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THE 2009/2010 EXECUTIVE

Frank Cosco
PRESIDENT (10)

Brenda Appleton
VICE-PRESIDENT (10)

Brock Elliott
TREASURER (10)

Ingrid Kolsteren
CHIEF STEWARD (10)

Vacancy (10)

John Demeulemeester (10)

Wayne Avery (09)

Heather Chan (09)

Settimio Sicoli (09)

Maggi Trebble (09)

Ella-Fay Zalezsak (09)

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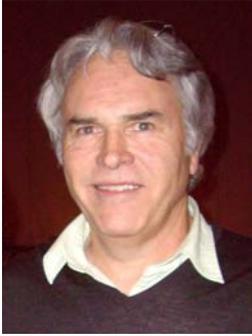
VCCFA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING ELECTIONS & SOCIAL

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 24TH

2:30 PM

CROATIAN CULTURAL CENTRE
3250 COMMERCIAL DRIVE
(16TH & COMMERCIAL)

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



FRANK COSCO
VCCFA PRESIDENT

**Next
Operations Council**

November 10

**Let us know
if you have any issues**

The rush of activities and meetings that started with Labour Day hasn't seemed to lift yet, maybe next week ...

A Time of Change

Through the summer and up to now there has been a lot of activity on several fronts, which are commented on in this issue:

- ◆ Strategic Planning Input
- ◆ Operations Council
- ◆ College Presidential Search
- ◆ Meetings with Administration, the Board Chair and the Acting President
- ◆ Budget Process Input
- ◆ Layoffs, old and new
- ◆ FPSE work
- ◆ Support for our Bargaining Committee
- ◆ Support for Shared Governance and the recent Governance Elections

Student Union's U-Pass Campaign

The students' union along with their counterparts at Emily Carr and Douglas have a forceful campaign for OnePass for all at the current UBC rate of \$25. Ironically, because VCC, Douglas and Emily Carr students are high transit users, TransLink is afraid it will get less income through a U-Pass than it does currently. Our students are being discriminated against because they actually use transit while UBC students and others are rewarded because they don't. Go figure.

They expect an Ombudsperson's report in the new year, continue to support them as much as you can.

Student Union's new Medical-Dental Plan

Our students are very well-served by their union. It has a new health plan specifically geared to our cohort of students. Have a look at the letter on page 13 for more details.

Our Open House

Thanks to the many who showed up for the event, for the beautiful flowers from CUPE 4627, and for the organizing by Brenda, Ingrid, Audrey and Maggi. See page 12.

The Newsletter

Because of the tightness of our annual budget we have decided to reduce the number of printed copies significantly. We will leave a number in each departmental campus mail box; personal copies will be sent upon request; and it will continue to be posted on our website.

AGM: Tuesday, November 24th, Croatian Cultural Centre

Please plan on attending the AGM. They always provide an opportunity for reflection and renewal. There will be elections for the Executive and for Steward spots. If interested, please let us know.

Our Annual Dinner Social Follows the AGM

This dinner is always well received. We will be inviting recent retirees. See you there.



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Members Only Website

Brenda and Audrey are trying to get this protected site going again. Please check it out. See page 13.

Education Council Elections

Congratulations to those elected to Education Council:

Ginny Cathcart	SIE, CID, Music, Design
Kathy Fukuyama	Health
Sally Gibson	Member-at-large
Todd Rowlett	Library and Learning Centre
Fraser Thorburn	Language Studies

For first-timers, Kathy, Todd and Fraser there's bound to be a bit of a learning curve as they join Sally and Ginny and incumbents Heather Chan, Lorna Downie, Betty Nobel, and Karen Shortt.

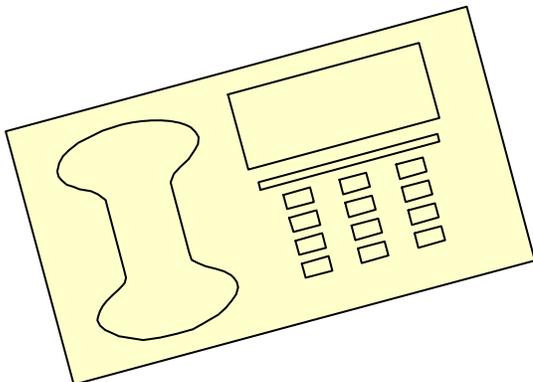
We all owe a debt of thanks to Brenda Appleton, Leona Friesen, Dale Hunter and Keith Lillyman for their past service on EdCo. Brenda especially, as she has served over ten years of the Council's fifteen year history.

Thanks to the many faculty who took the time to vote and thereby showed their support for their colleagues' important work.

Our Phone Tree

Thanks to Carrie Leggatt for stepping forward to help coordinate the list, great process is already being made.

