

BCIT WORKING FOR YOU

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"There are all sorts of existing ways to add value to the primary resources of this province. The only way we can be competitive and make these systems work is to get the technologies going. Microelectronics, Robotics and CAD/CAM can open up a whole new range of opportunities to industry in B.C. While we must continue to plant tree seedlings we must also continue to implant seedlings in our technology centres, for these are our students and their knowledge will grow to a full and flourishing tree.

I thank BCIT for its long contribution to the development of this province. This new advanced technologies centre is an outstanding facility that will bode well for all of us."

Hon. Tom Siddon, M.P.

*Minister of State for Science and Technology
at the opening of the new centre for advanced technology,
February 22, 1985*

The above comments made us feel more than a little proud. It is true, we do have an important and growing role to play in the economy of B.C. but to receive concrete support in the form of financial backing and these kinds of statements gives strength and a renewed sense of commitment to that purpose.

The story of the new technologies building started about two years ago when Employment and Immigration Canada established the Skills Growth Fund to cover building, equipment and first year operating costs for training in any of a series of occupations designated as critical for the nation's economic development. Our proposal was submitted in October, 1982 and authority came through from then Minister, Lloyd Axworthy, at the end of April, 1983 for \$3.2 m. The province added a further \$255,000 for a total of \$3.5.

We then proceeded to build an addition to the south west corner of the main building, and to provide equipment for three new technologies, vital to keeping BCIT at the forefront of technological education, and B.C. and Canada competitive in world markets. These technologies are CAD/CAM (computer aided design and manufacture), MICROELECTRONICS and ROBOTICS. (see story inside).



THIS IS A NEW PUBLICATION WHICH WE PLAN TO ISSUE PERIODICALLY TO ALL THOSE WITH A VESTED INTEREST IN BCIT AND ITS GOAL OF PRODUCING PEOPLE SPECIFICALLY TRAINED TO FILL THE DIVERGENT AND INCREASINGLY TECHNOLOGICAL JOBS BEING CREATED BY INDUSTRY. WE WELCOME YOUR COMMENTS.

20th Anniversary Fund

Last October BCIT officially launched its first fundraising campaign with the goal of raising \$10m in capital funds over the next three years. The occasion was marked by a rededication ceremony on campus and a Board of Trade luncheon honouring BCIT downtown.

At the luncheon, guest speaker, Premier Bennett, addressing an audience of about 650 business leaders said:

"Today's rededication by BCIT to its objectives and principles provides me with a unique opportunity to renew and confirm the government's commitment to technological education as an essential part of economic recovery.

"An essential element in attracting new business and industry and jobs to B.C. will be the ability of our institutions to provide the skills and training in specific areas on an ever changing and ever developing basis.

"Your task will be even more challenging and the tasks for your students

20th Anniversary Fund

even more broad. It lies with educators to give our young people the skills needed to rebuild the economy."

As a measure of their support the government, via Education Minister Jack Heinrich, later handed over \$1m worth of television and studio equipment to our Broadcast Communications department.

The first major donation to the fund came in the form of \$1m worth of computer equipment from IBM Canada, a long time supporter and employer of BCIT grads. This gift has enabled us to double our computer power.

Several companies have now voiced their commitment to supporting BCIT in this its first major campaign and in the coming months we intend to build on that support. Guiding and assisting BCIT in this venture is a 25 member Development Council, fourteen of whom are external to BCIT. Working on our behalf alongside chairman Eugene Nesmith are: Mr. Ted Hird, Mr. Michael Hobbs, General Manager, Cominco, Dr. Donald Rix, Director of Laboratories, Metropolitan Clinical Laboratories, Mr. Don Steele, Vice President, Corporate Finance, Pemberton, Houston, Willoughby Inc., Mr. Ian Gray, Past Chairman and C.E.O., C.P. Air, Mr. Donald G. McConachie, V.P. Marketing and Corporate Participation, Expo '86, Mr. Colin G. Patterson, V.P. Corporate Development, B.C. Telephone Company, Mr. John Southcott, President and C.E.O., Whonnock Industries Ltd., Mr. John Tanton, Partner, Dunhill Personnel, Mr. J. Fred Weber, President and Chairman of the board, Skeena Broadcasters Ltd., Mr. Bev Machesney, Senior V.P., B.C. and Alberta, McKim Advertising Ltd., Mr. Alex Klopfer, V.P. Western Region, IBM Canada Ltd., Mr. Michael Wade, Manager, External Programs, Western Region, IBM Canada Ltd.

