

February 26, 2003
For Immediate Release

NON-CONFIDENCE VOTE GETS 98% SUPPORT

Yesterday, at one of their largest meetings in recent years, 138 of 141 members of the VCC Faculty Association voted in favour of the union taking a "position of non-confidence" against VCC's Board Chair, Gordon Barefoot, VCC President, Dale Dorn, and the 6 government-appointed members of the Board.

VCCFA President Lizz Lindsay outlined the reasons for the overwhelming vote results, "For the second year in a row our members and our students are facing layoffs and program cancellations. Last year it was the termination of 7 programming areas, course and service cancellations and over 100 instructors affected. For the upcoming year, they've served notice on another 60 instructors in over a dozen areas, nine programs or departments will be terminated, and about 1500 students will lose their classes.

"The VCCFA took action," Lindsay continued, "A month ago faculty demanded that the Board and President 'speak out and go public' on the need for funding, to defend our programs and to delay the passage of the 2003-04 budget. They did not respond.

"With the release of the College's draft budget for 2003-04 the union found that there is no deficit in 2002-03, and no planned deficit in 2003-04. In fact, VCC can afford to:

- pay off a \$2.35 million deficit from 01/02
- put \$600 thousand into capital items
- not lay off anyone
- deliver the full quota of student offerings (7848 FTES) the Ministry has asked for.
- put aside a \$315 thousand surplus by March 2004

"They have chosen to risk the future of students, the careers of faculty and staff, and the reputation of the college because they fear what the following 04/05 year might bring," concluded Lindsay, "With their vote our members are saying this is close to irresponsible. It's not yet clear what 04/05 will bring. The College's strategy is too simple and too dangerous. It ensures the loss of programming and cuts off many possible options."

Union Serves Notice

With this vote, the union will serve notice on the College Board at its meeting Thursday, February 27th (6:15 pm, City Centre Campus, Room 240) that in order for confidence to be restored the College must:

- 1) withdraw the current draft budget for 2003/04
- 2) rescind the layoff notices that were issued in February, 2003
- 3) plan on delivering the Ministry's FTE target

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