~FC



VCCFA Annual General Meeting Elections & Social

Tuesday

November 24, 2009

2:30 pm

Croatian Cultural Centre

**3250 Commercial Drive
16th & Commercial**

Thanks to those members who came out.

We invited new VP-Education, Helen Allen, to the beginning of the meeting to greet members and wished her well during this new aspect of her career.

Thanks to our Treasurer Brock Elliott who presented his first budget. The 2009/10 budget runs till next September.

Executive member Alison Woods, who's on a happy maternity leave, had been replaced by Karen Brooke. Unfortunately, Karen was caught up in what has proved to be an unnecessary layoff process and looked to work overseas for awhile. Ella-Fay Zaleszak was acclaimed to the vacant position till the AGM. Regretfully, Hassan Khayambashi had to resign from his two-year executive position for personal reasons. That position will be filled through a by-election at the AGM.

There was a good discussion of many of the items commented on in this newsletter.

Our committee, chaired by Maggi Trebble and including Brenda Appleton, Leona Friesen, Ingrid Kolsteren, Wayne McNiven, and Karen Shortt has been busy compiling the survey input they received from about 170 respondents. A great response for our relatively "old school" pen and paper survey!

Thanks for responding, they appreciate it.

They have set up numerous drop-ins and special meetings for those who wish to get deeper into an issue or two. If your group would like to talk by all means get in touch with a member of the committee or our office.

Every general meeting from now on will include an opportunity to engage with them, so do not miss one, it's important. They will also be reporting through regular short bulletins so watch for them as well.



United Way

The VCC United Way Campaign for 2009 will kick off on VCC Day, October 30. In an effort to raise funds for the United Way, we will be selling raffle tickets, and soliciting pledges and donations at this event. Over the following month these efforts will continue and will be supplemented with our soup & bun lunch and the pledge makers thank you party.

Please watch for our advertising and consider making a donation or pledge, buy a raffle ticket and come out for lunch on soup & bun day. The United Way Committee could also use your help; selling tickets, running the soup day and thank you party. If you could be of assistance, please contact me or one of the other United Way Committee members.

Brock Elliott, belliott@vcc.ca, 7383.

United Way Committee



REGULAR UNION-MANAGEMENT MEETINGS

Some agenda items from the September and October "Three-Elevens:"

Human Resources' Absence Reporting "Project"

We still haven't been able to get a clear handle on what this entails but we understand HR wants to meet with faculty on such issues as how vacation is scheduled. Part of their goal is to lower the amount of carry-over vacation. We have raised several concerns with the approach and have asked for further union involvement.

Dean and Director Collective Agreement Orientation

Just as department heads have an annual session put on jointly by HR and the union regarding their role, we have proposed that we jointly put one on for Deans and Directors.

H1N1 Preparations

We did flag the need for clarity. Please let us know if you have some specific concerns.

Downtown Parking During Olympic Break

The College will be discounting payroll deductions for parking pool members as the facility will not be available.

Provincial Funding

Acting President Pete Legg reported that he did expect a relatively positive budget year for 2009-10. In his words, VCC would be "relatively unscathed."

Mismanagement of Layoffs in ESL

We were very critical of VCC's rush to layoff in 2009 in these large departments. It caused an unnecessary amount of stress, displacement and anxiety. In our view VCC has to more deeply consider the human cost of its actions and the risk to its reputation as a good employer. What started early in the year as elimination of term work and the issuing of layoff notice to about 10 regulars ended up in September as the lifting of all the notices and the hiring of about 10 FTEs worth of term faculty.

FAIR EMPLOYMENT WEEK

FEW is probably the only annual event common and open to all post-secondary faculty in North America. It's an attempt to have local events throughout the continent at about the end of October, beginning of November that both celebrate what we here call non-regular faculty and advocate for better rights and conditions for them.

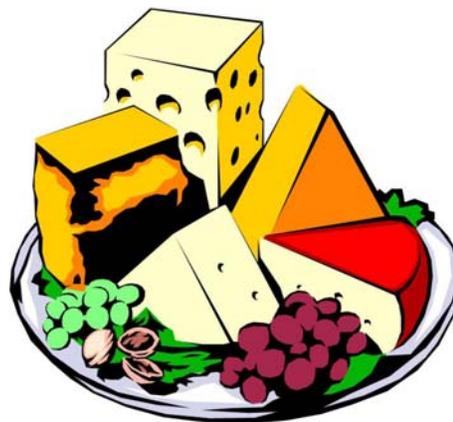
They go by a hundred different names and descriptions but the bottom-line is the same: they have made a commitment to post-secondary education that their employers have not reciprocated.

In the States, it's called Campus Equity Week. Googling either will direct you to lots of information and history.

The unique situation for non-regulars at VCC is used as a positive example by equity advocates throughout the continent. If you're wondering why drop by our FEW activities, on November 3rd and 5th.