During his speech on February 22, Tom Siddon spoke of the need for traditional industries to improve the marketability of their products by

utilizing new technology. Using the forest industry as an example he said, "When we see how wood products are being replaced by plastic, we have to take a serious look at our forest industry." He said there was an oversupply internationally of conventional building materials and cited existing ways to add value to the primary resources of the province. Speaking for industry Tom Routledge of H.A. Simons (International) Ltd. later said, I think we are going to solve some of these problems and I think we are going to solve those problems together. Those of us in the wood chip industry are not going to make it unless we have people trained in these new areas and while high technology may mean a reduction of jobs, it is better to go from six to three people than to go to zero. He gave the example of Japan which, he said, had "Blown Detroit out of the water" because of their use of Robotics. H.A. Simons, one of the biggest users of CAD/CAM technology in Canada, has just turned on their 20th workstation.

Tom Foxall of Pacific Microtel attested to the importance of Robotics and CAD/CAM, and especially in support of the Microelectronics industry. "CAD/CAM sorts out all the detailed complexity of circuit design and CAD workstations are the windows into the microelectronics world," he said. Traditional tools are proving inadequate, he said, and I am pleased to see that BCIT is filling the gap. "In the area of microelectronics we have a world challenge to meet and the new centre is equipped with staff and equipment to meet that challenge."

The Microelectronics option of BCIT's Electrical/Electronics technology, deals with the miniaturization and integration of electronic circuitry and with the application of computer tools. 16 students currently study in the program and there is provision for three intakes of 16 students a year for a total of 48 maximum.

Robotics, also an option of Electrical/Electronics, has 32 students studying a mixture of mechanical and

electrical courses. The program provides the students with knowledge of the applications of flexible automation equipment, the various mechanical systems used and the electronics incorporated for their control.

There is a healthy demand locally for designers in both robotics and microelectronics and that demand is predicted to continue into the future.

Proficiency in CAD/CAM techniques is being demanded more and more by industry. In the immediate future almost all aspects of engineering will include some CAD/CAM component. Currently there are about 200 students taking courses in CAD/CAM. In addition to having a larger pool of trained personnel to choose from, local industry will benefit from the CAD/CAM program because they will no longer have to do the training themselves.

BCIT branch of CAPICS - largest in Canada

With 47 members, BCIT's new student chapter of the Canadian Association of Production and Inventory Control Society (CAPICS) is the largest of its kind in Canada. CAPICS is the Canadian arm of an international professional society for people involved in the production and inventory decision-making process in industry.

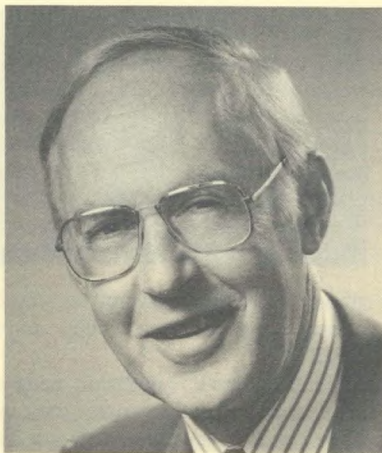
Operations Management instructor Keith Hartley, who helped organize the students' chapter, has accepted the role of faculty advisor to the group. Hartley, who recently received professional certification as a practitioner from the American parent group, APICS, is a charter member of CAPICS, formed several years ago. His position as director of education with that chapter prompted his interest in coordinating the formation of a student group at BCIT, where Operations Management students follow an intensive course of study in production planning and inventory control.

Friends of B.C.J.T.

Thank you Eugene Nesmith for being a friend to BCIT.

As chairman of the Development Council you have recognized our worth in the community by putting yourself wholeheartedly behind our fundraising efforts.

Gene Nesmith is a well known, extremely affable man whose long history in the banking community makes him almost a legendary figure.



His reputation for honesty and conservatism is about as solid as the pillars of the Hongkong Bank which he represents as president and chief executive officer and director.

Gene joined the Hongkong Bank in 1980 after almost a lifetime with the Bank of Montreal. He was still in high school in 1946 when he was offered a job with the bank. After working in a variety of different positions around B.C. Nesmith was chosen in 1972 to launch Mastercharge across Canada. The reason? His demonstrated skills with people. In 1976 Nesmith became the bank's senior vice president in B.C., a job which brought him back to B.C. after years of bank transfers in eastern Canada. When he was offered the Hongkong Bank job in 1980 he accepted for two reasons. He wanted to remain in B.C. where he had put down roots and Canada's decision in 1980 to open the country to foreign banks was an irresistible challenge, something he calls the most significant development in Canadian banking since 1817.

New program for M.O.T.H. personnel is unique at BCIT

A recently developed program for provincial Ministry of Transport and Highways (MOTH) employees is unique in a number of different ways, says Ray Robins, head of the new Transportation Systems (Highways) program at BCIT. For one thing, it will allow more credit for on-the-job learning than in the past in line with trends in other technical institutes in Canada and the United States. In this way, more students can be graduated in a shorter time than in the past, and BCIT facilities will be used more productively. In addition, the program will give MOTH employees theoretical training to go with their practical experience, thereby making it easier for them to move into management positions either in the Ministry or in the private sector.

