



VCC Connections



Inside

2

President's Update May 2001

3

Support the Great Walk!

4

VCC Golf Tournament

9

Changes to College Pension Plan
Purchase of Service Provisions

Visit VCC
on the web:
www.vcc.bc.ca

COMMUTER CHALLENGE DAY

Wednesday, June 6, 2001 - Clean Air Day Canada

The Commuter Challenge is an annual event, which coincides with Bike Month, Clean Air Day Canada and National Environment Week. As well as being a fun, friendly competition between our fellow post secondary education institutions in the Lower Mainland, the Commuter Challenge highlights the benefits of reducing vehicle trips and encourages people to switch from using single occupancy vehicles and use sustainable methods of transportation.

Last year, we challenged Langara, and the result was a draw. This year, Douglas College has made the challenge, not only to VCC, but also to Langara and UBC. As well, however, we are encouraging you to do some in-house challenges. Inter-department or divisional challenges can make the event more fun and more personal to the College. Our main goal is to reduce air pollution and traffic congestion. This year if the transit strike is still on, the challenge is greater. If you can car/vanpool, walk, cycle, roller-blade, skytrain (hopefully) or take any other form of alternative transportation you can think of to work on June 6th, you will be making a contribution towards clean air and maybe even towards improved health.

Your department head will be sent an employee sign-in recording sheet which everyone is asked to complete on Clean Air Day, with details of the method of transportation used, whether "green" or otherwise, by each individual in that department. The recording sheets should be submitted to Institutional Research who will compile the results and liaise with the other institutions to determine the winner.

Free parking passes will be available for June 6th, for the first ten car-poolers (a minimum of three occupants per car) to e-mail their request to Steve Traviss. There will be five passes available for each campus. In addition, if you take an alternative form of transportation to the single occupancy vehicle and participate in your department entry, your name will be entered for a draw for special "green" prizes.

We ask you to participate in this year's event and to encourage others to follow suit. Watch out for the President arriving on foot - weather permitting.

Carpe diem! Let's go for 100% participation. The Commuter Challenge is our chance to show the community VCC's commitment to sustainable transportation and have some fun in the process.

The Commuter Challenge Planning Team:
Dave Greenall, Local 7205
Lee Henderson, Local 7219

Sarah Lucas, Local 7158
Steve Traviss, Local 8603

To the VCC Community: President's Update May 2001

The funding letter which arrived from the Ministry early last month announced a funding increase. We were pleased to receive additional funding that recognizes and supports some of the offerings we have been providing above our funded level. The good news is that our programs and services planned for next year will remain substantially unchanged, with only minor adjustments due to course start changes, program delays and other minor variations. No employee reduction will result. If there is bad news, it is that we have not received sufficient new funding to add to our overall educational offerings this year.

To those of you with natural gas as an energy source in your home, it will come as no surprise that the cost of energy for the College has risen considerably. Much of our additional funding this year will need to go to this expense.

As well, we are proposing some modest new initiatives to the Board. In their Retreat in the Fall, the Board reflected on the need for greater advocacy for us to get the VCC message further afield, and for us to position ourselves for better friend raising and fund raising, especially as we pursue a major facility expansion. To enhance this ability, the Boards of both VCC and the VCC Foundation have endorsed a plan for greater integration of the activities of the two organizations. In addition, to begin to create a platform for increased visibility in the community, as well as to enhance both student and employee recruitment, we are recommending a modest increase in funding for marketing initiatives.

In each of the budgets for the past few years, we have had to rely on some one time funding to close the final gap in balancing the budget. This year, we do not have such one time funding and therefore, reluctantly are proposing to the Board a 2.5% reduction in other operating expenses. We know that for many of you this will be difficult, but we did not wish to recommend the alternative which would be reductions in programs and administrative or student services, especially prior to the results of the planning process currently underway. Many of you will be asked to participate in this planning process as your department becomes involved in contributing some of the required information.

I am pleased to advise that the Ministry will provide additional funding to cover any approved wage increases. We hope that the VCCFA Collective Agreement will shortly be ratified by the membership and subsequently by the Board. The CUPE bargaining process will begin within the next few months.

The draft Program Profile/Academic Schedule and draft budget has been presented for information to Education Council and to Operations Council respectively, and will be presented for approval next month. The draft budget will be provided to the Board for information on June 7th and for approval on June 28th.