- ◆ **November 3 - Broadway Office, 2654, 3:30/5:30, Unwine & Cheese**
- ◆ **November 5 - Pender Office, 401-402 West Pender, 3:30/5:30, Wine & Cheese**

See you there. All are welcome whether auxiliary, term, or regular.



FPSE UPDATE

FPSE's Presidents' Council has met in September and October, items from its agenda:

Our Annual Victoria Lobby

With all MLAs in town for the Legislative session it is a good opportunity for us to meet with members of the government and opposition caucuses. NDP leader Carole James and the new critic for Advanced Education, Dawn Black also met with us for about an hour.

Staff rep, Phil Legg, set up pairs of us to meet directly with individual Liberal backbenchers. My particular meeting was not that fruitful, but perhaps raised some new ideas for the Richmond member. We did bring up the need to direct as much federal labour market funding as possible to accountable public sector colleges.

We were also able to share two recent documents:

Results of a BC Federation of Labour-sponsored poll which shows 86% of the public support *"investing more in public services like post-secondary education and retraining programs for unemployed workers"*

A jointly produced discussion paper from the government-union-management Policy Table that describes an extensive list of collaborative projects between post-secondary institutions and their communities.

Both are available through our office and will be out at the AGM.

Pension Plan Information and Survey

FPSE is putting into effect a VCCFA motion from the AGM to develop a comprehensive information package in order to prepare members for a survey that will help inform Presidents' Council as it moves towards significant pension discussions next year.

Brenda Appleton at CAUT Librarians' Conference in Ottawa

Proud to have Brenda chosen to represent FPSE at this conference.

Ingrid Kolsteren: Chair of the Contract Administration and Review Committee

In September, Ingrid's fellow chief stewards elected her chair of this important FPSE Standing Committee. As chair, she also then sits on the subcommittee that reviews and recommends grievances from member locals for authorization to future arbitrations. Ingrid is a great choice for this role, and the first VCCFA member to head a standing committee of FPSE.

Private Sector Union Head to go to TESOL in Boston

FPSE's private sector local has now organized three ESL schools in downtown Vancouver. The group heading the Forum on Fair Employment within TESOL was interested in hearing of their success. Presidents' Council supported a VCCFA motion to support sending the local's president to Boston in March to present at the Forum's session.

Non-Regular Standing Committee

It's my pleasure to be the Executive liaison to this standing committee which recently had its fall meeting. It's always an opportunity to acknowledge the great work that FPSE locals have done for their non-regs but also to encourage them to use their status within FPSE as a way to activate the needed revitalization of the campaign for as much normalization as possible.

FC

FPSE Bargaining Conference: October 3rd

The Conference, originally a VCCFA initiative at the May AGM, allowed representatives of all 17 public-sector faculty unions a chance to extensively explore the question of bargaining process. Future meetings and local processes will deal with the parallel formulation of issues agendas.

We will report out more extensively at upcoming meetings.

OPERATIONS COUNCIL

COLLEGE PRESIDENTIAL SEARCH

Another of the VCCFA's initiatives over the summer was to advocate for a better process at OpsCo for dealing with items of concern which do not fall under the purview of Education Council. The College did not adopt our proposal to have School and Centre representation, but it did commit to better discussion, more accountability, and more transparency around agenda setting.

The meeting in September was successful in having one of the few open discussions about Space Allocations between a wide array of administrators and faculty concerned. Acting VP Finance, Lyndon Scott was attentive and made some commitments. He and the College Executive have charged Dave Crowe with doing a comprehensive report. VP Education, Helen Allen, reported that her Deans were also going to report on the topic.

The VCCFA pointed out that these reports should be publicized in draft so that's there's an opportunity for further input.

The next OpsCo is November 10th. If you have issues you would like to have raised, please let us know asap.

While the search process has taken over a year and therefore a lot longer than we anticipated, it has been a good process. It's been rewarding to have a chance for union leaders to work closely with senior administrators, College Board members, and our fellow constituency group leaders. Any hiccups in the past are not the result of a flawed process within our recommendation committee.

We are now reaching the finalist stage for the third time and we hope this time the deal is closed. Faculty members will have had a chance to meet the finalists and provide some input. The full College Board is slated to conduct its own interviews on Halloween.

STRATEGIC PLANNING INPUT

COLLEGE 2010/11 BUDGET PROCESS INPUT

We congratulated the acting president for coming up with a modified plan for restarting a strategic planning process without going straight to a fully comprehensive plan. His proposal includes items we suggested such as starting at the School or Centre level and inviting outside speakers.

While a fuller start has been delayed, which we advocated, we continue to assert that there should be a commitment to current programming at the start of any such process.

The VCCFA submitted comment on the Budgeting Principles consistent to our input last year—the exaggeration of the “fragile” nature of some funding sources and the lack of prioritization for education and education support.

