

April 23, 2003
for immediate release

While the Need Grows

**Vancouver Community College
Will Deliver Less
English as a Second Language Training**

Today's Vancouver Sun (Skills Go to Waste, Shortage Looms, D1) contains a feature story by Maurice Bridge on the need for business and society to tap into the skills of immigrants. This is another in a long series of such stories.

British Columbians and Canadians have invested millions over the last thirty years in Vancouver Community College in order to provide adult immigrants with professional ESL services.

However, the Board of VCC has decided it is doing too much ESL. It is cutting again this year and by September 03 will be at a level about 1000 full-time student spaces lower than it was in March 02.

Since most students come half-time or part-time that means over 2000 student spots will disappear.

"The VCCFA does not think this level of cutback is warranted," said Vancouver Community College Faculty Association Vice-President Frank Cosco, "VCC has enough resources and, with the BC Ministry of Advanced Education's help, enough fiscal alternatives in order not to cut so drastically. In fact, this College is projecting over \$1.5 million in surpluses for 03/04."

"The need exists, for the economy, the society and the student, but this college is planning on not serving that need. It's irresponsible to cut this training just because they do not want to do it. Alternatives should be found. The Ministry should not allow it."

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