

DEVELOPMENTS

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A newsletter for the BCIT community

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BCIT asks for \$50 million/polytechnic tag

BCIT is asking the provincial government for a renewed mandate and \$50 million to provide technological education to meet the projected economic growth of the province.

In a brief to a Ministry of Education task force studying technological education in the province, BCIT claims developments in the coal industry, establishment of research and development parks, hydro projects in the North and the general rapid technological change demand upgrading of learning facilities.

"You can't harvest the natural resources without the human resources", BCIT President Gordon Thom told the task force.

Thom placed a \$50 million price tag on a five-year plan to update BCIT to meet the standards of the technology of the '80s.

"BCIT is at the critical third stage of its evolutionary process", he said. "If we do not recognize, through a

commitment of dollars, the need to update and develop new programs to serve the tremendous growth potential of this province, then like the dinosaur, the evolution ends and the valuable contribution BCIT has made to the province in the past 17 years ceases."

Industry will be forced to go out into the world market for technologists and all studies show those markets almost non-existent, unlike a decade ago when immigration was our source."

He said the Bridge Report which established the institute in 1964 was the first step; the legislation that gave the institute its own act in 1974 was the second major step; and the recommendations to the 1981 task force is the "third and most crucial step" in BCIT's evolution.

As well as asking for funds for capital facilities, capital equipment, operation increases and library and computer upgrading, the BCIT brief proposes post-diploma programs, including a Bachelor

of Technology degree.

The baccalaureate would be unique in concept, providing sophisticated training in selected high technology areas being demanded by industry and would represent an extension of the present Diploma of Technology.

The brief introduces the term polytechnic and BCIT is asking the government to designate it as a polytechnic — an institution unique in its attitudinal approaches and its relationships to industry.

Important distinguishing factors in polytechnic education are:

- The attitude of an educational institution toward meeting the discerned needs of industry, and the role industry plays in curriculum design and modification.
- The attitude of students toward their career goals and their desire to be part of the industry in which they are

studying, as well as toward their desire to be able to function effectively in a chosen career on being employed.

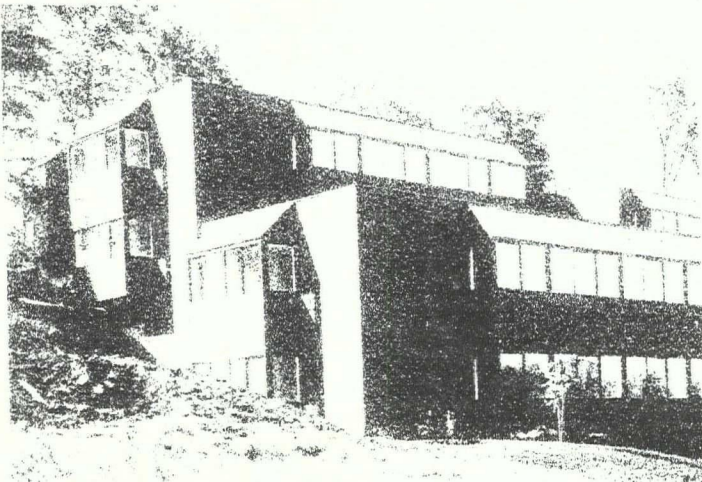
BCIT calls for a new system for individualizing funding to academic, vocation and career technological education, since each has differing measures of productivity and service.

In the \$50 million five-year funding requirement of BCIT are included badly-needed classrooms, laboratories and residences, capital equipment, operational increases, updating of library and computer facilities and capital depreciation.

BCIT presently has a full-time enrolment of 4,000 students and 35,000 registrations in part-time studies. Projections for the next five years show a full-time enrolment of 6,000 students and 60,000 in part-time studies.

The three-man task force has been holding public hearings in the province since early December.

Its recommendations are expected to reach the ministry by the end of March.



The existing Maquinna residence, opened in 1979, can only accommodate 250 of BCIT's 4,000 students, yet 47.1 per cent are from outside the Lower Mainland. Couple that with a zero vacancy rate in rental units locally, and many students have problems.

Strike vote ends today

Today is the last day of a four-day strike vote conducted by the BCIT Staff Society.

The staff society's proposals cost out to a 68.5 per cent increase over present salaries and benefits for this bargaining unit, said Lois Spindler, director of personnel/labor relations.

Spindler said the institute's offer presently on the table includes \$250 a month per employee in 1981; \$270 a month per employee in 1982; 100 per cent payment of fringe benefits premiums; and removal of barriers for faculty.

"We had hoped the Staff

Society would give us a counter offer on the money before taking a strike vote because their present proposal is so unreasonable," commented Spindler.

However, Patrick Thomas, General Secretary of the staff society said the society doesn't feel the institute's offer is serious enough to warrant a counter proposal at this time.