The union also met directly with Lyndon Scott and Ann Johnson to refresh other points we had made in the 2009/10 process—that there is not enough detail in terms of depth and historical perspective on the non-education side of the budget and that there are clear omissions from the education side of the presentation to EdCo.

Emergency Management Committee

This committee sets policy and monitors College procedures and emergency events.

This month Surinder Aulakh, Director of Safety and Security reported on the bomb scare and evacuation of the Downtown campus. Surinder complimented faculty for their part in the orderly evacuation, especially the Area Wardens. We also discussed the College's Influenza Plan, Business Continuity Planning, the Social Services plan nearing publication and other subcommittee work. The EMC is currently looking for new Area Wardens who would assist in evacuations and other emergency situations. Training is provided.

If you are interested, please contact Surinder Aulakh (saulakh@vcc.ca, phone: 8645).

Brock Elliott, belliot@vcc.ca, 7383.

Environmental Sustainability Advisory Group

This group of volunteers has provided information to the College community, advised management of green practices, advocated for green action and ran an Environmental Fair during the past year. We plan to do more of the same, and would encourage other faculty to come and join us. Generally we meet once a month.

If you would be interested or have questions please contact me.

Brock Elliott, belliot@vcc.ca, 7383.

Green Action: Who Pays?

This summer, a SFU report on 9 post-secondary institutions has found that they have no way of funding the required reductions in greenhouse gas emissions that have been mandated for them. The report is called, Taking Action: BC Universities and Colleges respond to the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Act. The Act calls for carbon neutrality by 2010.

A quote: "All institutions interviewed stated the financing was the largest challenge they face in implementing (the Act) and there is concern that without additional funding institutions may be forced to cut in areas that could affect core programming."

VCC was not part of the study, the VCCFA will be raising this issue with administration and the Board. The report can be found at: walkingthetalk.bc.ca

Institutions interviewed were BCIT, UBC, UNBC, Capilano, Emily Carr, TRU, Okanagan, Northern Lights, and Selkirk.

Source: 24 Hours

MEETINGS WITH THE BOARD CHAIR AND THE ACTING PRESIDENT

The VCCFA Executive had a good hour-long discussion in September at what Board Chair Don Fairbairn has now set up as quarterly opportunities for constituency group leaders to meet directly with him and Pete Legg. He has an open invitation to other Board members, so faculty College Board member Janet Zlotnik came to the meetings as well.

We surveyed several topics:

Opening up board committee meetings – *A continuing discussion point, Board hasn't got to it yet.*

Reviews of tuition and FTE - *There will be an effort this fall to publicly raise these issues. There was a discussion at OpsCo on FTEs. There will be a tuition forum on November 6, 3 pm, Room 1227. Check with Doreen Sharan for further info.*

The 2010-11 College budget process - *We continue to advocate for education and education support to be the first priority.*

Planning – *We appreciated the College's responsiveness on this file.*

An Update on Layoffs - *We reported on better handling in general but an unnecessary, costly expense in ESL.*

Marketing and Recruitment Strategy – *We lamented the shortsighted cutting of the Literacy Coordinator and raised concerns re Recruitment strategy discussions not being as open as they should. Since then union VP Brenda Appleton has worked with Deanna Rexe to facilitate better discussions.*

Services for Students with Disabilities -- *We stated that we have yet to recover from the devastating cuts of the early decade and that it was time to re-assess the situation. Had some measure of understanding and agreement but not yet a hard commitment.*

Selection of Senior Administrators and the Evaluation of the President – *We demonstrate how lacking current college policy is in these areas and advocated for a return to the better practice of former decades.*

One always feels they have received a good hearing from the current Board Chair. He appreciates input and is interested in improvements in all these areas. Progress on some has been slow but we persevere.

ACCC Nominations

The Association of Canadian Community Colleges offers 5 national awards annually in categories that include Teaching Excellence and Programming Excellence

In recent years VCC has won for programming in 2004/05 with Stars 4 Success and in 2007/08 with the continuing Literacy Outreach of the Basic Education Department. Gyda Chud won in 2007/08 for Administrative Leadership.

Think about nominating a program or a colleague. Next June's conference is in Niagara Falls; check out the website www.accc.ca under Programs and Services for more information regarding the nomination process.

COMMUNITY COLLEGES ... POETRY ... & BICYCLES

I simply want to celebrate the fact that right near your home, year in and year out, a community college is quietly—and with very little financial encouragement—saving lives and minds. I can't think of a more efficient, hopeful, or egalitarian machine, with the possible exception of the bicycle.

--Kay Ryan, Poet Laureate of the United States of America

Ms. Ryan was speaking recently at the launch at the Library of Congress in Washington of her **Community College Poetry Project**. In early 2010 the Library of Congress will launch Ryan's webpage "Poetry for the Mind's Joy," on its poetry pages, www.loc.gov/poetry/. In January Community Colleges will seek out the best student poems for possible inclusion and April 1st next year will be National Poetry Day on Community College Campuses.

