

# NEWS

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## ***Budget information meetings planned for June 14***

The Board has invited all employees of VCC and Langara to attend budget information meetings on Monday, June 14.

The first meeting of the day will be held at Langara at 9:30 a.m. in room A130, also known as Newbury Hall. This will be followed by a similar meeting starting at 1:30 p.m. at the Queen Elizabeth Playhouse. It's expected that the morning Langara meeting will be attended by those employees who work at that campus, and that the afternoon session will be for employees of the new VCC. However, both meetings will be open to all employees of the College.

Every effort will be made to allow all employees to attend these meetings, if there is any doubt, faculty and staff are asked to check with their supervisors.

The meetings are intended to provide information and proposed scenarios for up-coming budget considerations, and also to seek employee suggestions on ways that the effects of reducing the College's deficit might be moderated.

Both meetings will be attended by members of the Board, Vice President of Finance and Administration Fred Wylie, Transition Controller Chris Ebbehøj, and other College administrators, including Linda Holmes for Langara and John Cruickshank for the VCC meeting.

It's now expected that to accommodate employee input and other considerations, the Board will act upon final approval of the budget during its July or August sitting, rather than the June 23 meeting, which had been earlier reported.

## ***Stress workshops draw sizable response***

A recent message to all employees regarding the College's Employee Assistance Program has drawn a sizable request for Stress Management Workshops.

"There has been a significant response from employees," said Employee Relations Director Wayne Martin. "Therefore we will proceed with a series of workshops to accommodate as many interested employees as possible." He said employees will receive more information as soon as details are available.

Martin also said that the College's benefits consultant, Western Management, is researching and preparing seminar material for the support of those employees who may be affected by lay-offs.

## ***TC expands to 17 members***

The Transition Council has grown to 17 members. Those now serving on the TC are: VCC President John Cruickshank, Langara CEO Linda Holmes, VCC Vice Presidents of Instruction, Dale Dorn and Linda Martin, Acting Director of CE Gail Rochester, Director of College Resources and Organizational Development, Richard Pearce, Vice President of Administration and Finance, Fred Wylie, Langara Acting Deans of Instruction Martin Gerson and Linda Arnold, Director of International Education and Contract Development, Tom Toulson, Director of Employee Relations Wayne Martin, VCCFA President Dalton Kremer, LFA President Lawrence Warren, VMREU representative Jo Hansen, and the presidents of the three student associations--

***For  
daily  
news  
updates  
phone  
7099  
after  
2:30 pm***

***Continued on the other side...***



Michael Fergusson (City Centre), Rodney DeCroo (Langara) and Manuel Salinas (KEC)--or their delegates.

### ***A message from John Cruickshank***

Last week on the Exchange Line I talked about some problems that had developed in the appointment of deans and division chairs for the new VCC. The purpose of this message was not so much to delve into that particular issue, but rather to explore a concern that was raised by a VCCFA member as a result of the controversy.

The instructor had phoned the Exchange Line asking if there is not a way to avoid similar pitfalls in the future. I believe there is a way...and here's where all of you, as employees of the College, come into the picture.

What I heard at the VCC Issues Forum was that people want to have meaningful input into issues before the decisions are made. I think the Exchange Line is one way to accomplish that.

I'd like to know how you feel about my explaining some of these issues on the Exchange Line, and then giving you the opportunity to leave your comments. Further, how would you feel about backing up that process with a written questionnaire for all employees? For instance, would you like to have these types of issues explained in writing with an opportunity, on the same sheet of paper, to reply? Are you prepared to take the time to do so if the opportunity existed?

I think the phone line, and perhaps the questionnaire, are powerful opportunities for employees to become involved in their future. It's a route I would like to take. My question is:

would you like to join me in this type of consultative management approach?

Please phone the Exchange Line, 7099. As usual, you will be asked following the daily news broadcast to push "One" on your phone to leave a comment. (15 people responded on Thursday-Friday of last week). Or perhaps you'd like to put your thoughts in writing to me.

Either way, I look forward to your input.

John Cruickshank

### ***Issues Forum message clear***

There was no doubting the message at the end of the May 28 VCC Issues Forum...people have high expectations that they continue to be given a meaningful voice in the planning process, and that process be moved along with some urgency.

"The Issues Forum was a great day for VCC," said Cruickshank.

"I want to thank everyone who participated...and also guarantee them that the momentum which was gained during the forum will continue to grow."

Nine out of ten participants rated the event as a four or five on a one-to-five scale.

Cruickshank added that the VCC Steering Committee has begun constructing a constituency model for VCC planning which will encourage input and communications involving all employees.