

April 26, 2005

**COMMUNITY COLLEGE BUDGET CONFIRMS
EXTRA TAX-BURDEN ON STUDENTS**

The Board of Vancouver Community College passed the college's 2005-06 budget last night.

It calls for what amounts to a break-even bottom line.

"They must be embarrassed by the high levels of surpluses they have been running in the last couple of years," said VCCFA President Lizz Lindsay. "Two years ago it was about \$7 million, last year about \$4 million. There is no reason to believe those huge levels wouldn't have continued.

"Community Colleges aren't supposed to be profit-centres.

"In order to help allocate surpluses for the upcoming year they have created not one but two funds: one to run at about 3% of operating costs (about \$2.5m) and to be used for operating expenses and another at 10% of estimated equipment value (which will run at another \$0.7m annually) to be used for capital and infrastructure costs.

"Most of the surpluses have been created through the huge raises in tuition fees. This means that items that should be funded by taxpayers, through government transfers, will now be structurally looked after by student tuition fees that have become tuition taxes."

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The VCC Faculty Association represents the more than 600 faculty
at all campuses of Vancouver Community College.