

For Immediate Release: Tuesday, June 7, 1994

Record number to receive degrees at Convocation

KAMLOOPS - A record 224 students will be awarded University degrees this year at the University College of the Cariboo in Kamloops, bringing the total number of degrees awarded since 1991 to 500.

The graduates of 1994 come from seven different degree programs offered by UCC in association with all three provincial universities and the Open University. The first 37 graduates received degrees in Kamloops only three years ago in 1991, two years after the degree-granting initiative was launched.

This year's degree graduating class represents an increase of 57% over last year, and reflects the continued growth of enrolments. There were approximately 3,500 students enrolled in degree programs study at UCC this year.

Among the degrees being presented this year are two degrees of note. They include the awarding of a B.A. degree from the Open University to Keith Gagne, a mature student, and the first ever post-humus degree awarded to a UCC student, to be presented to the family of Scott Russell, a B.Sc. student killed recently in a traffic mishap.

Convocation ceremonies recognizing the over 1,300 graduates of UCC programs take place on Saturday, June 11 at the Riverside Coliseum in Kamloops. The event, starting at 11:00 a.m., is open to any member of the public wishing to attend.

- 30 -

BACKGROUNDER:

University Degrees awarded at UCC:

1991	-	37	1993	-	142	
1992	-	97	<u>1994</u>	-	<u>224</u>	*Total - 500

March 20, 1989 This is the date on which the Government of B.C. officially announced that three colleges, including Cariboo, would be given the right to start offering full university degrees in association with provincial universities.

September 1989 The first upper level courses were offered in five different degree programs in Kamloops. From the beginning, UCC is the only institution that has offered degrees with all three B.C. Universities (UBC, SFU, UVic) and the Open University.

June 1991 The first 37 degrees were awarded to UCC graduates, in Arts, Science, Business, Education and Nursing.

June 1992 The first Social Work degree graduates were recognized.

DEGREES OFFERED AT UCC:

- Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) in association with UBC
- Bachelor of Science (B.Sc.) in association with UBC
- Bachelor of Education (B.Ed.) Elementary in association with UBC
- Bachelor of Business Administration (B.B.A.) in association with SFU
- Bachelor of Social Work (B.S.W.) in association with UVic
- Bachelor of Science in Nursing (B.S.N.) in association with UVic
- Bachelor of Natural Resource Science (B.N.R.S.) in association with the Open Learning Agency *The BNRS degree is expected to honor the first graduate in 1996

INDEPENDENT DEGREE-GRANTING STATUS:

The Government of B.C. is now in the process of making changes to the College and Institute Act, to allow UCC (and five other B.C. post-secondary institutions) to grant full undergraduate degrees in their own name.

These changes are expected to be in place later this year, and are expected to result in the following developments:

- The awarding of the first UCC undergraduate degree, likely to be the first graduates of the BNRS degree program, in 1996.
- The development of new, unique degrees by UCC program faculty. Each new degree would go forward to the Ministry of Skills, Training and Labour, to go through a formal process of approval, and then funding, before being offered.
- The addition of other degrees, which exist elsewhere, to meet regional or provincial training needs (e.g. Secondary Education) or the addition of new 'Majors' options to existing UCC degrees.