



In The Media

January – March 2017

Local media's year-end review

In its look back at 2016, *Niagara This Week* highlights funding to NC for the project at the NOTL campus: construction of new agri-food labs, specialized training facilities and incubation space for business.

COVERAGE TYPE Digital
JANUARY 2017 [Niagara This Week](#)

A look back in Niagara-on-the-Lake: Part 2

COMMUNITY Jan 07, 2017 by Scott Rosta Niagara-On-The-Lake Town Crier



Six Nations of the Grand River elected chief Ava Hill admires the statues unveiled during the October opening of The Six Nations and Native Allies Commemorative Memorial, at Queenston Heights in Niagara-on-the-Lake. The statues were designed and produced by artists Tom Ridout and Raymond Skye.

It was a busy year for Niagara-on-the-Lake. From hiring a new CAO, and then ultimately later in the year, to the good and bad news at local medical marijuana operations, to the opening of Landscape of Nations, to a wide variety of development issues, there was a lot going on. This is the second and final part of the Town Crier's 2016 year in review.

JULY

- Hot, dry weather had Niagara farmers praying for rain at the start of July. The wheat was at risk due to the small amount of rainfall in the spring. A small amount arrived at the end of the month, but more was still needed.
- Old Town and Fort George were a sea of red and white on Canada Day, as both venues celebrated the holiday. The day featured the annual cake parade, which had people lining up for a delicious treat. The parade was a whimsical creation by Catherine O'Donnell of Willow Cakes & Pastries.

• Canada's Minister of Innovation, Science and Economic Development Navdeep Bains announces Niagara College will receive \$10.26 million for a project in the agri-food sector at its Niagara-on-the-Lake campus.

• Jamie McGean and Leona Skye organize a Standing Rock solidarity fire at the Niagara Regional Native Centre. Among the visitors to the fire is the provincial Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation David Zimmer.

• NOTL councillors cut the draft 2017 capital and operating budget down from an initial proposed 13.48 per cent increase to 6.19 per cent, but are still not happy and ask for more cuts.

• NOTL councillors approve a proposal for the Royal Canadian Air Force Snowbirds to conduct a flyby during the Canadian Polish Congress 100th anniversary pilgrimage being planned in 2017.

• During a launch event with the Niagara Community Foundation, Lord Mayor Pat Darte announces the Niagara-on-the-Lake Fund is off to a huge start – with \$450,000 contributed so far thanks to a list of generous founding donors that includes Vintage Hotels CEO Bob Jackson, Joe Pillitteri and his family, Rainer Hummel, and Darte and his family.

• Town Council asks for a service delivery review of the Niagara-on-the-Lake Chamber of Commerce, to review whether or not the town should take a more active role in economic development. Town staff will examine the relationship between the town and the chamber of commerce to "determine whether it is in the Town's best interest to continue the existing partnership or to take on the role of Economic Development on its own" and report back in the spring.

Formulating kosher food safety guidelines

Kashruth Council of Canada partners with Canadian Food & Wine Institute Innovation Centre to create a Safe Quality Food guide, integrating kosher practices into a quality control system.

COVERAGE TYPE Digital
JANUARY 2017 [Niagara College](#), [COR](#)

MEDIA RELEASES

NIAGARA COLLEGE PARTNERS WITH KASHRUTH COUNCIL TO INTEGRATE KOSHER AND FOOD SAFETY GUIDELINES

🕒 JANUARY 10, 2017



Seeking a more efficient way to make kosher certification integrate with food safety planning, the Kashruth Council of Canada recently partnered with Niagara College on an ambitious project to do just that.

Most of the world's leading food retailers and manufacturers participate in the Global Food Safety Initiative (GFSI), which sets standards for food safety, with the British Retail Consortium (BRC) and the Safe Quality Food Program (SQF) as the most predominant GFSI regimes. At the same time, many food manufacturers carry kosher certification as more than 40 per cent of packaged food products sold in the United States are kosher certified, according to market research firm Mintel.

While there is much overlap between kosher and food safety programs, they have been kept markedly separate. Until now.

The Kashruth Council of Canada (COR) and NC's Canadian Food & Wine Institute Innovation Centre have joined forces to create a Safe Quality Food (SQF) guide, integrating kosher practices into a quality control system.

"We are thrilled to offer this service to the food manufacturing community, making it easier for manufacturers to make kosher certification more efficient and effective for our k

"Food manufacturers already speak a certain language, and this project is a natural extension of our Culinary Innovation and Food Technology program, and faculty lead on the project with food safety professionals. As a result, I am confident that this initiative will be well received."

The newly released kosher guidelines are meant to supplement existing food safety programs, not replace them.

"Whatever kosher certification partner a manufacturer has, this project will make it easier. Our hope is that it will make keeping kosher easier."

This new initiative has support from across the kosher industry, including the Orthodox Union (OU), Rabbinic Council of America (RCA), and Chicago's Kashruth Council of Canada (KCC).

The project, which also included student researchers from the Culinary Innovation and Food Technology program, was funded by the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada.

Electronic copies of the newly published guidelines are available for download at [www.cfwinc.ca/kosher](#).



[ABOUT COR](#) [CONSUMER RESOURCES](#) [KOSHER CERTIFICATION RESOURCES](#) [UNDERSTANDING KOSHER](#) [NEWS & UPDATES](#) [CONTACT](#)

Kashruth Council of Canada (COR) and Niagara College Partner on Project to Integrate Kosher, Food Safety Guidelines



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The Kashruth Council of Canada, better known as "COR" by their kosher symbol, and Niagara College Canada's Canadian Food & Wine Institute (CFWI) Innovation Centre collaborated on a project to integrate kosher certification requirements into both SQF and BRC food safety programs. This work is now being released to the food manufacturing community.

"We are thrilled to offer this service to the food manufacturing community," says Rabbi Sholom H. Adler, COR's Director of Industrial Kosher. "We are always looking for ways to make kosher certification more efficient and effective for our kosher certified companies, and we are hopeful that this project will do just that."

"Food manufacturers already speak a certain language, and that is the language of SQF and BRC," says Dr. Amy Proulx, Niagara College professor, program coordinator with the Culinary Innovation and Food Technology program, and faculty lead on the project. "What this project has done is translate kosher certification into that same language spoken by food safety professionals. As a result, I am confident that this initiative will be well received."