The customary Budget Forums have been scheduled as follows:

City Centre Campus	Wednesday, May 23, 2000	12:00 noon	Room 205A
King Edward Campus	Wednesday, May 23, 2000	3:00pm	Employee Lounge

These sessions will provide an opportunity to update you further on the forthcoming budget and on other current College activities, including the recent administrative re-organization, planning, and the Facilities Feasibility Project. As well, you are invited to ask any questions you may have, either about these issues or others. We encourage you to attend.

I hope to see you at the Budget/Information Forums on May 23rd.

Dale Dorn
President

Not Just a Walk in the Dark...

At 4:00am, Saturday, June 2, the trio of **Pauline Barratt, Margaret Ackroyd** and **Malcolm Cant** will depart Gold River for Tahsis on the 63.5 km *Great Walk*. Anyone in his or her right mind would still be snuggled up in bed at that hour of the morning.

The Great Walk is acknowledged as not only being North America's longest pledge walk but also one that traverses some of the most hostile terrain on the continent. The route - a gravel ex-logging road that connects Gold River to Tahsis, however, has awe-inspiring scenery (during both post-dawn hours and non-precipitation hours!)

The beneficiaries of this year's 'pledge walk' will once again be our VCC students who are in financial need (since the initial walk in 1999, over \$5300 has been raised). College employees who pledge will benefit not only from the tax receipt for their donations of \$10 or more, but also in their delight at seeing the College nurse, Pauline Barratt (who administered that flu shot!) having to recover from the physical demands of the day-long power walk.

Pledge sheets will be circulating throughout all the major campuses of the College by the time you read this article.

The trio would love both your fiscal support and best wishes for a safe journey.

In return, they are inviting all the college community to attend their free Appreciation Breakfast at 3am, June 2 at the Gold River Community Centre.

VCC Donates Equipment to High School

On April 23, the Auto collision and Refinishing department donated some much needed equipment to Gladstone Secondary School. A wheel alignment machine and several frame machines were given to the school. "We started work study with Gladstone students more than 12 years ago," says Lew Bloomingdale, Department Head. "Our partnership with them has led to many students coming to VCC over the years," he continues.

From Gladstone, Principal, Barbara Baker, instructor, Brian Wells and two students were present. Paul Hunt and Joan McArthur Blair also attended the presentation of the equipment. Gladstone hopes to incorporate new teaching modules into their program using the equipment.



ESL Vocational Department Establishes Endowment Fund

When members of the ESL Vocational Department noticed there was no scholarship specifically for students in their Department, they decided to do something about it.

First, they found out how much is required to establish an endowment fund. They did some simple arithmetic and determined that if each member of the Department made a small donation through payroll deduction each month, they could generate enough by the end of the year to produce one annual scholarship of \$500, or two of \$250. They asked the VCC Foundation to set up a separate fund, and are now on their way to accumulating a fund that will produce the first ESL VOCATIONAL DEPARTMENT SCHOLARSHIP in May 2002.

This achievement was possible because of two factors:

1. the vast majority of the Department participated in the effort, and
 2. the Provincial Government matches donations to endowment funds, effectively doubling the amount of the gift and the size of the endowment.
- The option of donating through payroll deduction was chosen by many ESL Vocational Department members. This is a simple and relatively painless way of making a significant donation over the year.

If your Department is interested in establishing a scholarship endowment fund, please phone Rebecca Davey at 7148.

Kudos to KEC students!

Poems by two KEC students have been selected by the National Adult Literacy Database (NALD) for its Story of the Week. Raphael Silver's poem *heroinuncle* will be featured on June 18 and Peter Marren's poem *Who Am I?* on July 9. Look for them at www.nald.ca.

The poems will remain in the database searchable by province and by year. Both young men were students in Psychology 081/091 in the Winter term 2001. Their poems were previously published in Connections.

Grace Shaw
Humanities

VCCFA Wellness KEC Faculty

For Floral remembrances from the VCCFA to honor both joyful and sad occasions, call Grace Shaw at home during May - August inclusive (261-4498). Leave messages including your name and phone number, the recipient's name, department, address and phone number. All requests will be attended to as promptly as possible.

