

# NEWS

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## Government may alter LINC demands

For  
daily  
news  
updates  
phone  
7099  
after  
2:30 pm

Immigration Canada may be willing to modify the demands which are threatening VCC's LINC contract.

VCCFA President Dalton Kremer told the College Board Thursday that the federal government has backed away from its LINC demands in awarding a new contract to Toronto's George Brown College.

The new regulations from Immigration Canada would restrict the ways in which VCC can allocate funds received from the LINC contract, which is up for renewal on September 1.

In short, Immigration Canada has decided to control how much the College pays for employee salaries and benefits.

On Thursday the Board approved a proposal to Immigration Canada that the College enter into the contract at the government's maximum rate of \$6 per student contact hour, but with the caveat that the College has the flexibility to allocate the funds as it deems appropriate, while remaining fiscally accountable for all of the expenditures.

A second part to the motion states that all constituent groups, including the unions, KESA and the Board, lobby every level of government to enable VCC's LINC proposal to be accepted.

"We can successfully operate this program on our own if the College has flexibility in the area of reducing some overhead costs and shifting some of the program instruction to less senior instructors," said President John Cruickshank.

He added that there are no plans to reduce VMREU support staff costs.

In other business, the Board agreed that VCC would co-sponsor and host the Vancouver

Community Festival at KEC, May 20 through the 22.

The College will join the Vancouver Community Festival Society in sponsoring the event, entitled City Fest...a Celebration of Cultural Diversity. The festival will feature music, dance, poetry, theatre and other performing arts involving 43 multi-cultural groups.

Cruickshank said City Fest may be the first step toward Vancouver developing a multi-cultural festival that would be on par with those in Edmonton and Toronto.

## "Green paper" taking shape

The VCC Planning Team will meet Friday to finalize its draft statements of vision, values and mission. The draft statements, which are the result of the recent Futures Conference, will then be circulated among the College population for further comment prior to being presented to the Board on February 17.

The statements--along with proposals for a new organizational structure, a Board governance model for VCC and Langara College, a funding plan and an external environment scan--will form a "green paper" for further discussion.

Meanwhile, the Advanced Education Council of B.C. has issued for discussion a draft mandate statement for colleges, the final version of which will be presented to the provincial government.

Here is the first draft of the AECBC mandate statement:

"B.C. colleges are community based teaching institutions committed to life-long learning for adults of all ages. They shall provide continu-



ing educational, developmental, career, technical, vocational and academic programs.

"These programs, both formal and non-formal, shall address the needs of the geographic, social, economic and cultural communities of the college region.

"Colleges shall emphasize provision of accessible full and part time programs and services. Programs shall range from short cycle to multi-year education and training, enabling learners to enter and leave at various levels of formal recognition and accomplishment.

"Colleges shall connect and articulate activities in order to ensure recognition of previous learning. Programs shall reflect community needs, respect community values, and shall be recognized by other institutions.

"Colleges shall base their services and programs on continuing contact with advisory groups and constituencies, and on ongoing evaluation of the relevance and quality of programs and services. These consultative and evaluative processes will guide College development and resource allocation."

### ***Equity issues studied at CC***

City Centre has struck a committee which is looking at a wide range of social issues: gender equity, race equity and related education for both students and employees. Vice President

Linda Martin stated that given changing societal values "it's probably as good a time as any for us to really get going with some solutions to the issue."

In Victoria, Women's Equality Minister Penny Priddy has announced that a government policy involving campus harassment will soon be developed as "a matter of some urgency."

### ***Better, not bigger***

The Exchange Line has reduced the number of reports to four times a week, Mondays through Thursdays.

There are two reasons. First, the recent survey of Exchange listeners told us that five reports a week was more than most of you were prepared to call in for, or perhaps remembered to call in for. And second, as with any news media, the Exchange also has slow news days. The evening news hour may have to be produced every day--even during slow days--but it's certainly not our wish to waste your valuable time with anything other than information that's up to standard. After a year's experience with the Exchange, it looks to us like four days a week will better meet that goal.

We're also going to be adding one or two new features to the Exchange Line. Both are designed to provide added value to callers. We'll tell you about them when they're ready to go, probably by April 1.

**If you have any comments or questions, please send them to Chuck Poulsen, Manager of The Exchange, in care of College Administrative Services.**