Newly Certified

Shell's
7241 Bathurst Street, Thornhill, Ontario,
Canada, L4J 3W1


Canadian Shaare Zedek Hospital Foundation
3089 Bathurst Street, Suite 205, Toronto,
Ontario, Canada, M6A 2A4

Nature's Mix
[www.naturesmix.ca](#)
53 Cowansview Unit 1, Cambridge, Ontario,
Canada, N1G 7T2

SONAMI still getting media attention

Online media outlets *Mentorworks* and *Microfabricator* include coverage of the creation of the Southern Ontario Network for Advanced Manufacturing Innovation (SONAMI) partnership that was announced in Dec. 2016 by Niagara Centre MP Vance Badawey (\$7.3M in funding from the federal government.)

COVERAGE TYPE Digital
JANUARY 2017 [Mentorworks](#), Microfabricator (unavailable)



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Manufacturers can now access to the Southern Ontario Network for Advanced Manufacturing Innovation (SONAMI), a research and development network aimed at accelerating the adoption of advanced manufacturing technologies.

SONAMI is a partnership between Niagara College, Mohawk College, Sheridan College and McMaster University. The network of research institutions, each with areas of manufacturing specialization, can assist manufacturers who are adopting and integrate disruptive technologies. Companies may approach the network with a concept, then have researchers develop and test innovative solutions that meet the manufacturer's requirements.

The newly created collaborative network was developed with \$7.3 million in Canadian government funding through the Investing in Commercialization Partnerships (ICP) initiative. Because of this investment, it's expected that 170 new prototypes, 85 new products, and 186 high-quality jobs will be created.

Related Blog: [Southern Ontario Smart Computing Innovation Platform \(SOSICIP\)](#)

Capabilities of the Southern Ontario Network for Advanced Manufacturing Innovation

SONAMI provides southern Ontario manufacturers access to expertise and advanced manufacturing facilities. Through this approach, manufacturers will be able to develop and commercialize new advanced manufacturing technologies.

The advanced manufacturing network consists of four post-secondary research institutions:

1. **Niagara College:** A leader in advanced manufacturing technologies, Niagara College can support engineering, 3D technologies, and plastic additive manufacturing at its Advanced Manufacturing Innovation Centre.
2. **Mohawk College:** Supports metal additive manufacturing projects. Manufacturers may design and print custom parts to solve technical challenges.
3. **Sheridan College:** Are specialists in robotics and flexible manufacturing. Their Centre for Advanced Manufacturing and Design Technologies can support a range of mechanical engineering projects.
4. **McMaster University:** The McMaster Manufacturing Research Institute (MMRI) supports innovations in advanced materials tooling adoption.

Types of Advanced Manufacturing Projects Accepted

SONAMI collaborations support three types of advanced manufacturing technologies:

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MARCH 28, 2017

Budget 2017 Reaffirms Liberal Party's Commitment to Innovation
MARCH 27, 2017

TESTIMONIALS

"The process with Mentor Works was very smooth. [Their] greatest value is the fact that they know what kind of information the funding agency is waiting for, and do all of the writing based on client information. This takes some time and if we needed to do [the application] internally, it would delay the process."

VIEW ALL TESTIMONIALS

Greenhouse students do organic research

NC students help Gro-Bark, one of Ontario's major horticultural supply companies, with research to bring a new organic growing product to market.

COVERAGE TYPE Digital
JANUARY 2017 [Niagara College](#)

Greenhouse students helping industry with organic growing research

Posted on [January 20, 2017](#) by [Julie Greco](#) in [Campus Update](#), [Research and Innovation](#)



NC's budding horticulturalists have laid the foundation for organic growing substrate supplier Gro-Bark to move forward with bringing a new product to market.

Gro-Bark, one of Ontario's major horticultural supply companies, now has essential data to continue developing its proprietary recipes of growing substrate – a substitute for topsoil when growing plants in containers. This is thanks to a three-month research trial conducted by NC's Horticultural Technician students, who grew culinary herbs in the company's organic substrate.

Keith Osborne, horticulturist with Gro-Bark, says working with Niagara College allowed his company to trial

Exploring the benefits of NC's crop portal

Dr. Mike Duncan, NSERC Industrial Research Chair for Precision Agriculture & Environmental Technologies, and Sarah Lepp, Senior Research Associate, discuss how the goal of their crop portal is to offer quick, yet in-depth analysis to empower farmers to be profitable.

COVERAGE TYPE Digital, Print Magazine
JANUARY 2017 [Country Guide](#)

Getting started at variable rate

A new computer system may help farmers find their optimum path into precision farming



By [Ralph Pearce](#)
CG Production Editor

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Published: January 31, 2017
Crops
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Photo: File

It seems nothing ever happens fast enough in our society, not with Internet connections or email replies, and not with the adoption of technology on the farm. At least, that's the complaint from the manufacturers and service providers who say farmers just aren't buying into precision farming fast enough.

Of course, from many farmers' points of view, the issue looks entirely different. Why should they adopt a technology when it's still so time-consuming and costly?

Getting started the toughest part

At first glance, the crop portal is an impressive sight, with a variety of tables for farmers to input their data. It's not just a database, however. Lepp emphasizes that it processes yield data and analyzes its place among available details and other information, such as topographical maps or soil test results — whatever a farmer has at their disposal.

"It's more than just a database, and originally, the PAAO project wanted just a database to drop data, but that wasn't enough," says Lepp. "They needed a tool set to look at and process the data, and actually do something with them. The next step was to expand the tool set, to be able to do different calculations on layers and different years of data or work on both elevation and yield data together to create products. That's what we're working to expand out into."



The first screen capture (at left) shows the difference between raw data on a field (l) and the "clean" version (r) on the PAAO crop portal. The second screen capture is the raw data on its own, taken from the PAAO crop portal. The goal of the PAAO crop portal is to enable comprehensive yet quick analysis and tool sets to enable farmers to be profitable. photo: Courtesy of Niagara College

The other aspect that's important from Lepp's perspective is what this system provides in terms of visualization. It's one thing to have a table of soil test results or year-over-year yield data. But when those data points or test results can be combined with a visual guideline or recommendations, that's when the system begins to attract attention.

Is this complicated? Is it time consuming? Yes — at least in the beginning, concedes Lepp. It's far more complex than anything else that exists out there — and it's a system that lets the farmer maintain their own information for their own use. She also agrees that it can be very intimidating, and she's spent hours talking farmers through the process. Some farmers opt to hire a CCA to do this for them, and that's great: one way or another, those growers are adopting variable rate technology on to their farms. That they're hiring a professional to do it in no way diminishes its value or the impact the technology can bring to their farms.