CC Faculty

Irene continues to be available for May at (8519). Contact her by E-mail for June, July and August at ilacoursiere@vcc.bc.ca

**Board Meeting
Schedule**
June 7 / June 28
CC Room 240 5:30pm

It's Time to Play... The almost annual VCC Golf Tournament

WHEN?

Friday, June 15th @ 2:00 pm

WHERE?

Burnaby Mountain Golf Course, 7600 Halifax Street, Burnaby. (Central location, driving range, reasonable cost for golf and food) Check out the course at: <http://www.tee-off.ca/courses/bc019.htm>

WHO?

The organizers are Allan Clarkson, Ali Oliver and Michael Agrios. Please let us know if you have a prize to donate.

HOW MUCH?

\$53.00 (\$38.00 golf, \$15.00 Dinner), includes round of golf, prizes and dinner: Hamburgers, Hot Dogs or Barbeque Chicken (Veggie optional, let Allan know with your Registration) Assorted rolls and butter Seasonal green salad and dressing Potato salad, Coleslaw Assorted Dessert squares and cakes Coffee and Tea All taxes and service charges

WHY?

Great opportunity to strut your golf stuff and meet some other VCCers. Contact Allan Clarkson at aclarkson@vcc.bc.ca or 443-8446. He needs your: Name, Email, Phone #, Preferred Partners, and a cheque made payable to Allan Clarkson which can be sent to CC Counseling Department, Room 101C **Extended Deadline for Entry : Thursday, May 31**

Report - April 26, 2001 Board Meeting

The Board meeting was preceded by a presentation and update to the Board on the Facilities Feasibility Study by Architectura. This is the group of architectural consultants who have done the study and who were retained to conduct a more detailed analysis of the expansion potential of the KEC site. The project is still very much in its preliminary stages.

The Chair welcomed newly elected Board members, Frank Cosco, faculty, Rick Parker, City Centre student, Michael Yates, King Edward student and Dennis Cumming, re-elected support staff representative.

The College received an enquiry about the recent re-organization appointments made by the President.

Board members were again reminded of the need to submit nominations for new members to the Executive Office as soon as possible. At their May meeting, the Board Coordinating Committee will consider names of potential Board members for submission to the Minister.

There will be no VCC Board member in attendance at this year's ACCC conference in Windsor, Ontario. However, the Chair reminded the Board that in 2003, the conference will be held in Vancouver, with VCC as the lead host institution. It will therefore be necessary to provide increased presence at next year's conference in St. Johns, Newfoundland, to market the next conference. The Chair announced that Linda Martin, assisted by Sarah Lucas as Coordinator, will Chair the Host Conference Planning Committee which will include members from other Lower Mainland post secondary institutions.

The Finance & Administration Committee reported that the funding letter has been received from the Ministry. We have received some growth funding but at the moment we are facing a projected deficit and continue to look for methods to address this shortfall. The draft Budget will be brought to the June 7th Board meeting for information, and to the June 28th Board meeting for approval.

The Board approved the awarding of a five year cleaning contract to Focus Cleaning, as recommended by the Finance & Administration Committee.

The Board Policy Committee presented two questions relating to conflict of interest, for discussion. Prior to the Committee's revision of the Board Conflict of Interest Bylaw, the specific and significant question of what constitutes conflict of interest for elected Board members has to be resolved. The Policy Committee will work with the results of this discussion to revise the Conflict of Interest ByLaw.

The President's Performance Assessment Committee announced that they have received the Institutional Research report of the evaluation interviews and would be discussing their recommendations on the President's evaluation at the subsequent in camera meeting. The College community will be advised of the results after further discussion and presentation to the President, and as soon as they are available.

Two recommendations from Education Council were approved: the Education Services Policy and the new course, Biology 12 for Health Sciences.

Under New Business, the Board endorsed the VCC Foundation model which was approved by the Foundation at their meeting earlier in the week. The main changes to

the current operations of the Foundation are that the College Board will now approve the overall fundraising plan, the Vice President Education Services, Linda Martin, will function as the CEO of the Foundation and the purpose of fundraising will be expanded to include scholarships, bursaries, equipment and facilities improvement.

The future of the Advanced Education Council of B.C. was discussed at the request of the Council. Board members were asked to consider their endorsement of one or two of the six possible models presented. A phone poll vote would be taken the following week.

