

# NEWS

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## ***College quickens pace for evaluating cost-saving ideas***

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

The College's Administration Council voted Monday to strike a six-person task force to urgently begin reviewing the deficit-reducing ideas from employees.

The task force will address those suggestions which do not affect the collective agreements, while those proposals with contract implications will be handled through union-management processes which are already in place.

The Task Force for Non-Collective Agreement Proposals was established primarily as a screening committee. Its immediate assignment is to categorize the employee proposals and report back to the Administration Council at the July 5 meeting. Over the next several months the task force will provide the AC with an estimate of savings or revenues from each idea and the impact on the 1993/94 and 1994/95 budgets.

President John Cruickshank said that about 300 cost-saving ideas have been received through the Exchange Line and department and divisional meetings.

"The suggestions cover a broad range," said Cruickshank. "Some of them will be considered by the Administration Council as a whole, while others will be referred back to the campuses and dealt with at that level."

The task force membership includes: Richard Pearce, Acting Director of College Resources and Organizational Development, Gail Rochester, Acting Director of CE, Sam

Lewington, Career Division Chair-KEC, Abby Rose of the City Centre Student Association, Heather Morin of the Langara Student Union and a representative from the KEC Student Association to be named later.

Added Cruickshank: "There is no way of knowing at this point how many of the suggestions will be adopted, how much money will be saved, or how many jobs might be spared because of those savings. But I can say for sure that every idea will receive serious attention."

## ***Government planning to merge ministries?***

President John Cruickshank reported from last week's Premier's Summit on Skills Development Training that there is a move afoot to establish one focused ministry for all education, training, skill development and labour force issues.

He noted an apparent consensus on a number of concepts that developed during the summit:

- \* The government should examine legislation and administrative practices to ensure consistency in planning for skills development and training.
- \* There is a need to establish a user friendly data base to support planning for vocational education.
- \* That there be a "Participation" type campaign to promote an attitude shift and develop a learning culture around the concept of skills



development and vocational training, thereby helping to eliminate academic elitism.

- \* Educational partnerships that are required with labour and business need to be facilitated and led by government, and then left to thrive on their own.

- \* Language skills for immigrants must be delivered in a job context, as has become the model at VCC.

### ***Newsletter distribution costs eliminated***

Several people phoned the Exchange Line to complain that the Exchange newsletter is being sent via private courier to the campuses.

Not any more.

Future editions will be delivered by the College courier, resulting in a savings of about \$600 a year.