Prototype introduced at media event

The team at Walker Advanced Manufacturing Innovation Centre showcase its prototype to automate the process of cracking heartnuts without breaking their heart-shaped shells or kernels. Industry partner Grimo Nut Nursery searched for 20 years to find a mechanized 'heartnut sheller.'

COVERAGE TYPE Digital, Print, TV
FEBRUARY 2017 [Welland Tribune](#), [Erie Media](#), [Niagara College](#), [Farming In Niagara](#)

Niagara College avoids breaking hearts

By Laura Barton, Tribune Staff
Friday, February 10, 2017 4:39:25 EST PM



Linda Grimo, Gord Maretzki and Jacob Morris gather in front of the new machine designed to crack heartnuts. Grimo Nut Nursery, approached the college to create a machine to crack the heartnuts without damaging them; Maretzki, research lead with the college's Research and Innovation department, is on the team working on the project. Laura Barton/Postmedia Network

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For two decades, Grimo Nut Nursery has been looking to open heartnuts without damaging them.

The nursery, managed by Linda Grimo and owned by her husband, has sold the popular nuts for many years, but has been unable to open the heart-shaped nuts without damaging either the shell or the kernel.

The careful work of a brick and hammer have, up until now, been the only way to open the heart-shaped nuts without damaging either the shell or the kernel. "The heartnut does have some very challenging properties," Grimo said.

Gord Maretzki, a mechanical engineer and the research lead with the college's research and innovation department at the Walker Advanced Manufacturing Innovation Centre, is on the team working on the project.

Niagara College won't go breaking any 'hearts' this Valentine's Day

February 10, 2017 | Filed under: News, Niagara College | Posted by: Erie Media



FARMING IN NIAGARA

Going Nuts in Niagara

February 14, 2017 by farminginniacara

Niagara is going nuts. Yes, nuts...hazelnuts, heartnuts and walnuts. Niagara farmers are all too familiar with foreign owned processing plants closing in Niagara. However for Ontario growers in the tree nut industry it is another story. Ferrero Canada built their Nutella and Rocher processing plant in 2006, doubled it in 2010 and will finish their next expansion in 2017. They are in Ontario to stay and they want locally grown hazelnuts.



You have likely read about hazelnut crops in Ontario. More and more Niagara farmers are preparing their fields for this new crop. Currently there are a handful of growers in the Niagara region with acreage ranging from 3 to 10 acres. Several more 5-10 acre farms will be planted in Niagara this spring with another 50-75 acres planted outside of Niagara. Each season more farmers are seeing the tremendous value in growing hazelnuts. To learn more check out www.ontariohazelnuts.com or attend the Hazelnut Symposium March 28 in Brantford.

Niagara College Innovation Centre and Brock University students are helping to grow the heartnut industry. Niagara College's Innovation Centre is currently working on a heartnut cracker with Grimo Nut Nursery. There are over 50 farms in southern Ontario that are growing heartnuts including 8 small scale growers in the Niagara Region. Heartnuts are a heart shaped nut from the walnut family. In order to extract the heart-shaped kernel the shell needs to be oriented to crack on its raised edge. When cracked with the right pressure, on the right part of the shell, the kernel will fall out in one piece. They currently have to be cracked by hand which is not cost effective. Imagine the possibilities of a heart shaped nut that is high in Omega 3 & 6, has double the fibre of other walnuts, is high in antioxidants and has a mild rich flavour. Brock students are working on the heartnut project too. The Goodman School of Business often looks to businesses to allow their marketing and business students' real life practical experience.



Gordon Maretzki
Research & Innovation Team at Niagara College



Niagara College engineering student Jacob Morris (left), with mechanical engineer and research lead, Gord Maretzki, at NC's Walker Advanced Manufacturing Innovation Centre, demonstrated the art of shell the prototype was funded by the federal government.

Niagara College won't go breaking any 'hearts' this Valentine's Day.

That's because its Research & Innovation team has discovered a way to automate the process of cracking delicious heartnuts without breaking their heart-shaped shells or kernels.

After a 20-year search for a mechanized 'heartnut sheller,' local industry partner Grimo Nut Nursery has found new hope with the team of students, faculty and research expert. Heartnuts are in high demand due to their attractive shape, mild subtle flavour and heart-healthy properties; however, without automation, commercialization of the heartnut is due to the complexities of precisely breaking each nut, so the heart-shaped shell opens like a locket and inside remains an intact, heart-shaped kernel.

Grimo Nursery has partnered with the NC Walker Advanced Manufacturing Innovation Centre for its research team to design, develop and fabricate a working prototype that will crack heartnuts without damaging the shell or the kernel. "There have been four other previous attempts, by other businesses, individuals and another academic institution) at producing such a device.

"Niagara College was our last hope," says Linda Grimo owner, along with her father Elmer, of the nut nursery. "Everyone struggled with the main complexity of aligning the nut's computer and electronic knowledge."

NC's 50th anniversary

President Dan Patterson says the College will continue to partner with local industry and small- and medium-sized enterprises to support the economy and provide hands-on experience for students—partnerships often facilitated by Research & Innovation

COVERAGE TYPE Digital, Print
FEBRUARY 2017 [Niagara News](#), [Welland Tribune](#)

NIAGARA COLLEGE BEGINS ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

11 FEB 2017



Breaking ground on the construction of Niagara College. SUBMITTED PHOTO

By ALEX YORKE
Staff Writer

Niagara College began celebrating its 50th anniversary on Feb. 8, marking half a century of moulding minds and shaping futures.

In 1967, the college opened the doors of its Welland campus to 450 students. Today, more than 10,000 of them occupy the halls, taking classes in more than 130 unique programs.

"For us it is all about student success – and that's been reflected in our rich history," said Niagara College President Dan Patterson. "We are intricately woven into the fabric of the Niagara community, and this anniversary is a great opportunity to reflect on our past and get excited about the wonderful future in front of us."

While the focus on providing a leading edge in education remains the same, many things have changed over the course of 50 years. In earlier days, the Eva M. Lewis Learning Commons, where many students spend their time was once an empty lot. Classes were held outdoors in the sun while more space was made to keep up with the increasing demand for post-secondary education.

NIAGARA CLOSEUP: Niagara College turns 50



By Michelle Allenberg, Tribune Staff
Friday, March 17, 2017 9:04:55 EDT AM



Shown is an early classroom scene at Niagara College's Welland campus on Woodlawn Road in 1967 (note the ash can). The school this year is celebrating 50 years of growth and successes. (Supplied photo)

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[School is key to Niagara's economic success](#)

[Mom, three kids graduate](#)

In 1967, with one employee and two empty rooms, Niagara College opened its doors in Welland.

