

Media Release  
March 5, 2003

**Vancouver Community College Education Council  
Decries Planned Cuts**

At its March 4th Meeting VCC Education Council passed the following motion (9-4) as its advice to the Board:

**The educational advice to the College Board from Education Council is to do everything possible to save Vancouver Community College's unique programs whose elimination or reduction would be an irrevocable loss to the educational enterprise within VCC and to the community at large.**

"This advice from educational leaders at VCC is important and serious. It shows that the cuts scheduled for this summer should be the absolute last resort," said VCCFA President Lizz Lindsay, "Instead we have a Board determined to cut programs as soon as they can in order to build up a surplus to deal with contingencies in the following year."

"The VCCFA admits that there may be difficulties but we do not think they will be as problematic as this Board projects. They are acting far too early, amputating limbs before the diagnosis is complete," added Lindsay.

"Our analysis of their numbers, which administration has not challenged, is that they are using student fees and government money to create a surplus. **VCC does not have to make any cuts this year. That's why our members voted 98% in favour of a non-confidence motion against the Board, the Board Chair and the College President.**"

"This time next year when we know what 2004/05 holds for VCC, it will be too late for these programs," concluded Lindsay, "we call upon our Board and President to take the advice of our Education Council to heart, to suspend their planned cuts and to continue working on alternatives."

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VCC's Education Council is a legislated body comprised of faculty, staff, students and administrators from VCC who have the obligation to advise the VCC Board on matters of educational governance. Such Councils are mandated at every College and can be compared to Senates at Universities.

VCC administration and Board have issued layoff notice to 60 faculty. Programming in 9 departments will end by this summer. The College has stated that it will not deliver 940 student FTEs of the over 7840 requested by the Ministry of Advanced Education, fully 12% of its allotted quota.

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