The enquiry about recent administrative reorganization was responded to in highlights of the College Report. The Board reviewed some perspectives of the issue and chose not to take any action. You are reminded that the College Report is posted on the College website, subsequent to each Board meeting.

Congratulations 2001 VCC SUN RUN Team!

What a great team effort !!! Congratulations on placing 32 out of 72 Education registrants in our 1st year.

By the Early Bird Registration deadline of February 16, 2001, we had registered 48 participants. The t-shirt packages were distributed on Thursday, April 19th by our team captains, Tami Pullham and Diane Miller. Team participants were invited to a social gathering to celebrate our first VCC Sun Run Team. This was an opportunity to get to know other team members and wish everyone a successful walk/run.

The team ventured out to their

designated areas on Sunday, April 22, 2001 for the race to begin at 9:00 a.m. For some, this was their first Sun Run and everything was a new experience. For others, they were looking ahead to improving their standings from the previous year. The atmosphere along Georgia St. provided a high level of energy and optimism as we mingled with over 45,000 participants. We were entertained by various live bands and encouraged by a number of volunteers along the route. Even a sprinkle of rain did not dampen our spirits.

While we zig-zagged throughout the crowd, trying not to trample each other, we managed to keep up our spirits and stay focused on crossing that finish line. Where would we have been without the constant cheering of the volunteers, support from our team members and our inner determination to successfully complete the 10K walk/run? Each of us had a goal in mind. In the end, we each met or exceeded our goals - what more can anyone ask for?

Some of the team members met at a designated area in B.C. Place to share their results. It is an overwhelming experience to walk into B.C. Place and see all the exhausted but exhilarated participants. There was an overall sense of pride and accomplishment as members celebrated together. Needless to say, we had developed an appetite and we were anxious to go to the various stations to get the nutritious snacks.

We left B.C. Place feeling proud of this year's accomplishment and looking forward to 2002. Whether you participated in The Vancouver Sun Run as a VCC team participant or individually, congratulations on completing the 2001 Vancouver Sun Run! Stay tuned for your invitation to join the 2002 Team!

Carol Sicoli
Human Resources Projects Coord.

Auto Collision PAC Fishing Derby

On May 4-6, a fishing derby was organized to thank industry for their support of VCC's programs. Fifty people spent the weekend at Roche Lake Resort near Kamloops trying to catch "the big one".

Thanks to sponsorships and donations, each participant only paid a mere \$250 for accommodations, meals and, of course, prizes. Steve Hicks of Craftsman Collision won 1st Place (\$500) while there was a tie for 2nd place(\$300) between Bernie Gooding of Craftman Collision and Casey Caplette of Norgate Autobody. Ray Nick of the ICBC Research & Training Centre won 3rd place (\$200).

Not only was it a great way to spend the weekend, but \$8500 was raised for scholarships which will be matched by the Foundation. Lew Bloomingdale encourages other departments to consider hosting a similar event.

The fishing derby was so popular that the resort has already been booked for next year's event: June 21-23, 2002.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Budget Forums will take place as follows:

City Centre Campus
Wed, May 23, 2001
12:00 noon Room 205 A

King Edward Campus
Wed, May 23, 2001
3:00 p.m. Employee Lounge

These sessions will provide an update on the draft budget and other current College activities.

You are also invited to bring your questions.

News from the three LEARNING CENTRES at VCC

International Education Centre Learning Centre

We are up and running at VCC International Education Centre, 1080 Alberni Street. Please encourage your international students to drop by and see Diana Lamare, the tutor, in our newest Learning Centre. Her hours are Monday to Thursday, 11:30 - 3:30. She can be reached at 628-5908.

Learning Centre Orientations

The Learning Centre staff are inviting you to bring your students in for a tour. Meet the friendly tutors and give your students a chance to see what work they can do in the Learning Centre. Students can get free help with their math, science, English, and other course work with a wealth of materials, computers and a friendly, knowledgeable staff.

When you book your tour, please let us know:

- your name and phone number
- level or program and
- any special requests you have. (If requested, we can also visit your classroom.)

