

Journeywomen Ventures Ltd.

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The Honorable Glen Clark
Premier of British Columbia

Dear Glen Clark:

I am writing to you about a matter that will be coming before Cabinet soon, in hopes that you will bring your knowledge and expertise to bear on the issues.

Enclosed is a letter to Paul Ramsey sent last week which did result in the Minister's Committee making some changes to the Industrial Training and Apprenticeship Commission framework document, presented to the Ministers responsible today. As a result of that letter, or perhaps the strong words I used at the Apprenticeship Board meeting last week, some changes were made to the document. Still, equity has not been mentioned in the mandate and responsibilities of this Commission which will have spending authority over entry level training and apprenticeship in our province, nor has one of the standing/ad hoc committees been charged with responsibility for increasing equity participation in this training.

Considering the dismal state of the statistics for women in apprenticeship in this province, and the incredible resistance to making any changes (the Board's Equity Recommendations date back to 1992/3 and have yet to be implemented), not having clearly defined responsibilities for which this Commission is accountable means a continuation of an empty status quo.

I truly thought this government was going to address this issue, but I have found that almost all innovative initiatives have been nipped in the bud, with no one actually becoming accountable. (ie Crown Corporation equity in apprenticeship program; WITT exploratory course demonstration projects; GETT camps, etc.)

Please do not allow industry, employers and unions, to yet again keep women, aboriginal people, visible minorities and people with disabilities out of entry level industrial training and apprenticeship.

I recommend the document be sent to Women's Equality for a gender impact analysis.

With regard,

Marcia Braundy
Principal, Journeywomen Ventures Ltd.

Cc ANABELLE PAXTON - LOWER MAINLAND WITT
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MEG HERWEIER - SOUTH ISLAND WITT
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