



Main Office - 920 Alder Street, Campbell River
250-286-3441 or toll free 1-866-286-6788
marketing@niefs.net

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Forty Years. Thousands of Stories. One Stronger North Island.

NIEFS celebrates forty years of growing stronger together across the North Island, and invites those who have been part of the journey to help tell the story.

CAMPBELL RIVER, BC – If you've ever found a job through NIEFS, hired an employee, attended a workshop, discovered a new career path, or partnered on a project that strengthened your community, you're part of a story that's forty years in the making.

This year, **North Island Employment Foundations Society (NIEFS)** is inviting the community to help tell that story.

As NIEFS celebrates its **40th Anniversary**, the organization is reflecting not only on where it's been since opening its doors in 1986, but on the thousands of lives, businesses, partnerships, and communities that have helped shape its journey along the way.

*"This anniversary isn't just about celebrating the history of our organization," says **Shannon Baikie, Executive Director**. "It's about celebrating the people who have trusted us with their journeys, the job seekers who found new beginnings, the employers who built incredible teams, the partners who believed in collaboration, and the communities that have grown alongside us. Their stories are our story."*

Founded in 1986 as a youth employment initiative, NIEFS has grown into a regional leader in workforce development, delivering employment services, skills training, employer supports, newcomer services, and building innovative community partnerships throughout North Vancouver Island.

Guided by its mission to **empower individuals, businesses, and communities by delivering accessible and innovative employment services that drive workforce growth and economic resilience**, NIEFS continues to respond to the changing needs of employers and job seekers while remaining deeply rooted in the North Vancouver Island communities it serves.

Over the past four decades, the organization has helped thousands of people find meaningful employment, supported employers in building strong workforces, and collaborated with Indigenous communities, governments, educational institutions, businesses, and community organizations to create opportunities that strengthen the North Island.



Help Us Tell Our Story

The heart of our 40th Anniversary isn't looking back, it's celebrating the people who have walked this journey with us. If you've ever crossed paths with NIEFS, we'd love to hear your story.

Maybe NIEFS helped you land your first job.

Maybe you hired an incredible employee.

Maybe you discovered a new direction through one of our programs.

Or maybe we partnered together on a project that strengthened one of our North Island communities.

Whatever your story, we'd be honoured to hear it.

Visit one of our **"Our Stories" stations** in our **Campbell River** or **Port Hardy** offices and leave a handwritten memory, or email your story to marketing@niefs.net.

Every story - big or small - will help us celebrate the people, partnerships, and moments that have shaped the first forty years of NIEFS and continue to inspire our next forty.

Forty years is an incredible milestone, but for NIEFS, the work has never been about looking back. It has always been about creating opportunities, strengthening communities, and helping people realize their potential.

As NIEFS looks to the future, we remain focused on fostering a resilient, inclusive employment landscape where everyone can contribute to thriving communities. Guided by the same community-first spirit that has shaped our organization since 1986, we will continue creating opportunities, strengthening workforces, and supporting North Island communities for generations to come.

After 40 years, one thing hasn't changed.

The best part of the NIEFS story has always been the people.

This anniversary isn't simply a celebration of where we've been.

It's a celebration of every person, every employer, every partner, every volunteer, every staff member, and every community that has been part of the journey.

If you've ever crossed paths with NIEFS, you're part of our story. We'd be honoured if you'd help us tell it.

Media Contact:

Shannon Baikie, MA, CCDP

Executive Director

North Island Employment Foundations Society (NIEFS)

Tel: 250-286-3441

Toll Free: 1-866-286-6788

Email: shannon.baikie@niefs.net