To arrange a tour at City Centre Learning Centre, call 443-8607.
CC Learning Centre Hours:
Monday to Thursday, 9:30 - 7:00
Friday, 9:30 - 5:00

To arrange a tour at KEC Learning Centre, call 871-7219.
KEC Learning Centre Hours:
Monday to Thursday, 9:00 - 7:00
Friday, 9:00 - 4:30

Tours take approximately 25 minutes and must be booked in advance between 9 and 10:30 or between 1:45 and 6:00. Teachers can also arrange for a video orientation, or students can join a short orientation tour every Friday at 1:00.

Reminder!

An excellent video orientation for KEC Learning Centre is available on a one-day loan for teachers unable to visit the Learning Centre. Please call 871-7219 for a copy. Copies are also available at KEC Library and in some departments. Check your resource area.

Student Computing Centres

The Student Computing Centres at KEC and CC are free drop-in labs for VCC students. Students can learn keyboarding, word-process their assignments, use business programs, do on-line research and much more. Bring current student I.D. to sign up. Printing is 20 cents a page.

Student Photo I.D. Cards

Students must bring current student photo I.D. cards with a new expiry sticker to use the Learning Centres and Computing Centres. Schedules for getting photo I.D. cards are posted around campus. Returning students can pick up new expiry stickers from the cashier. Please remind your students.



ICS Open Forums

After reviewing their success, we have decided to suspend the ICS Open Forums until further notice.

Thank you to all who participated. Questions or concerns which you may have raised at the forums can continue to be directed to ICS via the normal channels.
Des Dougan, Director, Information & Computing Services

Awards Ceremonies

May 24 7:00pm
May 25 11:00am / 2:00pm
KEC Auditorium
Come and support VCC students!

It's What's Inside that Counts.....

Especially when we're talking about what attracts thieves to your vehicle!

Both VCC campuses are in areas that have a history of auto crime - in fact, the area around the City Centre campus has the highest rate of auto crime in Canada!

Don't become another auto crime statistic. The Vancouver Police and ICBC will be at both campuses to share valuable information with staff and students about preventing auto crime. As well, an auto crime audit will be done of the cars in the parking areas around the campus to give suggestions on how to make your vehicle less of a target.

City Centre Campus

Where: Mall, Near the Hamilton-Dunsmuir entrance
When: June 5, 11:00-1:00pm

King Edward Campus

Where: Outside cafeteria, weather permitting, otherwise on Level 4
When: June 7, 11:00-1:00pm

See you there!

Brought to you by the Safety, Security and Transportation Coordinator (local 8603).

First Nations Multicultural Awareness Days June 5, 2001

Education and Youth
Please join us and our distinguished speakers from 3:00-7:00pm in the KEC Auditorium.

For more information, please call Victoria Williams, First Nations Program Assistant at 871-7247.

Summary of Minutes Ed Council Meeting

Tuesday, May 1, 2001
KEC Room 5025 at 3:30 p.m.

1. Election of New Executive Chair Frank Fornelli
- Vice Chair Ted Hougham
- Member at Large Dave Donaldson
- Member at Large Jackie Sandy
2. Appointment of New Committee Members

Curriculum Committee:

Moira Macleod, Virginia Adams, Barbara Ash, Michelle McLeod, Terry Mills

Policy Committee:

Frank Fornelli, Malcolm Cant, Dana Fister, Jackie Sandy.

3. Academic Schedule

The academic schedule as represented by the Profile and Budget FTE Summary was discussed and deferred to the next meeting.

4. The following curriculum proposals were approved by Education Council, for recommendation to the College Board:

New Course - Reading & Writing Level 4 in the Community and Career Education Department
Change in wording - Electronics Technical Telecommunications Systems Specialty Rewording.

5. For Information

The British Columbia Adult Graduation Diploma (Math 11, English 12 and three other Grade 12 courses) is now being recognized by UBC.

Thank you

I want to thank the College Community for the well-wishes that I received from everyone re: the defense of my Thesis at UVic. You were all with me in Spirit, and I am very happy to announce that I had a successful defense.

Gwendolyn de Geest

CC/Allied Health Public Access Defibrillation Study Underway at VCC

Sudden cardiac arrest is one of the leading causes of death among adults in North America. Each year in Canada, sudden cardiac arrest claims the lives of 20- 30,000 people.

Last year, VCC was approached by St. Paul's Hospital to take part in a North American study to determine the impact public access defibrillation (PAD) would have on the survival rate of people who experience sudden cardiac arrest.