The college, now home to more than 10,000 students at multiple campuses, is celebrating its 50th anniversary.

When it opened in September 1967, 450 students began their education in programs that included for business and secretarial roles.

Before the campus was built on Woodlawn Road, staff worked out of a two-room office on King Street in Welland. Mary Hornak was hired as the first employee of the college working as secretary to the college president, George Bowen. She remained the only staff member for the first few weeks.

Hornak, with a laugh, recalls the rooms were small and she was tasked with filling them with office supplies.

"I just can't get over that it started with two small rooms and it's grown so big," she says.

Many of the college's campus classrooms weren't ready the first few days, so some classes were held outside on the lawn. During that time, students would have enjoyed scenic farmland that surrounded the college, which is now the centre of a large residential area of the city.

Hornak remembers a teacher who came from out of town being amazed by the

R&I leader named to Tech-Access board

Marc Nantel, Associate Vice-President Research & Innovation, is named to the Advisory Board of Tech-Access Canada, a national network of 30 specialized research and development (R&D) centres

COVERAGE TYPE Digital
FEBRUARY 2017 [Canadian Insider](#), [ncinnovation.ca](#)

Tech-Access Canada announces 2017 Advisory Board members

Canada NewsWire

OTTAWA, Feb. 15, 2017

OTTAWA, Feb. 15, 2017 /CNW/ - Tech-Access Canada, the national network of Canada's 30 Technology Access Centres, and is responsible for setting and adjusting the strategic objectives of the network. David Berthiaume, Executive Director of OLEOTEK, was elected Chair, and Dr. Nathalie Méthot, Manager, Office of Applied Research and Innovation, La Cité was elected Vice-Chair of the Advisory Board.

"I want to deeply thank Dr. Robert Luke for his leadership and prominent role in setting up the Chair of our network. It was a real honor and pleasure to collaborate with him on making Tech-Access Canada's Chair.

Technology Access Centres are specialized applied R&D centres affiliated with Canadian companies, anywhere in Canada, and help them access the expertise, equipment, and facilities of the network's members. The network's members provide clients and partners from across Canada with:

- conducting applied research and development projects focused on company problems
- offering specialized technical services and objective advice
- providing training related to new types of equipment and processes

Tech-Access Canada is the national network of Canada's Technology Access Centres (TACs). The network's members provide clients and partners from across Canada with:

- expertise and experience of over 1,000 business innovation and applied R&D experts
- over 2.4 million square feet of innovation and applied research space; and
- over \$250 million worth of highly-specialized equipment and facilities.

"I am very excited to be part of this talented and dynamic group of people and to witness the growth of Tech-Access Canada in Colleges all over Canada" said Dr. Méthot, Tech-Access Canada's Vice-Chair.

Members of the 2017 Tech-Access Canada Advisory Board are:

- David Berthiaume, Executive Director, OLEOTEK, Thetford Mines, QC [Chair]
- Nathalie Méthot, Manager, Office of Applied Research and Innovation, La Cité, Ottawa
- Tammy Wall - Operations Manager, Canada's Smartest Kitchen, Charlottetown, PEI
- Nancy Déziel, - Executive Director, CNETE, Shawinigan, QC
- Dawn Davidson - Associate Vice President (Acting), Research and Innovation, George Brown College, Toronto
- Marc Nantel - Associate Vice-President, Research & Innovation, Niagara College, Niagara Falls
- Ray Hoemsen - Executive Director, Research Partnerships & Innovation, Red River College, Winnipeg

RESEARCH & INNOVATION

Niagara College executive named to Tech-Access advisory board

March 2, 2017



Steve Roy: image@stjean.ca

Marc Nantel, Associate Vice-President, Research & Innovation (third from left), has been named to the 2017 Tech-Access Canada Advisory Board. The photo was taken during a Tech-Access event in the fall of 2016, and includes Tech-Access Canada's Chair, David Berthiaume, Executive Director of OLEOTEK, Thetford Mines, QC (centre), and Marie-Josée Lavoie (far right), as well as Mario Pinto, president of the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (far left).

One of Niagara College's own executives has been appointed to the advisory board of Tech-Access Canada, the national network of Canada's 30 Technology Access Centres (TACs).

Marc Nantel, associate vice-president, Research & Innovation at Niagara College, has been named to the advisory board of Tech-Access Canada, the national network of Canada's 30 Technology Access Centres (TACs).

The nine-member board is made up of representatives from the member Tech-Access Centres. The board is responsible for setting and adjusting the strategic objectives for Tech-Access Canada.

Tech-Access Canada announces 2017 Advisory Board members

Posted on February 24, 2017 by Julie Greco in [Media Coverage](#)



A news release posted by Canada NewsWire on February 15 announced the new advisory board members for Tech-Access Canada, the national network of Canada's 30 Technology Access Centres (TACs).

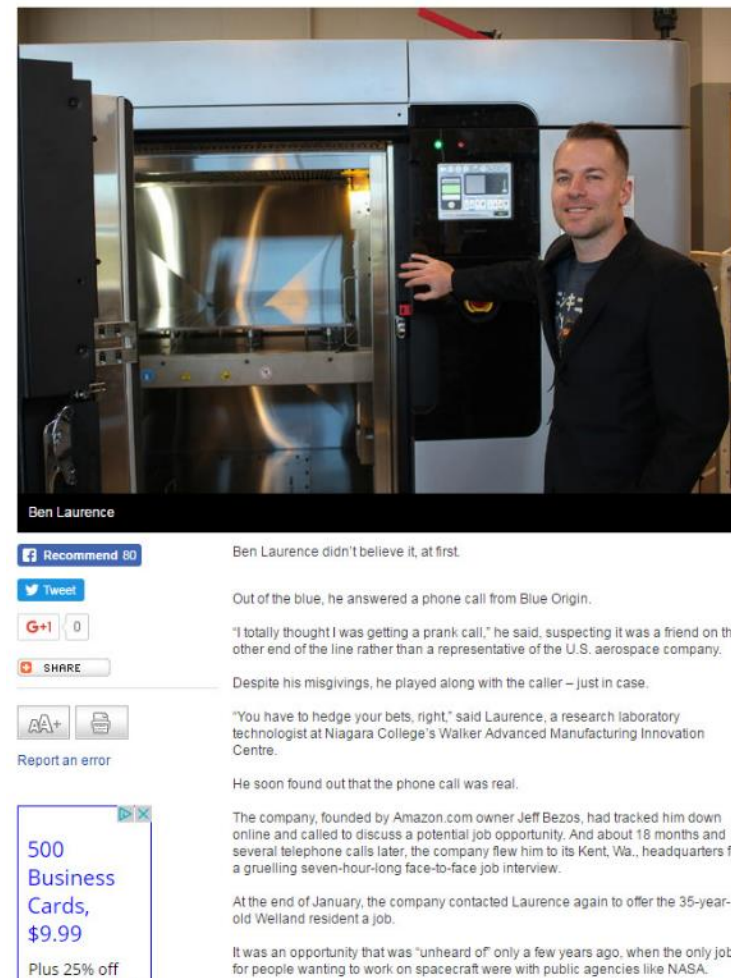
The new advisory board members for 2017 included Marc Nantel, Niagara College's associate vice-president of Research & Innovation.

