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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **Heavy Duty Mechanic Students Get Their Motors Running**

This January, North Island College Heavy Duty Mechanic students received an exciting gift from a partner institution in Alberta, Grande Prairie Regional College (GPRC) – the opportunity to work and learn on three CAT engines.

“NIC is fortunate to have such a positive relationship with GPRC,” explains Jeff Wharton, Coordinator of NIC’s Trades & Technical Programs. “These three engines are the second donation we have received, making a total of five engines over the last two years.” Grand Prairie Regional College’s Heavy Equipment Service program (known as ‘ThinkBig’), benefits from a unique partnership with Finning Caterpillar (CAT), a world leader in the manufacture of heavy equipment.

“Two of the new engines are electronic versions, our old ones were not.” continues Wharton. “This gives students the opportunity to diagnose problems electronically, improving the quality of their training. The newer equipment makes it more relevant.” Wharton has been working with GPRC since the fall of 2009 to make this donation a reality for NIC students.

Ken Riley, Grande Prairie Regional College Vice-President of Administration is modest about their generosity. “You are most welcome for the donation,” he writes in a note to Wharton, “We trust you will put the engines to very good use.”



NIC’s Heavy Duty Mechanic students learn essential skills in shop safety, work habits, and caring for tools and equipment.

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North Island College's Heavy Duty & Commercial Transport Mechanics Foundation program is an intensive, 36-week entry level program. Students learn skills essential to gaining employment and apprenticeships with heavy duty equipment, truck and bus dealerships, private truck, bus or equipment repair shops or logging, mining and construction companies. NIC also offers Level One Heavy Duty Equipment Technician Apprenticeship training. NIC is an Industry Training Authority approved training provider for these programs in the Interprovincial (Red Seal) trade of heavy duty equipment mechanic and commercial transport mechanic.

For more information about NIC's Heavy Duty & Commercial Transport Mechanic Foundation or Apprenticeship programs, please visit our website at [www.nic.bc.ca](http://www.nic.bc.ca) or call 1-800-715-0914 and ask to speak with an Advisor.

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