Ryan has taught remedial English at Community Colleges for more than thirty years. As she describes it, "Really basic English skills, like developmental reading and writing; you know, our ambition would be to write a paragraph -- a good paragraph, with a topic sentence and supporting points."

After going to a community college in California herself, "I couldn't wait to get to UCLA, to get away from the community college, and it took me a number of years to have it truly dawn on me that I'd been treated much better at community college than I was at UCLA ... [where] I was in classes of 300, and ... I didn't ever talk to my professors, I talked to the TA, and often my papers were graded by a whole rotation of TAs. If I had three papers, they would wind up graded by three different TAs, and there's no coherence, there's no relationship.... And at community college, all of my instructors knew my name; I had a personal relationship with them. Which is beyond price."

Ryan hopes that by focusing her attention on community colleges, she can help them get some of the respect -- and even celebration -- to which they have long been due. And if that celebration were to be accompanied by greater financial support, so much the better. In an ideal world, she says, "I would like to see them funded on par with four-year colleges... to receive equal funding."

Failing that, she wants to see them recognized for "the excellence of the instruction, the promise of the students, and the usefulness of the institutions."

Of course, for a community college instructor, herself a community college graduate, to be the U.S. Poet Laureate at all -- well, that's no small thing in itself. "I'm doing the project without having to do anything," Ryan laughs, "just by shouting from the rooftops, 'I spent my life teaching community college, I graduated from one, and I think they're great!'"

Sources: www.insidehighered.com
www.loc.gov/today/



BC's Unique Approach to Post-Secondary Funding: Try not to

One table of stats in the recent Almanac from the Canadian Association of University Teachers provided clear evidence of how BC governments have decided to neglect post-secondary funding. It and tiny PEI are the only provinces to have posted a drastic decline over fifteen years.

Provincial Government Transfers to Colleges and Universities for Post-Secondary Education per FTE Student along with BC's relative ranking, 1993-2008

<i>Constant \$2007</i>											
	BC	Rk	Alta		Ont		Que		NS		Cdn Avg
93/4	16,330	2	17,733		9,901		12,277		12,419		12,546
94/5	16,486	1	15,535		9,743		13,118		11,061		12,532
95/6	16,373	1	13,568		10,623		12,835		10,007		12,534
96/7	15,895	1	13,284		8,783		12,362		9,097		11,581
97/8	15,109	3	13,950		9,559		11,323		7,986		11,584
Anomaly in BC numbers											
99/0	13,995	4	14,307		13,103		11,606		9,748		12,985
00/1	13,886	3	12,613		10,227		11,191		9,191		11,738
01/2	12,766	5	16,706		8,694		10,939		8,597		11,197
02/3	12,121	6	12,531		8,449		11,153		8,616		10,659
03/4	11,474	7	13,891		8,140		11,472		8,128		10,585
04/5	11,088	8	14,606		8,915		11,138		8,609		10,860
05/6	11,665	8	15,574		8,868		11,837		8,692		11,210
06/7	12,770	5	18,420		9,382		11,887		10,712		11,880
07/8	12,342	8	22,469		9,718		12,008		13,522		12,500
<i>change</i>	-24%		+27%		-2%		-2%		+9%		

Source: Statistics Canada Excerpts from CAUT Almanac, September, 2009

VCCFA Open House—Broadway Union Office

(Room 2654 – across from CCA)
(604) 871-7372

October 15th was the date of the VCCFA open house celebrating our new Broadway Campus office.

Thanks to the approximately 75 faculty, staff, administrators and students who came to see our new space and enjoy refreshments including the delicious carrot cake baked by our Baking and Pastry Arts Department.

We are thrilled with the new space. It is incredibly large compared to our old tiny office...and has some wonderful amenities including a door to the outside and a full wall of windows. In addition, we are next door to the new SUVCC Broadway space on the west side and the Split Shift Lounge (Room 2652). This new office allows us to have a greater presence on the Broadway Campus with many meetings and other union activities now alternating between Pender Street and the new office. The code for the Shift Lounge is 2-4-6-8.

We are also trying to maintain office hours at the Broadway Office. The new hours are:

Monday	8:30—10:30 am
Tuesday	5:00—6:30 pm (5:30—6:30 pm on first Tuesday of the month)
Wednesday	4:00—5:30 pm
Thursday	3:00—6:00 pm



Re: New Student Medical/Dental Plan



Dear Faculty:

On behalf of the Students' Unions of Vancouver Community College we would like to thank you for your ongoing work to assist new and returning students to VCC.