[View the news release here.](#)

R&I Lab Tech lands job in space industry

Ben Laurence, a Mechanical Engineering Technology grad, leaves his job as a Laboratory Technologist for the College's Walker Advanced Manufacturing Innovation Centre, to work at Blue Origin, an aerospace and spaceflight company.

COVERAGE TYPE Digital, Print
FEBRUARY 2017 [Welland Tribune](#), [Niagara College](#), [Niagara News](#), [Research & Innovation](#)



NC grad, research lab tech takes skills to new heights in space flight industry

Posted on February 13, 2017 by Michael Wales in Campus Update, My People, Research and Innovation



WALKER ADVANCED MANUFACTURING INNOVATION CENTRE

NC research lab tech soars to new heights with job in space flight industry



© February 14, 2017

It turns out, the sky ISN'T the limit for Niagara College grad and Research staff member Ben Laurence.

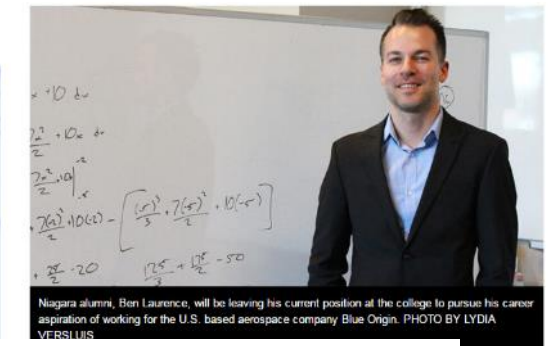
The recent NC Mechanical Engineering Technology grad, who has been working as a Research Laboratory Technologist for the College's Walker Advanced Manufacturing Innovation Centre since graduating in 2015, is taking on the opportunity of a lifetime to work in the space flight industry.

At the end of February, the lifelong Niagara resident (Welland) will be moving to Seattle, Washington to embark on a new career in the space travel industry. Laurence, 35, has been hired to work with the Structural Design and Configuration team at Blue Origin — an American privately-funded aerospace manufacturer and spaceflight services company set up by Amazon.com founder Jeff Bezos — where he will design, analyse, test and fly structural components for the New Shepherd spacecraft. New Shepherd was the first vehicle in human history to fly itself to space and return safely to Earth for future use. Its first-manned test flights are earmarked for later this year.

"This is beyond what I have ever dreamed," said Laurence. "My family has always been immersed in aviation and I've always wanted to work with airplanes even as a kid. The fact that right now I have a chance to work with space craft is just mind-boggling."

STARS IN HIS EYES

18 MAR 2017



Niagara alumni, Ben Laurence, will be leaving his current position at the college to pursue his career aspiration of working for the U.S. based aerospace company Blue Origin. PHOTO BY LYDIA VFRSLUIS

by his bicycle.

Origin in

is founder Jeff

site LinkedIn. He roughly a year

ly has always The fact that

s first year in the prior Research

NC unveils its strategic plan

**Chair of the Board of Governors
Carolyn Watts said the College will
continue to emphasize creativity and
entrepreneurship by supporting
innovative ideas within the community
by providing avenues for funding and
appropriate resources to special
projects.**

COVERAGE TYPE Digital

MARCH 2017 [Niagara This Week](#), [Niagara College](#), [Niagara News](#)

Niagara College approves new strategic plan

Board hopes plan will position school as leader in applied, experiential learning

COMMUNITY

Mar 06, 2017 Niagara-On-The-Lake Town Crier

NIAGARA — Niagara College's Board of Governors has approved a new strategic plan that will guide the college toward a future as Canada's leader in applied experiential learning.

Niagara College's 2017-2021 Strategic Plan forms a road map that will guide the college as it describes a post-secondary landscape marked by significant and rapid changes. The plan is focused, inclusive learning community offering a breadth of programs that will serve the Region and the broader global economy.

"Our strategic plan provides bold strategic directions that will guide our college through the challenges and opportunities created by demographic shifts, an increasing demand for skills and the evolving needs of learners and employers alike," said Niagara College President Dan Patterson in a statement. "The plan is the result of a collaborative process that generated input ideas from within and outside the college that builds on our strengths as an innovative learning community with a strong focus on emerging trends and opportunities in education, industry and business."

The plan, which is available online at www.niagaracollege.ca/strategicplan, outlines the college's directions:

- A more culturally and globally engaged college, focused on inclusivity and student enrolment, with a broad range of programs that infuse new skills and competencies to meet the needs and expectations of learners and employers;

COLLEGE UNVEILS 5-YEAR PLAN

18 MAR 2017

By ALEX YORKE
Staff Writer

Niagara College is getting ready to roll out a new strategic plan that was approved by the Board of Governors for the period of 2017-2021.

The plan details how Niagara College will continue to adapt to a changing post-secondary market through increasing diversity and broadening the opportunities for international students to "be world ready."

"As post-secondary education faces its most significant shift in decades, we are focused on strengths in developing a strategic plan that leads us to success as we adapt to the opportunities that lie ahead," said Niagara College President Dan Patterson in a statement.

"Our plan provides a common purpose that will unite our college community in enriching lives and fulfilling dreams, and our mission of providing outstanding education in a changing world," Patterson continued.

"Teaching and learning remain at the heart of who we are and everything that we do. Our commitment to the success of our students is woven throughout our strategic plan."

One of the main highlights of the plan is the concept of the "preemptive college" where the college will continue to integrate cutting edge new ideas into technical program development to begin teaching automotive students how to perform electric vehicle repairs.

"The College's success has been and continues to be founded on its unwavering commitment to unparalleled learner experience," said Chair of the Board of Governors Carolyn Watts.

