

## NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release:

### **Brink donates \$1 million for trades and technology training**

**Prince George, BC** – Trades and technology training in northern B.C. received a major boost today. Philanthropist and industry leader John A. Brink has announced a \$1 million commitment to the College of New Caledonia throughout the next 10 years.

The donation is the largest financial gift made by John Brink during his 55 years working in the forest industry in northern B.C.

“Our province is blessed with an abundance of natural resources,” said John Brink, Founder, President and CEO of the Brink Group. “The forest sector has been the driver of economic growth in the region for several decades. We must invest in education and innovation if we want to thrive in the new global forest industry. I am confident for the future outlook of our industry – There is tremendous opportunity in developing new products for new markets.”

In October 1999, almost exactly 20 years ago, Brink made the commitment to be CNC’s industry partner that enabled the development of the trades and technology centre. In 2002, the John A. Brink Trades and Technology Centre officially opened at CNC’s Prince George campus.

Today’s announcement further enhances Brink’s partnership to supporting education and industry training for northern communities.

“We’re thankful about this announcement and look forward to working with John to discover how to best use this gift to meet the needs of our communities,” said CNC Interim President Tara Szerencsi.

The donation comes at a time when Brink said it’s vital that industry, government, and educational institutions work together to offset the recent challenges facing the forestry sector.

“As an industry, we are looking for resolution to these challenges,” Brink said. “This is an industry in transition and that change cannot be done alone. We must come together to develop a strategy going forward. Today is a start, but my contribution alone will not be enough. It’s now time for other stakeholders, and partners to take action to guarantee the resilience and growth of this industry.”

The Brink Group proudly employs over 400 employees throughout Northern British Columbia. The Company intends to continue its growth trajectory with plans to double production capacity at all three of its locations in the next five years.

“We at the Brink Group have been in operations for the past 45 years. We are delighted to enhance our commitment to the College of New Caledonia. We have confidence in the Trade and Technology Centre to become a centre of excellence that Northern BC residents will be proud of.” said John A. Brink.

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