Last March, the Students' Unions held a referendum for a student health and dental plan and the results were overwhelmingly supportive. Being a part of a health and dental plan will enable students to save money on expenses that can quickly add up, such as going to the dentist, getting glasses or having a prescription filled. We have worked hard to inform students about the new student fee for the health and dental plan but expect some students to be unaware of this new service.

Please feel free to take information leaflets from either students' union office (room 2662 in Broadway Campus and room 358 at the Downtown Campus) or check out our website for further information. If you would like a representative from the Students' Unions to speak to your classes about the health plan please email the Unions' staff person, Tiffany Kalanj at organizer@suvcc.ca.

Thank you for your on-going support and we wish you a great year.

In Solidarity,

Board of Directors
Students' Unions of Vancouver Community College
Canadian Federation of Students Locals 73 & 76
www.suvcc.ca

It's back...and better than ever! The VCCFA Members-only Website is up and running again.

Bargaining information will be posted on this site which is open to faculty only through password protection. In addition, if you have questions or want to make comments about bargaining, there is now a bargaining forum set up. The forum will be monitored regularly by members of the bargaining committee.

To access the Members-Only VCCFA Website, go to www.vccfa.ca and click on Members Only.

The login is your full name.....FirstnameLastname..... no space between first and last name, and first letter of first and last names are capitalized.

If you have not set up a password, contact info@vccfa.ca or call 604-688-6210 to get a generic password.

MEMBERS ONLY



EDUCATION IN THE NEWS

Premiers Honour VCC instructor with Literacy Award

All 13 of Canada's premiers agree: VCC Basic Education instructor Laurie Gould deserves the Council of the Federation literacy award for her outstanding achievements, innovative practice and excellence in literacy. The recipients were announced early this month by Brad Wall, premier of Saskatchewan and incoming chair of the Council of the Federation. The award was created by the premiers in 2004 to recognize the valuable contributions made by Canadians in the field of literacy. Gould's passion for literacy and commitment to her students for 35 years, along with her extensive contributions through advocacy, creative teaching and assessment practices were the reasons she was chosen as the B.C. recipient for this year's award. With a long list of achievements to her name, Gould's real impact is felt by her students -- through her dedication, they are the ones who have gained the skills and self-confidence to make a difference in their daily lives. "It's phenomenal. I can't think of anyone who deserves it more based on her body of work", says Stephanie Jewell, the dean of the college's School of Arts and Science who has worked with Gould for 10 years. "It's lovely recognition for an outstanding and stellar career in literacy."



Enrolments Up

Total enrolment in most BC universities is up significantly from 2008 levels, including enrolment at BC's new teaching universities (i.e. Capilano University). At the University of Victoria, there has been more than a 20% growth in business programs. At Capilano University, first year enrolment increased 11 percent. Greg Lee, President of Capilano feels that enrolment is up because of the economy.

Vancouver Sun
September 19 & 22, 2009

New President Fired

Thompson Rivers University fired their president only one year into her five year contract. Kathleen Scherf will be paid \$168,000 in severance. Scherf, who previously was a dean at the University of Calgary was found lacking in leadership skills and judgment during a three month review.

Vancouver Sun
September 16, 2009

Another Bites the Dust

VTC Education Group, Inc, one of Vancouver's larger private ESL international schools closed down unexpectedly. It was behind in rent, and salaries to several teachers. At least 80 students, many of whom had recently paid their school fees, were left without classes. As ESL schools are not regulated by the Private Career Training Institutions Agency of BC, there was no compensation to students for lost fees. Sprott-Shaw, a private B.C. college, has offered free training to VTC's former students. Dean Duperron, President of Sprott-Shaw says, "If BC is regarded as a place where students are left abandoned, then future students won't choose schools here..."

Business in Vancouver
October 6-12, 2009

Taxpayers Pay for Lobbying?

Publicly funded post secondary institutions are spending hundreds of thousands of dollars to lobby the provincial government. SFU has paid over \$700,000 since 2007/08 to the lobby firm of McCarthy-Tetrault which has close ties to the ruling provincial Liberals. Other institutions who have hired lobbyists in the past are BCIT and Okanagan University College.

September 22, 2009

VCC Student Leader Featured

VCC's Nimmi Takkar was featured in an article about how the difficult economic climate is hitting students, especially when family incomes dwindle due to loss of jobs.

Georgia Straight
April 23-30, 2009

EDUCATION IN THE NEWS

Check out the Tyee.ca

Crawford Killian, a contributing editor of Tyee and long time faculty member of Capilano University, has written several articles about cuts to education during the past few months. In addition, other authors have also written extensively about education issues in the Tyee.

July 23, 2009

In July, he alerted readers to the cuts to student aid. Student aid cuts to several programs will negatively affect VCC students. The following aid programs have been eliminated:

- Permanent disability benefits program
- Debt reduction in repayment
- Loan reduction for residential care aide and home support workers
- Health care bursary
- Premier's excellence award
- Repayment assistance program

The early childhood educator loan assistance program is under review. Killian notes that BC now ranks last in Canada in proportion of student assistance expenditures on non-repayable aid.