One of the criteria of the study was that work sites had to have a population of at least 250 people over the age of 50. With the large number of retail outlets frequented by seniors, CC met this criteria and was chosen as VCC's test site.

In the fall of last year, a group of CC volunteers were trained to use automated external defibrillators (AEDs). These volunteers were from security, health services and food services. The trial is for a two year period. At the end of the two years, the College will be given one of AEDs to continue our PAD program.

Hopefully no one will experience a sudden cardiac arrest, however, if this should occur at VCC, a trained responder

will be able to administer an AED and increase your chance of survival. If you would like more information, call Steve at local 8603.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Bookstore News

CC BOOKSTORE

The City Centre Bookstore will be closed for our annual staff holiday from **July 9 to July 20** 2001. If you have an emergency purchase you can contact either Roger Schofer at 443 8384 or Sandra MacSorley at 443 8324.

KEC BOOKSTORE

The King Edward Campus Bookstore will be open late on Wednesday nights **ONLY** for July & August.



Open House Library Technical Services

Ever wondered about the behind-the-scenes work that gets books, magazines, videos and kits onto the library shelves? Come and visit Library Technical Services at the King Edward Campus, on Tuesday, **May 29th** between 1:00 and 4:00pm to find out about the ordering, cataloguing and processing of these materials, and meet the people involved.

Hope to see you on the 29th!
Carol Elder
Coordinator, Library Technical Services

VCCFA Wellness

KEC Faculty

For floral remembrances from the VCCFA to honor both joyful and sad occasions, call Grace Shaw at home during May-August inclusive at 261-4498. Leave messages including your name, phone #, the recipient's name, department, address and phone number. All requests will be attended to as promptly as possible.

CC Faculty

Irene continues to be available for May at #8519. Contact her by e-mail for June, July and August at ilacoursiere@vcc.bc.ca

Entrance Scholarship for Dependents of VCC Employees

The Vancouver Community College Foundation offers a \$500 scholarship toward tuition in a full-time program of 6 months or more at VCC.

* The applicant must be a dependent of a full-time VCC employee.

* The applicant must provide:

- Letter of support from employer, counsellor instructor, or school principal
- Official transcript of most recent academic performance
- Letter from applicant outlining career goals and/or community involvement.

Application to be received by Financial Aid by **June 30, 2001.**

T.A.B. and A.B.E.S.A.P. Funding for V.C.C. Students - Fall 2001 Applications

Applying for ABESAP Funding for Fall classes (September to December 2001)

The Adult Basic Education Student Assistance Program (ABESAP) provides fees only for needy students. ABESAP applications can be submitted to the Financial Aid Offices throughout a six-week period - **June 18, 2001 to July 27, 2001.**

ABESAP applications will be made available for pick up only any time after Monday, **June 11, 2001.** This information is also available for students in the form of a pamphlet available from Financial Aid.

Applying for TAB Funding for Fall classes (September to December 2001)

T.A.B. funding (Training Assistance Benefits) is financial assistance to pay for fees, books and supplies for Income Assistance recipients. To obtain TAB, students must obtain written authorization from their

Training Consultant at Income Assistance (MSDES).

TAB applications (called Employability Agreements) can be submitted to the Financial Aid Office on the following five days - **June 4th to June 8th, 2001.**

Hours:

Financial Aid will open at 9:00 a.m. for the first day of TAB applications (June 4th) and the first day of ABESAP application (June 18th). Otherwise, regular hours apply.

Dana Fister
Financial Aid

Come and Say Goodbye to Gillian

Gillian Akin, a long-time employee of the College, and indispensable member of the Outreach Department, will be retiring at the end of May.

The Outreach Department is hosting a farewell open house, so please mark your calendars and drop in and wish Gill well in her retirement.

Wednesday, May 30

ESL Outreach Department
Room 3196, 2:00 - 5:00 pm
Refreshments provided

Raffle Winner

The winner of the Rocky Mountain holiday raffle was **Lesley Mackenzie** who purchased the winning ticket while dining at JJs Restaurant.

Finance Committee

The Finance Committee's public meeting date has changed from June 19 to June 18, 2001, beginning at 11:00 a.m. in Room 200 CC.

If you would like more information please call 871-7163.

