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Further Tuition Fee Increases at VCC Shameful and Harmful

Vancouver Community College has recently posted plans for even further tuition fee increases on its website and asked for feedback.

"Well, we think it's shameful," said VCCFA President Lizz Lindsay, "it's shameful that they're doing it again and it's shameful that the Liberals have been getting away with not investing more in post-secondary education for three years now."

"The Liberals have flat-lined the previous government's level of funding and forced students and their families to pay for rising costs through incredible increases. If we go back ten years to the start of the tuition freeze, and for a moment buy the argument that fees should have gone up to keep pace with inflation, that would mean a 17% increase based on the CPI for B.C."

94-04 Inflation up 17% - 94-04 VCC Fees Up at Least 82%

"What has VCC done since 2002? Raise fees an incredible 82% as a minimum! That's about five times the rate of a decade worth of inflation! ESL for adult immigrants has gone up about 100%, others more! And now they're thinking about even more!:

"The College's website says that part of the rationale for fee increases is, 'to maintain the number and quality of programs that students and employers expect,' by that measure the College's and Liberal's plans have been a failure."

"With the high fees at VCC we have had little investment in student support, many program and class shutdowns, many courses not filling and many students not being able to maintain their programs. To top it off, the College runs such large surpluses (\$3.4 million at the halfway point of 2003-04, which is 10% of their half year revenues!) that they are allocating \$500,000 of it to capital. Students and families are now funding capital and operating expenses."

"From a financial point of view it's appropriate to run a public college in a business-like manner; but VCC is being run as a for-profit business and that's shameful."

"It's time for VCC to lower fees, not raise them."

"We call upon all citizens to support the Students' Day of Action against Skyrocketing Tuition Fees on February 4th," concluded Lindsay.

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