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### **YBL shines a light on airport electrical systems, hosts apprentice training sessions**

North Island College fourth level electrical apprenticeship students got an up-close look at the unique features of airport lighting systems at the Campbell River Airport earlier this month.

An introductory presentation in the maintenance shop set the scene for the rest of the afternoon's tour, with an emphasis on safety precautions, including required qualifications and training to work on the specialized series circuit equipment. The presentation also included the new national standards for airfield lighting inspection and maintenance

*"Aviation lighting systems are completely different from conventional electrical systems and require additional safety measures and specialized tools and training, even for certified electricians. Canada is the only country that stipulates very specific, required qualifications for working on high voltage series circuit equipment with national standards,"* airport electrician Murray Ames told the students. *"The CSA standard also has specific training recommendations as well as standards for airport lighting systems inspection and maintenance."*

The information session included the range of light fixtures installed at the airfield lighting training centre, and the evolution of light fixture design – from oil lamps to electrical units that didn't weather well, to contemporary sealed lamps with halogen lamps or LED bulbs that use less energy.

*"The focus on maintenance requirements and reduced electricity use adds up since there are about 450 fixtures at an airport our size,"* Ames says. *"Larger airports can have more than 10,000."*

*"The exposure our students received through Murray Ames at the Campbell River airport was invaluable. Having an opportunity to view an installation as varied and diverse as an airport-with an individual as passionate and informed as Murray-really helped to open the student's eyes to some other areas of the electrical trade-and the unique hazards which exist,"* says David Johns, electrical apprenticeship and foundations instructor.

The NIC apprenticeship students were getting a preview of some of the equipment and information that was part of a five-day airfield lighting maintenance course the following week. That course drew 20 attendees to the only fully operational, hands-on training facility in the country – at the Campbell River Airport. This is the third national training session hosted in Campbell River, and Ames is one of three course instructors.

Murray Ames is also president of the Canadian Airports Electrical Association (CAEA), which hosts the Canadian Airports National Electrical Workshop (CANEW). He is also a member of the technical committee for CSA-Z463, representing both the Campbell River Airport and CAEA

*"CANEW continues to offer training that was previously available through Transport Canada,"* Ames says. *"CANEW is the only training workshop of its kind in North America that provides a format for the exchange of airport electrical knowledge, experience and skills. As a training workshop, rather than a conference, attendees receive certificates indicating new or refresher training."*

Find more information at [www.canew.ca](http://www.canew.ca), or email [canew@telus.net](mailto:canew@telus.net).

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Contact: Tyler Masee, Airport Manager

250-923-5012