholarships for Richmond Students

<http://richmondfoundation.org/grant/apply-scholarship/>

### **Upcoming Events**

MAR 1/18: Explore Capilano Information Night

Visit: <https://www.capilano.ca/future/visit-cap/Explore-Capilano/>

MAR 8/18: Langara Bachelor of Science in Nursing Information Session

<https://langara.ca/programs-and-courses/programs/nursing/information-sessions.html>

MAR 8/18 - JIBC Law Enforcement Studies Information Session (New Westminster Campus: 7pm-8:30pm)

Register at: [jibc.ca/lesd](http://jibc.ca/lesd) Questions? Email [lesd@jibc.ca](mailto:lesd@jibc.ca)

### **MAR 10/18 University of Waterloo March Break Open House 2018**

Saturday, Mar 10, 2018

<https://uwaterloo.ca/future-students/march-break-open-house>

### **MAR 17/18 University of Ottawa Spring Open House 2018**

For more information and to register for the event, visit:

<https://www.uottawa.ca/undergraduate-admissions/admission-events>

MAR 19/18: Langara Social Service Worker Information Session

<https://langara.ca/programs-and-courses/programs/social-service/information-sessions.html>

### **UBC Sauder BCom Information Sessions**

MAR 20/18 20th: 1:00pm – 2:30pm

MAR 29/18: 1:00pm – 2:30pm

APR 27/18: 1:00pm – 2:30pm

Find more information and register at:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/o/ubc-sauder-undergraduate-office-8557797163>

### **MAR 24/18 Thompson Rivers University ~ Spring Open House**

Watch for details and schedules as they become available at: <https://www.tru.ca/openhouse.html>

### **APR 16/18 KPU Trades and Tech Program Expo**

at KPU Tech campus, 5500-180 Street Surrey

Register: <http://www.kpu.ca/trades/program-expo>