

April 29, 2008

Honourable Murray Coell
Minister, Advanced Education
Government of British Columbia
PO Box 9059
Stn. Prov. Gov.
Victoria, British Columbia
V8W 9E2

Dear Minister Coell,

You will recall from my meeting with you on April 13, 2008 and a subsequent letter to you that Vancouver Community College's financial position significantly imperils the College's ability to deliver against its current student FTE target.

We have long held that our College is underfunded relative to its program mix, an understanding shared by Ministry staff. This expensive programming mix, coupled with no funding for inflation for a number of years (we recognize and appreciate increased funding for human resource-related costs), has brought the College to a very difficult place.

Without additional funding, VCC has no choice except to reduce its service to the community. We have done what we can to spare program reductions through general operational reductions, but we are not prepared to compromise program quality to maintain quantity.

Our plan is to reduce our Training Plan, as compared to 2007-2008 by 393 FTE student spaces. Although some of these spaces are ones for which there were no applicants/registrants in 2007/2008, other reductions are in areas where there is student and/or employer demand: business programs and university transfer being two examples. In addition we are reviewing three programs: Drafting, American Sign Language and Information Technology for possible cancellation. Unless the funding situation changes, further reductions will be unavoidable in 2009-2010 and beyond.

These proposed actions are difficult for the Board of Governors to contemplate and as you know, have caused great concern with the College community. Stakeholders within the College have asked that I once again bring the entire situation to your attention by way of this letter and request that the College's funding shortfall be addressed so that these program reductions can be avoided.

Yours Truly,



Mark Stock
Chair, Vancouver Community College Board of Governors

cc: Premier's Office, Government of British Columbia
Vancouver Community College Faculty Association
Canadian Union of Public Employees Local 4627
Students' Union of Vancouver Community College
Association of Vancouver Community College Administrators