

# NEWS RELEASE

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## **It's Official! UCC is Finally Independent!**

KAMLOOPS-With the stroke of a pen, the University College of the Cariboo (UCC) is now "officially" a fully independent, degree-granting institution.

The signing of Bill 22 by the Lieutenant-Governor makes UCC one of six post-secondary institutions given the new mandate to grant degrees independently.

In a letter to Board Chairs, the Honourable Dan Miller, Minister of Skills, Training and Labour, outlined the changes brought about by Bill 22, and the Orders-in-Council associated with the new legislation.

These include Order-in-Council 41/95, which orders that, effective January 15, 1995, UCC may grant, in its own name, the seven undergraduate degrees currently offered (Arts, Science, Business, Nursing, Social Work, Elementary Education and Natural Resource Science), and three honorary degrees: Doctor of Laws, Doctor of Letters, and Doctor of Technology.

UCC President Jim Wright hailed the proclamation of Bill 22 as a milestone in the history of the institution.

"As we prepare to celebrate our 25th anniversary this fall, it's an appropriate time for such a significant development. Over the past six years, we have proven ourselves as a truly comprehensive university college, and the right to grant degrees in our own name is a terrific way to start the next 25 years of our history."

Over the next several weeks, the UCC Board of Governors will hear specific details from each of the seven degree programs on the transition to independence. The Order-in-Council, however, appears to clear the way for immediate change.

For more information, please contact UCC Public Relations Director Josh Keller at 828-5006.