"That commitment pioneered at Niagara College and reflected in our consistent focus on student satisfaction has differentiated it from other colleges in the region and more importantly, driven every major advance that Niagara College has achieved."

The College will also continue to emphasize creativity and entrepreneurship by providing avenues for funding and appropriate resources to special projects.

"At a time when economic growth is so closely tied to highly skilled and adaptable workers, Niagara College has developed a forward-looking strategic vision and commitment to excellence that will serve to further differentiate it from its peers across the province and beyond."

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Niagara College approves new strategic plan

Posted on March 7, 2017 by Julie Greco in [Media Coverage](#)



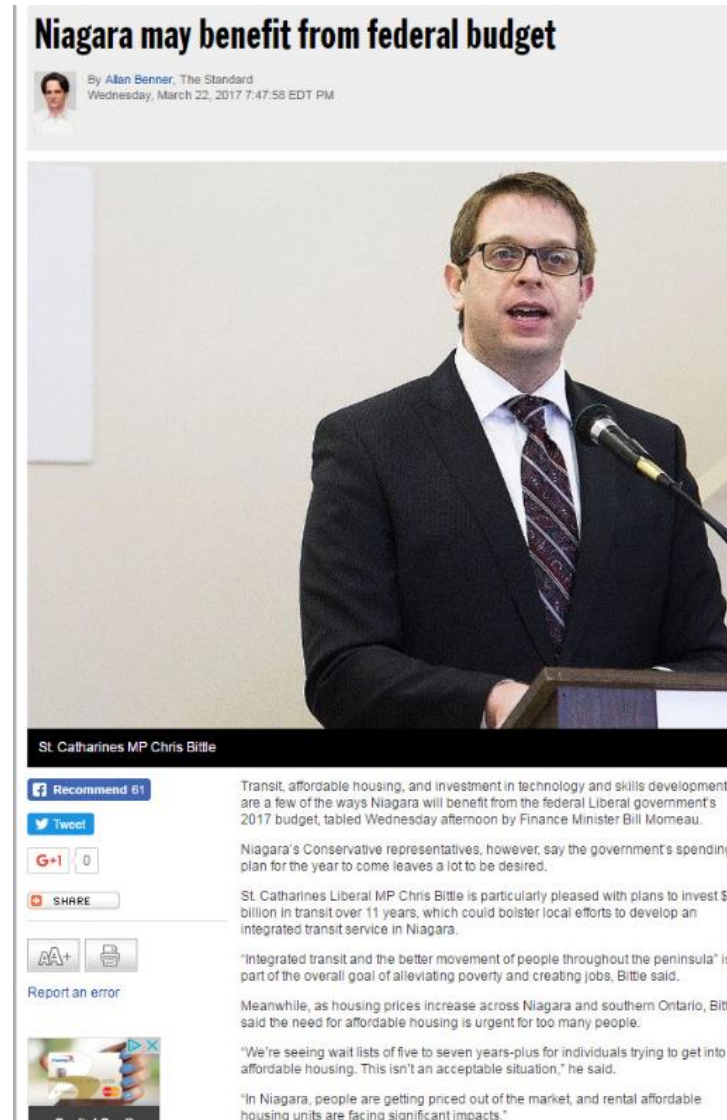
An article posted by Niagara This Week on March 6 features Niagara College's new strategic plan.

[View the article here.](#)

Federal budget supports innovation

President Dan Patterson told media he sees the Liberal budget as welcome news, particularly regarding “investment in innovation and skills which will foster high-tech growth in areas including advanced manufacturing and agri-food.”

COVERAGE TYPE Digital, Print
MARCH 2017 [St.Catharines Standard](#)



Bittle said the budget also sets aside a \$70.5-million investment in the protection of the Great Lakes and the Lake Winnipeg basin.

Because millions of Canadians rely on those bodies of water for fresh water, he said “we have to deal with invasive species, we have to address the quality of water and we can’t let that slide.”

The budget is welcome news to Niagara College president Dan Patterson, particularly regarding investment in innovation and skills which will foster high-tech growth in areas including advanced manufacturing and agri-food.

“Niagara College has a strong presence in these areas and with work-integrated learning, we are set to deliver this plan,” Patterson said. “This budget builds on the strong framework from last year’s commitment by the federal government of \$73 million to ensure what is being taught in classrooms directly relates to jobs in the marketplace.”

But Niagara Falls MP Rob Nicholson was primarily concerned about the local wine industry, in light of plans to hike taxes on alcohol, beer and wine.

“These are important industries in the region of Niagara, and I’m disappointed to see that,” he said.

In contrast, he said the former Conservative government eliminated all excise tax on Canadian wine.

“I think they’d better make it clear that this is not Canadian wine, and I surely hope that they’re not including all wine under that program.”

First 3D printer of its kind in Canada

The Walker Advanced Manufacturing Innovation Centre is now the home to the Fortus 900mc Gen II, the first 3D printer of its kind in the country. Its first job was printing a matching window trim for a 1934 Dodge

COVERAGE TYPE Digital
MARCH 2017 [Niagara College](#), [Research & Innovation](#)

[Home](#) / [My College](#) / Niagara College home to first 3D printer of its kind in Canada

Niagara College home to first 3D printer of its kind in Canada

Posted on [March 23, 2017](#) by [Julie Greco](#) in [My College](#), [News Releases](#)



Niagara College mechanical engineering student James Turner inspects the first project – a vehicle window trim – completed by the Fortus 900mc Gen 2, the first 3D printer of its kind in Canada. A classic car owner searched years for a matching trim for his 1934 Dodge DR and his dreams are finally realized.

Classic car collector Phil Foster searched years for a matching window trim for his beloved 1934 Dodge DR.

And although he and his wife Gwen have access to a network of other vintage car enthusiasts – they're founding members of the Antique & Classic Car Club of Canada, Niagara Chapter – they still could not find the rare part.

"These garnish mouldings just aren't around anymore," explained the retired contractor/welder, who had all but given up once his grandson's online search proved unsuccessful.

Then a friend suggested he enlist the help of applied research students at the Walker Advanced Manufacturing Innovation Centre at Niagara College. As luck would have it, the Research & Innovation division was in the process

[RESEARCH & INNOVATION](#)

Niagara College home to first 3D printer of its kind in Canada

🕒 March 22, 2017



Niagara College mechanical engineering student James Turner inspects the first project – a vehicle window trim – completed by the Fortus 900mc Gen 2, the first 3D printer of its kind to be installed in Canada. A classic car owner searched years for a matching window trim for his 1934 Dodge DR and his dreams are finally realized.