Doreen Sharan
Confidential Assistant
Finance and Administration

Changes to College Pension Plan Purchase of Service Provisions (For Faculty and Administrators)

Please review the information on pages 10-11 prepared by the Pension Corporation regarding changes in purchase of service. If you have any questions, please contact Eugenie Wong, Human Resources Coordinator at 871-7136.

VCC - Planning Update May 2001

Background

At the Board retreat in November 2000, the Board gave direction to the College to develop a strategic planning process. Information packages and presentations were made to Education Council and Operations Council in February regarding a draft year-long planning process. After the Board endorsed the proposed planning process, they held a special planning session after the February Board meeting when they provided some high-level direction on community priorities for the College. These are being used to guide the scope and direction in environmental scanning and SWOT analysis.

The Environmental Scan Advisory Committee, chaired by Paul Hunt, has met twice so far and work is underway. Environmental scanning is an organized effort to gather information about VCC's internal and external environments, largely conducted by the Office of Institutional Research. The report is due to be published by the end of June.

The SWOT Advisory Committee, chaired by Dave Donaldson, has met to organize this project, and the process is ongoing during the next month. SWOT stands for "Strengths, Weak-

nesses, Opportunities, and Threats". This is a process designed to help planners at the departmental level draw together and organize this kind of information. The SWOT is a type of situation analysis and leads to some strategic thinking. It does not need to be a difficult or onerous task. In fact, it draws upon our creative thinking. All departments are participating in the SWOT process this spring; many have completed their portion, and are commenting on how positive their experiences have been. Institutional Research will be collating the results of this process, college-wide.

Next Steps:

Feb - May: Scan and SWOT processes underway in parallel.

June: Completion of Environmental Scan and SWOT.

Sept - Nov: Discussion of Goals, Strategic Directions.

Nov: Report of Goals and Strategic Directions to all Governance meetings.

Jan 2002: Final Plan completed, submitted to January Board meeting implementation of operational planning for 02/03.

Summary of Minutes Operations Council Meeting

Tuesday, May 8, 2001 2:00 p.m.,
KEC Room 5025

01. The VCC Budget and Program Profile for 2001/2002 was introduced. The package will be returned to the June 12 Operations Council meeting for further consideration.

02. The 2001/2002 Capital Process Equipment List, approved by the College Wide Budget Committee, was presented to Operations Council for information.

03. The "Guidelines for Commercial and Privately-funded Activities" was

discussed and will be returned to the June meeting for further review.

04. The Security Contract and the Cleaning Contract for the College have been approved by the College Board and finalized.

Jewellery Art & Design Grad Show

On **May 23** at 6:00 PM the Jewellery Art & Design Program will host their annual student show opening reception.

There will be approximately 40 show cases presenting artwork of the first and second year students. This will range in style and content from celtic and medieval weaponry, art deco objects, a vintage model car, to various statements about style and fashion.

The show promises to be an exciting display of innovative ideas and new approaches to adornment and small scale sculpture.

The show will be on display until June 9 in the main lobby of the City Centre Campus. Selected works from the show will be on exhibit at the Pacific Mineral Museum, 848 West Hastings Street from June 16 to June 30.

DISCOVER VCC

The tag line *Discover VCC* should be incorporated into new marketing and promotional materials wherever possible. This slogan has been used on the 2001/2002 calendar and in recent advertisements. It is also a central theme of the new brochure shells that are being designed.

The *know how @ VCC* marketing campaign is no longer in effect. This slogan will be phased out of promotional campaigns and materials. Please call me at 7152 if you have any questions/comments.

Elizabeth Thomson
Marketing and Communications

Pension Bulletin

from the Pension Corporation

To: Employers covered by the College Pension Plan
Cc: Employee Organizations
Date: March 30, 2001
Topic: Changes to College Pension Plan purchase of service provisions

Background: Recently, the College Pension Board of Trustees approved changes to purchase of service provisions in the College Pension Plan. The changes are meant to simplify administration of the provisions and reduce costs to members and employers.

Direction: Effective April 1, 2001, purchase of service provisions in the College Pension Plan change as follows:

The cost for purchasing service under the Purchase of Service Incentive Offer (POSIO) provision becomes the same as under the Non-contributory (NC) provision.

The member may purchase service under the NC provision for service for which they were not eligible to contribute to the plan.