The staff society has asked for a 29 per cent "catch-up" increase effective Jan. 1, 1981 and three separate four per cent

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CAMPUS BRIEFS

BCIT's stork has been busy in the past few weeks! Eileen Stewart from Personnel had a baby boy on Jan. 31. Jason Christopher weighed seven pounds two ounces. Eileen is Contract Administrator in the department.

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Duke Dukowski of Downtown Continuing Education and his wife Barbara are the proud parents of a second son, Matthew Joseph. He was born Jan. 15 at Richmond General Hospital and weighed eight pounds eight ounces.

* * *

On Feb. 4 an eight-pound nine ounce baby girl, Kelly Ann was born to Kathy and Mark Angelo. Kathy was administrative assistant to President Gordon Thom, and Mark is an instructor in the fish and wildlife program.

* * *

Thanks to the payroll staff's

extra effort, all T-4 slips have already been issued by the BCIT Payroll department. The slips were inserted with the Feb. 6 pay cheque for regular day school employees and mailed to the homes of auxiliaries, student employees and others. Any remaining T-4's not picked up from the Finance Division by noon on Feb. 18 will be mailed to the employee's home address.

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R.C.W. Smyth, director, physical plant requests that employees not bring their garbage from home and deposit it in the institute's garbage containers. BCIT garbage is removed by the Department of Public Works and burned at Essondale, but the DPW cannot cope with the extra volume, Smyth said.

"It is irresponsible to assume that personal and domestic garbage problems can be solved by dumping it on the institute and messing up our place of work," he added.

Health Data now Health Info

BCIT's Health Data Technology is now the Health Information Technology.

The name change has been made to avoid confusion between graduates at the technician (Associate) level and grads at the administrator (Certificat) level.

Last May, BCIT's Health Data Technology program was accredited by the Canadian College of Health Record Administrators (CCHRA) as a training program for health record administrators as well as health record technicians.

Last spring's grad class was the first eligible to write the national Certificat examination of the CCHRA.

From 1971 to 1979 the Health Data Technology trained health record technicians (HRT) to have skills necessary for the performance of certain technical duties in the Clinical Record Departments of hospitals and in the health record areas of other health care agencies.

In some instances, after suitable experience, the HRT becomes director of the Clinical Record Department of a small hospital. The BCIT program has always been the only program in B.C. for training HRTs and for the past few years has been the only health record training program in B.C.

Anderson presents thesis

Joan Anderson, a faculty member in the Psychiatric Nursing Department, has presented her Master's thesis at the fifth annual conference on the Application of Curriculum Research at the University of Manitoba.

Anderson's thesis, "The Development and Evaluation of an Interpersonal Skills Training Program Implemented for Nurse Educators", was completed as part of her studies at Simon Fraser University.

At Health Fair

Test your senses

Dr. Andy Blokmanis, director of the B.C. Ear Bank, will be one of the special guests at BCIT's Health Fair, Wed., Feb. 18, from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. in the SAC lobby.



Dr. Blokmanis will have a portable audiometer to test your hearing and will be available to answer questions and talk about ear transplants and the donor program.

Representatives from the Eye Bank (CNIB) will be available to do vision testing and the Kidney Foundation will demonstrate dialysis.

At other booths in the SAC lobby you can have your blood pressure and hemoglobin

tested by student nurses.

Outside in the plaza you will be able to check your breath with a breathalyzer test in the Batmobile.

Other organizations that will be on hand to answer questions include the Arthritis and Rheumatism Society, the Diabetic Association, Planned Parenthood, and SPEC.

Strike vote (continued)

increases spread out over this year.

Thomas also said, "The holding of the strike vote itself, regardless of outcome, and the mood of the more than 200 members who attended last week's rally is a clear indication that a significant number of faculty and staff are fed up with what they regard as management failure to approach negotiations seriously."

"How large a number are fed up and to what extent will be indicated in part by the outcome of the strike vote."

Negotiations are set to resume Friday morning.

Students double as tutors

BCIT's tutoring registry is holding its own.

The registry, which started up last fall, had originally been set up as a listing for students, graduates, and off-campus teachers interested in teaching BCIT students. According to Wendell Joe, of the Canada Employment Centre on campus, most of the tutors are in fact students here, whose qualifications range from "high marks in their technology" to masters' degrees.

Tutors fill out registration cards in the CEC, including details such as experience, credentials and fees. Students wishing assistance simply choose a tutor from the registry, located in the centre.

The subject in the most demand for tutors is mathematics said Joe. And the majority of the tutors specialize in math.

"It has been successful," said Joe. "We had about 40

placements last term."

There are currently about 25 tutors registered.

The service is jointly sponsored by the CEC, the Student Association and Counselling. Anyone interested in tutoring can contact the CEC at local 333.

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