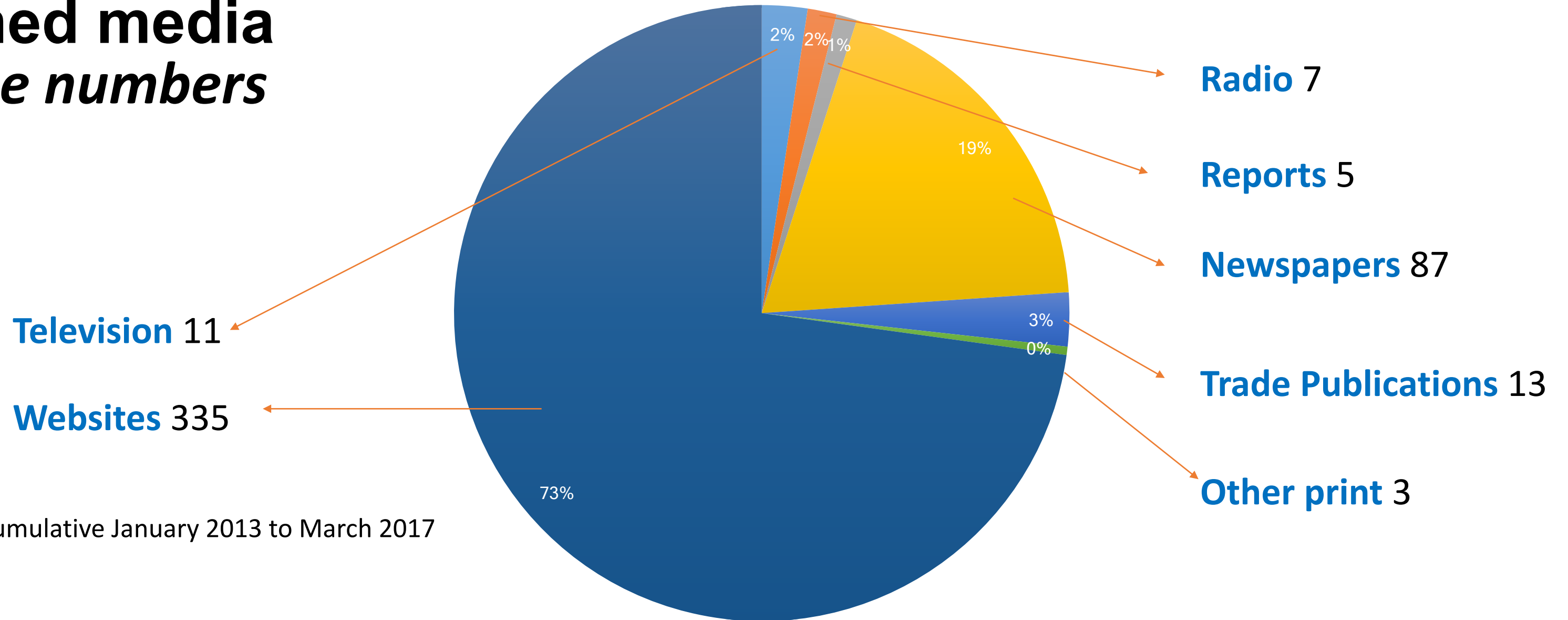
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Then a friend suggested he could enlist the help of applied research students at the Walker Advanced Manufacturing Innovation Centre at Niagara College (NC). As luck would have it, the Research & Innovation division was in the process of installing a brand new 3D printer at its Welland campus – the first of its kind in

Earned media *by the numbers*



TIMELINE Cumulative January 2013 to March 2017



286 likes

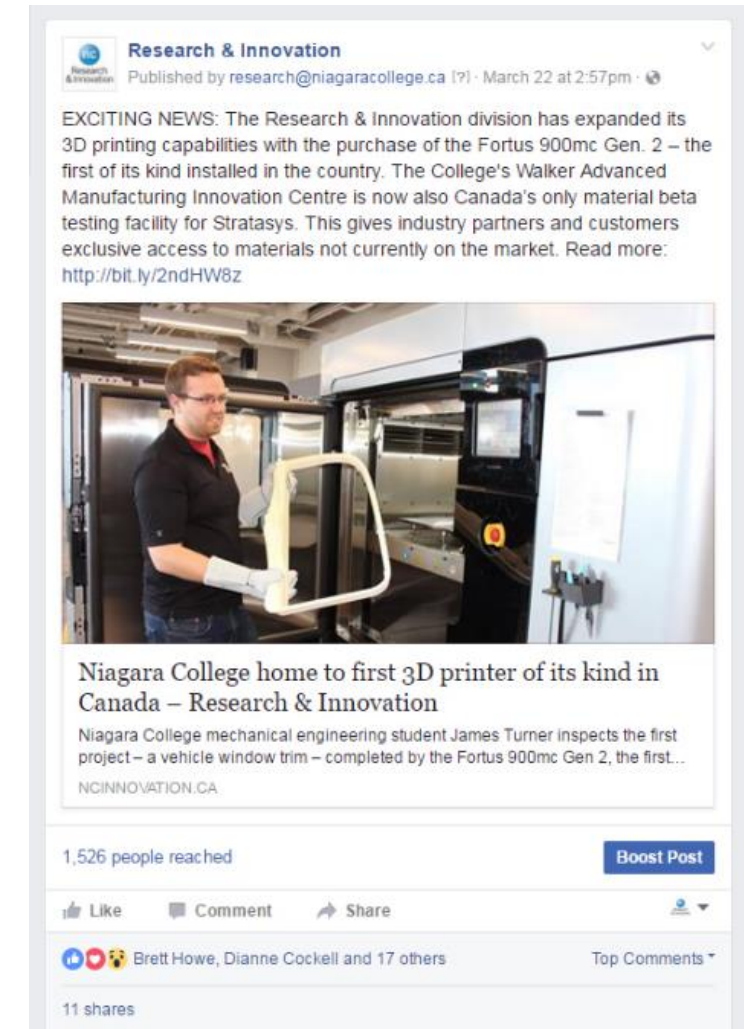
SOCIAL MEDIA: [Facebook](#)
TIMELINE As of March 2017



