

Cheryl L. O’Connell

Dean, School of Trades and Technical Programs,
North Island College, Vancouver Island British Columbia, Canada

Cheryl O’Connell – born and raised in rural Canada has a vested interest in social and economic development, while supporting the advancement of post-secondary education in the interest of rural communities. Cheryl’s career has provided her with the opportunity to work with communities spanning Yukon Territory, the Northern, Central and Southern regions of British Columbia. With over 20 years in post-secondary education and community development, she proactively supports community organizations vested in diversifying regional economies, fostering entrepreneurship, advancing new and emerging technologies, while contributing to social and cultural considerations of the rural communities. Her career spans across the following positions: Dean, School of Trades and Technical Programs and Dean, School of Continuing Education and Contract Training at North Island College; Administrative Manager with Continuing Studies at Vancouver Island University; Executive Director Upper Skeena Development Centre; Program Manager and Employment Counsellor at Northwest Community College; Coordinator Training and Development Canada (Federal Government); Administrator with Yukon College; in addition to numerous directorships with Municipal Governments, community service organizations, economic development, cultural and technology based Societies, Chambers of Commerce and Community Employment agencies. Cheryl is currently pursuing her doctorate in Rural Studies which has her engaged with research in the field or interdisciplinary trades education.