The program was developed in response to a request from MOTH employees who had enrolled in a directed studies program to take courses in highway engineering, but who wanted a Diploma of Technology to show for their efforts.

There will be three levels of certification: 35 credits for an *Intermediate Certificate of Technology*; 75 credits for a *Certificate of Technology*; and 150 credits for a *Diploma of Technology*. Students will have a menu of some 230 credits to choose from. Robins says that some of the courses are available now, and that the rest will be developed progressively over the next 12 months.

Robins says that 2,000 MOTH employees are eligible to take the course, and he expects some 200 of them to have enrolled before the end of March this year.

MOTH employees enrolled in the existing directed studies program," says Robins, "and we expect that most of them will enroll in the diploma program."

When a student enrolls in the new program, their work experience will be matched against the course work, and credit will be given for relevant experience gained on-the-job. "That benefits students, because they can get their diplomas more quickly, and taxpayers, because it makes more efficient use of an expensive educational facility," says Robins.

The program will also benefit the Ministry, he adds.

"It will give employees who already have practical experience the theoretical background to enable them to move easily into managerial positions that might otherwise be inaccessible to them, and that the Ministry might have difficulty filling."

PhoneMail Campaign

Contact with alumni nets benefits for BCIT students

At the end of February this year, funds raised through BCIT's Phone Mail student aid campaign reached \$333,035.00. The phenomenal success of this venture means that students will now have an additional source of aid to call upon as they complete their two year diploma programs.

The money has all been pledged by BCIT alumni, a body of people who judging by their response to this first-time request for money, obviously have a pretty high regard for their alma mater and empathy with its students. Alumni either make a one time donation or, as in the majority of cases, pledge money over a stipulated time period. Categories are based on the amount of time a graduate has been in the workforce, and go from \$50 a quarter or \$800 every four years for 1966-73 grads to \$30 a quarter or \$480 over four years for 1979-84



grads. Out of 12,000 alumni on record, callers have so far reached about 9,495.

The Vancouver Foundation matches \$75,000 raised each year for the next three years. Once a year they pay out the interest to a BCIT committee struck to oversee disbursement. Four different categories have been established to ensure that students benefit in a variety of different ways. The *BCIT Alumni Bursary Fund* provides lump sums to needy students. The *BCIT Alumni Entrance Awards* are designed to encourage students from outside the Lower Mainland to come to BCIT. *BCIT Alumni Achievement Awards* are for high scholastic achievement and the *BCIT Alumni Fund* assists students with study-related projects.

Skills Development at BCIT

Week long courses in administrative management systems, computer systems, marketing management and operations management will be offered by BCIT this spring. They include:

Labor Relations - May 27-31

9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

\$134 (Burnaby campus)

Business Law I - June 10-14

9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

\$134 (Burnaby campus)

Data Processing Intro. - May 27-31

9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

\$134 (Burnaby campus)

Introduction to Marketing - June 3-7

9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

\$134 (Burnaby campus)

Public Relations - June 17-21

9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

\$134 (Burnaby campus)

For a complete list of courses offered through Continuing Education contact 432-8721.

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Phone 432-8738

Grads continue to be popular choice of employers

Despite the downturn which continues to plague the economies of both British Columbia and the rest of Canada, the prospects for employment for graduates of BCIT look promising, says Alison Meunier, new manager of the Canada Employment Centre on campus. Meunier says that BCIT graduates are very competitive in the labour market, and, as last year's placement figures show, "are doing very well." However, she cautions, the short-term outlook is not rosy, and students in their graduating year should start seriously looking for employment now.

Activity in 1984 at the campus Canada Employment Centre was up in all areas from 1983, says Meunier.

Most notably, regular placements went from 533 to 613, for a jump of 15 per cent. Part-time and casual placements increased from 378 to 388, an increase of 3 per cent. In addition, she says, the number of recruiter days on campus showed an increase of 29 per cent with placements continuing well into the fall.

In the School of Engineering Technology, 326 of a total of 699 graduates, or 55 per cent, found employment in a related field. Another 143 found work in non-related fields. In the School of Management, 343 of a total of 648 graduating students, or 61.5 per cent found work in related fields, with 126 employed in non-related fields. Unfortunately, there was insufficient data to make the same calculations for the School of Health Sciences.

Within the individual Schools, significant increases in career placement occurred for graduates of Financial Management, Hospitality and Tourism Building Engineering, and Chemical Sciences.

Meunier is cautious about next year's labour market outlook.

"Economists have been fairly consistently predicting, 'slower growth, no recession' as an outlook for 1985," she says. "Unemployment is also predicted to remain close to the 11 per cent level. Nationally, job prospects seem to be centered in central Canada. There is no doubt that it is advisable for the job seeker to be mobile." Meunier believes that slow growth will not have much of an effect on the demand for graduates in marketing and electronic engineering.