↑ **January**
 653 people reached



↑ **February**
 6,640 reached



↑ **March**
 1,526 people reached



777 followers

SOCIAL MEDIA: [Twitter](#)
TIMELINE As of March 2017



↑ **January** 2,286 impressions

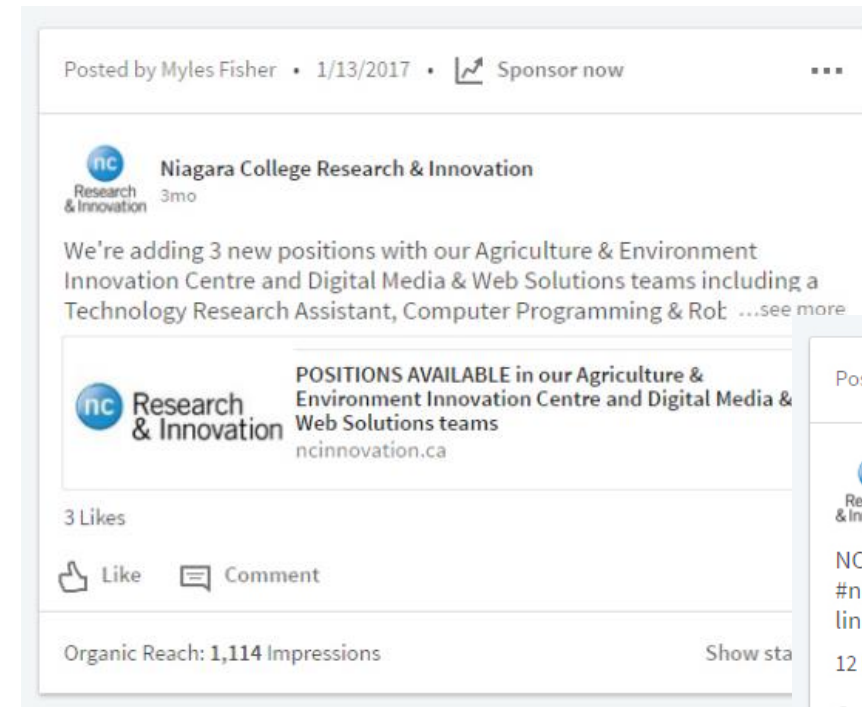
↓ **February** 3,487 impressions



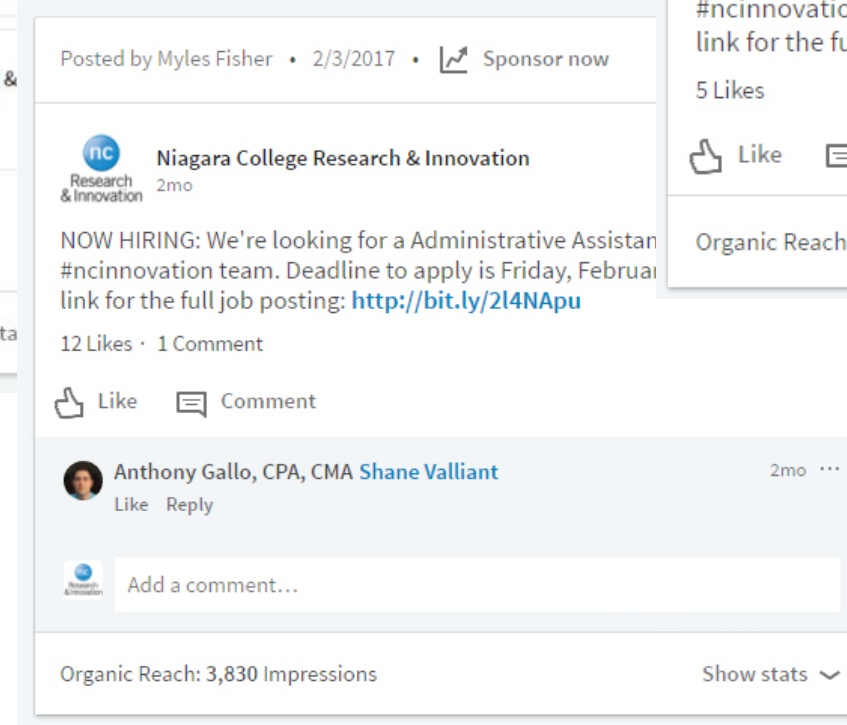
↑ **March**
4,680 impressions



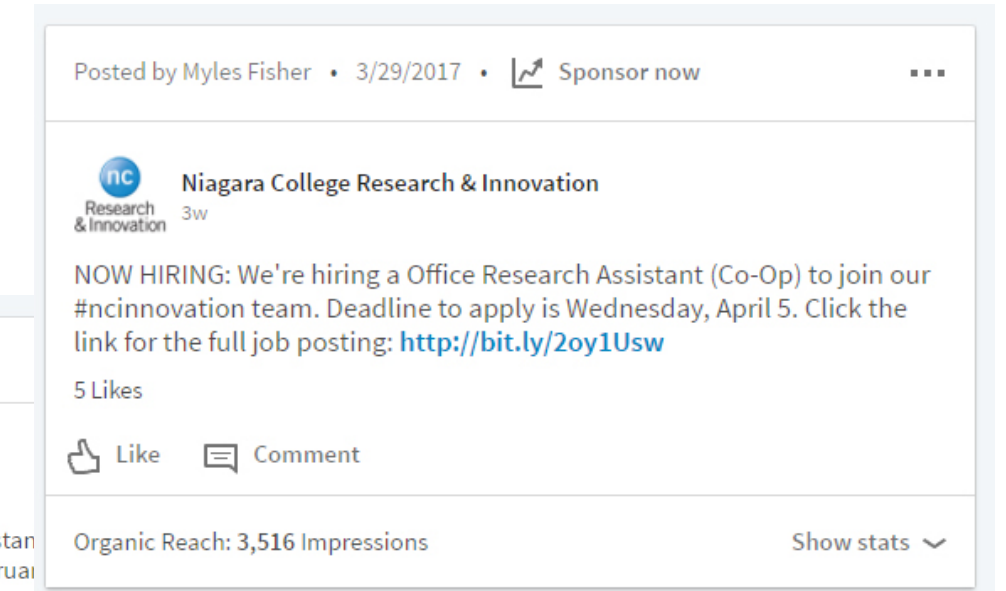
2,034 followers



January 1,114 impressions



February 3,830 impressions



March
3,516 impressions

SOCIAL MEDIA: [LinkedIn](#)

TIMELINE As of March 2017

For more information visit: **ncinnovation.ca**

SOLUTIONS FOR INDUSTRY

Providing innovation solutions to business and key industry sectors through applied research in partnership with Niagara College faculty and students.