

NOTES ON MEETING Monday, August 18, 1997 , 2:30 PM with Gail Thomas,

Director, Fed/Prov Relations and International Education, Ministry of Education, Skills and Training. Prepared by Geri Anderson, with assistance from Marcia Braundy.

Participants: Gail Thomas, Ministry of Education, Skills and Training; Mike Woodcock, Dir. of Field Services, Education, Skills and Training; Marcia Braundy, Kootenay WITT; Linda Coyle, Kwantlan, WETC; Priti Shah, WETC; Liz Wilson, Okanagan Peopleworks; Geri Anderson, South Island WITT

Minutes of June 27, 1997 WEAC Minutes and update letter to Catherine Cookson from Shirley Robertson dated August 11, 1997 were given to Gail Thomas for her information to indicate the "difference between Fed/Prov" & DGP on the Co-management Agreement.

Gail Thomas gave us a brief update and run down on the Canada/BC Labour Force Delivery Agreement:

- there is \$206M for training programs for eligible EI recipients for 1997/98. Monies that used to be available to training under CRF Consolidate Revenue Fund are not part of the eventual transfer to the province. This includes federal funding for Immigrants, Income Assistance, and people with disabilities and Aboriginal people in CRF that is not administered jointly under the Fed/Prov agreement.
- (*According to the Province*) BC will take on responsibility (shared with Feds) for 18 months until Sept '98. Until then, BC will engage in shared responsibility for decisions regarding eligibility, priority setting and content.
- they will start negotiating a new Agreement in the fall of 1997 for the full takeover of training in fall of 1998.
- they are trying to implement the original agreement and also consult with all the 'players'.
- 3 Federal/provincial working groups have been set up;
 1. Achieving Results for Social Assistance recipients (Anne Richmond, Tom Dheensaw, Peter Cagis)
 2. Program Design (Frankie Craig, Jennifer Stand, Michelle McBride, Charles Perrin)
 - will look at skills loans & grants; self-employment; wage subsidies, earning exemptions (based on the BC/New Brunswick pilot); and job creation partnerships (community-based work projects). BC has to have same objectives & wants to look at how to target different groups. There is a \$134 M in the 96/97 budget, \$117 in 1997/98 and 1998/99 is \$94 million. This money can be used to fund direct purchase from institutions, public or private.
 3. Planning Operational (Mike Terris, Lucy Swibb, Anne Bazoyan)
 - looking at what is happening at HRCCs and Provincial Delivery systems around the delivery of programs and services, and determine possible options to ensure systems are in place for effective future delivery by the province.
- A small Co-Management Committee has been set up representing the Feds (Bill Gardner, Shirley Robertson, and Mary Huitson) and the Province (Chris Haynes, Gail Thomas, Betty Notar and Sharon Manson Singer), this is supported by a Secretariat (Heather Dickson for the Province and Lynn Jackson for the Feds)
- Provincial delivery will include the transfer of up to 470 federal staff. This more than doubles the Province's numbers, (and increases the skill levels in program delivery). They have been promised a 3 year employment guarantee(!) by the Feds, with approximately \$45,000/per person for salaries and administration begin allocated. To be negotiated is costs and staffing numbers.

Marcia expressed the concern that the Province does not have much experience in training and program

delivery. She gave as an example the RFP process which has caused significant problems and futile extra work for the community-based training sector.

Gail Thomas said they are looking at delivery options now; may be by contractors (community-based) using assessment and referrals. Gail agrees ongoing consultation is needed. Marcia stated that the RFP's often do not include follow-up of clients, so that evaluations are sketchy and ongoing support for clients is unavailable. Mike said they will look at 2 - 3 year contracts for delivery.

Our concerns were: where in the system do WITT exploratory courses fall? The concept of Tech Prep for women should be incorporated into a multi-site 3 year demonstration project and should be considered in a working group.

Designated Group Policy:

There are many inconsistencies throughout the Province in different communities in the ways in which designated group members are being served. The Federal Ministers say the "Designated Group policy" is still in effect and they are looking at how to adapt it to the new system. Locally, HRDC has said it no longer exists. Gail agreed to take it up with Martha Nixon, Associate Assistant Deputy Minister in charge of the Human Resources Investment Branch of HRDC, (Feds). We asked that the DG policy be adapted to British Columbia and implemented in Program Development and Delivery Agreements as per the "equity principles" clauses in the Federal/Provincial Training Agreement. **If equity is not specifically addressed it can be forgotten and/or ignored.**

Director of Equity:

There is a need for a Director of Equity for all programs that are initiated throughout the Ministry of Education, Skills and Training, and to function as a liaison with other Ministries' initiatives. Someone has to review ongoing policy and programs, this would have a positive impact on equity issues. Gail stated she didn't know what the chances were of getting a FT and that the Premier would have to look at it but that she will take it forward to her ADM and the Management committee.

Diversity Training:

There are currently 300 field officers. Mike will determine how many have had diversity training. He thought most training they had received focused on other issues. We have asked him to look at the existing training model developed for apprentice counsellors on Increasing Equity Participation by Deanna Rexe and Public Consulting Group. This package currently sits in Ian Hodgett's office (Director of Apprenticeship in Burnaby).

Ongoing Consultation:

We stressed the need for ongoing consultation with the Province and WETC and WITT, similar to WEAC, and that we were looking forward to Gail Thomas's attendance at the WEAC meeting on Sept. 19. We reiterated that a commitment had been made in March 1996 to an active consultation process with the Ministries of Women's Equality, MOEST, and Labour. Gail will look into this, as will Valerie Mitchell, DM, Women's Equality

WITT Demonstration Projects:

We feel there is a need for a training base line and they should look at OTT (Orientation to Trades and Technology book that was developed by Marcia Braundy for the Province. We would like to see this work implemented across the Province.

Overall, it was a very productive meeting. *See also the notes in the Federal Newsletter (LMDA) which came in since this meeting.*