July 22, 2009

Another program that the government has dropped is funding for the 21 regional literacy coordinators, including VCC's. These positions were created last year, to coordinate the various literacy programs and services throughout the province. Killian says, "Budget demands appear to be trumping the provincial government's election promise to make B.C. the best educated, more literate jurisdiction on the continent."

What's in a Name? Apparently \$\$\$\$

While some celebrated, many more realistic faculty union presidents around the province have been pretty cutting in their criticisms of the "new" university transition process. In their view, nothing or very little has changed. Same funding, same programming, no new allocations for research.

Just last week though, confirmation came about an important difference. The cap on new university presidents' salaries has been raised from \$200,000 to \$225,000. Wow, that's a relief! There was a worry in this time of fiscal parsimony that no one would be able to get their deserved pay increases, now we know it's possible, and up to 12.5% in a year too.

Congratulations

The headline says, "VCC student brings home gold." Metro news gave a full page to VCC Baking and Pastry Arts student, Caitlin Mayo's fabulous win at the International 2009 World Skills competition in Calgary this September. Caitlin won the people's choice award and the medallion of excellence for her Haida-style raven chocolate show-piece. Congratulations to Caitlin and her instructors in the Baking and Pastry Arts Department for a job very well done!

***Metro
October 20, 2009***



Margaret Dennett and Suzette Jestin were recognized by the UBC Faculty of Dentistry. Both Margaret and Suzette teach clinical radiography to the 2nd, 3rd and 4th year UBC dental students. Margaret and Suzette have been instructors in the Certified Dental Assisting and Dental Reception Coordinator programs, at VCC, for 20 years.

Source: Hansard, October 22, 2009

EDUCATION IN THE NEWS

Court says No to BC Pension Class Action Suit

Early in October, Madame Justice J Dorgan decisively dismissed a case taken forward primarily on behalf of pensioners in the BC Municipal Pension Plan, which serves the larger part of the public service, 27,000 retirees were included in the class action.

The plaintiffs held that the charging of premiums from January 2003 for the MSP and an Extended Health Benefit Plan, along with a narrowing of the coverage of the EHB Plan was a violation of the Plan's fiduciary responsibility and obligation to them.

Madam Justice Dorgan found these benefits were discretionary and not guaranteed. She appreciated the distress the Plan's move had caused but in her view there was no basis in law to redress it and she found there was not a fiduciary duty to provide and fund the benefits.

The full judgment can be found at: <http://www.canlii.org/en/bc/bcsc/doc/2009/2009bcsc1358/2009bcsc1358.html>
Source: Jeff Bell, Canwest News

(Ed: Some of the complainants were staff at post-secondary institutions and unless this judgment is successfully appealed, it would seem to make it difficult for post-secondary faculty to successfully use the courts to overturn the recent decisions of the College Pension Plan to end subsidies for post-retirement medical and dental benefits in September of this year.)

What's in the Name "University?" Less and Less

Community Colleges long ago lost the struggle to protect their good name, now it looks as though Universities in BC are facing the same fate. There was a groundbreaking ceremony in September near Port Alberni for the "Pacific Coast University for Workplace Health Sciences." It has its own Act of the same name, allowing it to grant degrees. Three levels of government and major unions are supporting the private business endeavour. The mayor declared, "Port Alberni is now a university town." It will specialize in occupational health and safety, disability management and rehabilitation education.

Source: www.nidmar.ca

Ed: The initiative has merit, the training is needed, but it's not a university.

UPCOMING EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

***Bargaining 2010
Information Meetings
Thursday, October 29th***

**Downtown Campus
Room 107 (In the Facilities area)
12 noon—1:00 pm**

**Broadway Campus
Room 2654
3:00—4:00 pm**

Discussion of Issues

Fair Employment Week Events

- ◆ **November 3 - Broadway Office, 2654, 3:30-5:30, Unwine & Cheese**
- ◆ **November 5 - Pender Office, 401-402 West Pender, 3:30-5:30, Wine & Cheese**



**VCCFA ANNUAL GENERAL
MEETING
ELECTIONS & SOCIAL**

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 24TH

2:30 PM

**CROATIAN CULTURAL CENTRE
3250 COMMERCIAL DRIVE
(16TH & COMMERCIAL)**

SPLIT SHIFT LOUNGE

**Room 2652
The combination is 2-4-6-8
Not open on Wednesdays**



Moved? Moving?