The member may purchase service under the POSIO provision under the following conditions:

- when the member performed the service, the member was eligible to contribute to the plan
- the member originally chose not to enrol in the plan
- the member enrolled in the plan prior to November 1, 1997, and
- the service occurred prior to November 1, 1997.

Prior to the change, the cost to the member to purchase service under the POSIO provision was generally higher because of the costing method used. Now, the costing method for both categories is the same. That is, the cost is double the member's contributions (based on the member's current salary and the plan's current contribution rate) for the amount of service that is being purchased. **There is no interest accumulation.**

In most cases, this costing method will be less costly for members (and/or the employer if the employer has agreed to pay a portion of the costs) while having minimal financial impact on the plan fund. Also, the single costing

PB14 CPP 99-036 2001.03.28

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method simplifies the purchase of service provisions for the member, the employer and the plan administrator, meaning quicker processing of purchase requests.

The following is a sample cost calculation for purchasing service under either the NC or POSIO provisions. In the sample, the member's current monthly salary is \$5,800.00, the current YMPE is \$3,191.67 and the amount of service to be purchased is 12 months. The member's contribution rate is 5.5% of salary up to the YMPE and 7.0% of salary over the YMPE.

$$7.0\% \times \$5,800.00 \times 12 = \$4,872.00$$

minus

$$1.5\% \times \$3,191.67 \times 12 = \$574.50$$

$$= \$4,297.50$$

\$4,297.50 x 2 = \$8,595.00 (total cost to purchase service; may be split between the employee and the employer, as they agree)

As a comparison, the cost to the member to purchase this service (12 months for January 1, 1995, to December 31, 1995) under the old POSIO costing method would have been \$11,600.

Note: The Pension Corporation will still depend on employers to provide statements of service and earnings for members who wish to purchase service under these provisions. The corporation needs this information to calculate the purchase cost.

There is now a five-year limit for purchases.

All purchases under the NC and POSIO provisions must be completed by the earlier of the member's termination of employment or March 31, 2006.

The Value of Increase to Pension (VIP) category of purchase is eliminated.

The cost for this type of purchase was typically very high because of the way those costs were calculated. Most employees decided not to proceed with the purchase once they were made aware of the cost, although a high number of cost estimates were requested. Elimination of this category of purchase will reduce the administrative burden on the employer and the plan administrator and allow more efficient processing of other types of cost estimate requests.

Grandparenting provisions will be made.

Grandparenting provisions are still under review. Those who have submitted requests to purchase should not worry about losing the opportunity to purchase service under the VIP provision.

The *Employer Manual* will be updated to reflect these changes and members will be advised via letter, web updates and fact sheets. Please note that all members with outstanding requests on file at the Pension Corporation will be contacted individually. We have attached a copy of the letter that we will be sending to these plan members.

College Pension Plan Contact Information

If you have any questions about this bulletin, please contact:

Phone:

Victoria (250) 953-4324
 Toll-free in BC 1-800-440-0111
 Toll-free in North America 1-800-663-8823

Fax:

(250) 953-0412

E-mail:

CPP.PensionCorp@gems9.gov.bc.ca

Web:

pensions.gov.bc.ca

Mailing address:

College Pension Plan
 Pension Corporation
 PO Box 9462 Stn Prov Govt
 Victoria BC V8W 9V8

PENSION CORPORATION

Pension Bulletin is published by the Pension Corporation. For more information contact:

Communications Branch
 PO Box 9460 Stn Prov Govt
 Victoria BC V8W 9V8

Or fax us: (250) 356-9591

This publication provides general information about the pension plan and is based on the relevant plan documents (statutes, regulations and rules). If there is a discrepancy between this publication and the plan documents, the plan documents will apply.

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1155 East Broadway
Box 24620, Station "F"
Vancouver, B.C. V5N 5T9

CITY CENTRE CAMPUS
250 West Pender Street
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Nona Coles, Counsellor CC

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Karin Steichele

Counsellor for Students with Disabilities

Editor, Design and Layout

Elizabeth Thomson, Marketing and Communications

Tel: 871-7152, Fax: 871-7451

Email: ethomson@vcc.bc.ca

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Note from the editor:

Please allow me to help you publicize your upcoming events, department news and achievements. Keep me abreast of what is happening in your departments!

Thank you,

Elizabeth Thomson

Please submit your articles via email to:
ethomson@vcc.bc.ca

(Material may be edited for clarity and length.)