Remember to notify the
VCCFA office of your

New address
Telephone number
Email address

Call Audrey at 604-688-6210 or email info@vccfa.ca

STEWARD UPDATE

The fall has arrived full on with a variety of issues and concerns that are keeping our stewards busy. Some of our current work:

Selections and Elections

Fall means department head and coordinator elections and selections. Right now there are 9 positions posted. Stewards will be conducting the elections or participating on the selection committees. Remember, if you are applying for an IRA position, you will need to submit a resume with your application.

Hiring Criteria

We have heard from the college that they are interested in changing and adding hiring areas in some departments. We have an agreed-upon process and are in the midst of meeting with departments concerned. Any changes to hiring criteria will not apply to current regular instructors nor to terms who have had contracts at 50% for 190 days within a 24 month period, nor to any one currently caught by a layoff process.

Layoffs

There are still a couple of instructors on layoff notice but we are finally, hopefully, almost at the end of the cycle of lay-offs which started in spring of 08. The ESL lay-offs have all been withdrawn or folks have been recalled. This is of course good, but it is our view that the lay off should never have been issued in the first place. There have also been a few lay-offs withdrawn in the Arts & Science school. For some others, it has been possible to transfer; some have taken their severance; almost 20 are on the recall list. Many term instructors have been impacted and for those on recall, the difficulty continues. It's always hard to over-estimate the impact of these process on individuals.

Scheduling

We've had numerous questions and some issues around scheduling of work. This is covered by Article 4.8.4 in our Collective Agreement. Once the regular instructors in the hiring area are scheduled up to their time-status, any remaining work is offered in the following order:

- ◆ to those on recall
- ◆ to part-time regular instructors who voluntarily wish to top-up
- ◆ to term instructors who have done 6 months of term work in the area; and then
- ◆ to anyone who has been recommended by the Area Hiring Recommendation Committee.

If you have any questions about the process, please ask about it as soon as possible.

Meetings

Lots of them. We hold regular labour-management meetings to discuss on going issues and concerns. This is under article 3.11 which calls for consultation on significant matters. Consultation is defined in our collective agreement as "processes that involve the serious exchange of information and ideas before action is taken". We've also had member drop ins, meetings with individual members, groups, and departments.

FPSE

I've attended the FPSE provincial Chief Stewards meetings this fall where we are able to share and learn the issues that instructors are facing at other locals. This December, on behalf of FPSE's Chief Stewards' committee, I will attend the CAUT (Canadian Association of University Teachers) Chief Steward conference in Ottawa.

(Ed: ~Ingrid was recently elected Chair of FPSE's Chief Stewards' group)

STEWARD UPDATE

Issues/Grievances

We continue to work to resolve issues. Some of the issues we were able to resolve without going to the formal grievance process include:

- ◆ how the College was counting recall work
- ◆ an unsatisfactory instructor evaluation
- ◆ student complaints
- ◆ step placement, and
- ◆ scheduling

We are working on a number of issues currently that we hope to resolve informally. These include issues around interpersonal communication in a department and leaves, amongst others. However, it is not always possible to resolve our issues and grievances so we occasionally become involved in more formal processes.

We have two outstanding grievances both which involve issues around how the College determines recall and transfer rights for members who are on layoff. The two grievances are on their way to arbitration.

Investigation

One of our members is involved in a Harrassment Investigation. This is under Article 2 of our Common Collective Agreement and involves an external investigator.

Our stewards meet regularly and are available to meet with you and assist. If you have any questions or concerns, just give us a call.

for the stewards
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DID YOU KNOW?

Family Illness Leave- We have up to 5 days of leave with pay per year for family illness.

Bereavement Leave – We have 5 days leave with pay in case of the death of a family member.

While on these leaves or any other paid leave, you will continue to receive your full benefit coverage. For all leaves, you will continue to accrue seniority.

Definition: “family” includes partners, children, parents, siblings, in-laws among others. Please see Article 7.1 of the Common Agreement for a complete list.

OLYMPICS

During the Olympics the downtown campus will be closed and almost all classes will be cancelled during the Olympic period, February 12 to 28. Departments have worked out various arrangements from closing down and extending the semester, to extending the daily class time prior to and after the Olympic period and taking time off in-lieu, to rearranging the semester schedule. All the arrangements have been approved by the College.

We have been very concerned about the impact on term instructors especially in areas where the semester is extended... After many meetings, we have come to an agreement with the College that ensures that term instructors will not be disadvantaged by the Olympic closure in terms of regularization accrual, benefits, and other accruals. If you have any questions or would like more information, please give us a call.

~Ingrid

PARTICIPATE

VCCFA welcomes your input.
Send your letter, comments and pictures to the editor.

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To all VCCFA members:

**Please print any changes that may apply to you
and forward through intercampus mail to the VCCFA office
Attention: Audrey**

Notice of Address Change

Last Name: _____
First Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ Province: _____
Postal Code: _____
Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____
Effective Date: _____
Division: _____
Department/Area: _____
Status: _____
Email Address: _____