

September 10, 1968

Principal's Remarks

Mr. Chairman, Mr. Minister, Distinguished Guests, Ladies & Gentlemen, Students.

Thank you for your very kind introductory remarks. It is an honour and privilege for me to be addressing this audience tonight as the principal of Capilano College. The position has been accepted as a challenge in keeping with a sense of service to the community and to the students.

It is with a sense of pride which I speak to you for a few minutes: Pride in the students and what they represent as young Canadians seeking to improve their usefulness to society and to enrich their lives through continuous learning experience. Undoubtedly many students have enrolled with considerable sacrifice and great personal concern to extend their formal education beyond high school. It is to their credit that they want to take advantage of the educational opportunities: to grow in understanding, to demonstrate the capacity of their abilities, and to exercise personal initiative in a chosen field of study.

Pride in the faculty because it is through them that many learning experiences will take on new meaning. A College dedicated to a teaching mission is not to be counted worthy of its role unless a faculty is qualified and can demonstrate an excellence in communication. Capilano College is fortunate to have procured an outstanding faculty which will give unstintingly to provide new learning experiences for students, and contribute to the development of a worthy curriculum.

Pride in the College Council. Without hesitation, we can assure you that the representatives of the three School Districts and appointees of the Minister of Education have contributed unselfishly to the formation of the College, befitting the concept of the Department of Education in serving the people of our communities.

The College Council has been most astute in providing for the post-secondary needs of the community, a new broadening educational curriculum for both tertiary types of education and career-oriented programs as they relate to the economics of the Region. It has been a most satisfying experience to see a job being executed so ably by a Council who knows of the benefits which will accrue to our communities, and offers its time so that the newest educational development on the North Shore will be successful.

Pride in the citizens of the College Region, many of whom literally knocked on doors to bring about a positive vote favouring the establishment of a college.

The program to establish other Regional Colleges is now underway and we are most fortunate to have a headstart on several other districts in the Province. No small amount of gratitude should be expressed to existing leading institutions: V. C. C., Selkirk College and the B. C. Institute of Technology. This headstart, as it were, is by permission of the Department and by mandate of the people, and rightly so, in order that an orderly development may take place in B.C. Yet, to the citizens of the North Shore, who overwhelmingly supported the March plebiscite must go the credit for foresight and support.

Before moving on to other remarks I wish to include my tribute to Mr. Leslie Brooks, Dean of Instruction, a co-worker and leader with others in recent years when vision, ideas, drive and purpose to form a College were so vital. It is with respect and much pleasure that I look forward to our association on this faculty, and in the development of Capilano in all aspects of administration and instruction.

About us is an atmosphere of pride and achievement that Capilano College has come about in 1968 instead of in the future. The student enrolment has

reached 715 - outstanding evidence of an overwhelming community response. It is most probable that such evidence of meeting our educational needs may be repeated for several successive years. It is possible that enrolment may increase by more than 25% each year. The proposal to erect a building to serve the College for library storage has been made a reality even today - lights are on this evening. Our library is to be known as a resource centre - not just a book depository. New instructional media of a variety of kinds will be introduced. An audio-visual and independent study approach to learning will not be overlooked, in fact it will be emphasized. Several thousand volumes are already on their way for the library and it is hoped to see the service operational within a week. It is extremely urgent that the students have a meeting place other than the existing high school facilities, and it is hoped that an announcement will be possible in a very short time which will make such a facility available to the students.

Each one of the three school Districts involved has educational needs to be met. Each one has contributed to a philosophy of education at the elementary and secondary school levels. Capilano in turn has no small responsibility to recognize the outstanding contributions of such highly respected systems, representing the two main levels of education. Now, together, we are inaugurating a third level in a comprehensive program beyond high school. We can be certain that students and faculty in the College recognize the contributions of the School Boards and civic governments in enabling Capilano College to open at this date.

The Provincial government through our Department of Education shares with us a sense of pride in the development of this new kind of educational opportunity. Great freedom has been given to Capilano College in Curriculum Development, choice of staff, and in the introduction of administrative processes, and we would respond by supporting the establishment of a provincial Community College system, second to none in Canada.

The College serves the students who wish to transfer to other institutions, and those who are in pursuit of career-oriented programs of a terminal kind, which are directly related to employment opportunities on the North Shore. We will serve adults who for upgrading, or cultural enrichment, are bent on re-entering the formal, but not highly structured College stream.

It would appear that our students are characteristically arts and science students. Some 65% are students taking five courses which means that 35% are partial students taking 1, 2, 3 or 4 college courses. I think you are aware that five vocational-technical programs are being offered in our first year, together with a cooperative "Liason" package jointly offered by the B. C. I. T. and Capilano. The five Capilano programs include: Industrial Specialty, Art, Early Childhood Education, Accounting and Secretarial Science. The venture with B. C. I. T. provides an opportunity to students who might otherwise be unable to begin their training at B. C. I. T. The first year of several programs is being offered to students who, if successful, will be recommended for entry into 2nd year Diploma programs at B. C. I. T. beginning September 1, 1969.

It is vital to the success of all programs that a working relationship be developed between institutions of Higher Education and Capilano College, and between business and industry and the College. The former will be developed as we meet with academic departments and university officials to explain our programs and interpret the achievement of our students. It is to the Academic Board of Higher Education that we look for guidance and advice in this vital relationship. The relationship between the College and the business community will be encouraged on our part through any number of contacts, and advisory committees to our vocational-technical programs. Representatives of the business community are to be included in the development of new programs and on the advisement committees of our current offerings.

There is no question that we want to relate to the needs of our community by supplying graduates of two year programs who will be highly trained, employable and worthy of a position in our North Shore economy.

There are at least three other mutually beneficial relationships which are to be developed and encouraged. First, the adult in the home, who is potentially a College supporter or even a College student is of vital concern to the College. We want to involve the whole community, not high school graduates alone. Adult education is a continuous learning experience and should be one notable branch of the College services. It will not be long before our adults will be speaking enthusiastically of the opportunities open to them at Capilano.

Second, the relationship between the West Vancouver Secondary School and the College is of special significance. Can you imagine how a high school principal and staff and custodial men have dreaded the impact of such an "intrusion" as Capilano College into their midst? Every means of assistance and cooperation has been extended to us, and I have appreciated to a very great extent the support and understanding that Mr. McKenzie, his staff and students, have offered. I trust this relationship will continue and that the College will be able to contribute to the high school program in the temporary sharing of the West Vancouver Secondary Building.

Third. A mutually beneficial relationship is anticipated between the students and those who give leadership in the College. We invite students to participate in College affairs and become involved in responsible planning sessions. It is expected that students will accept responsibilities for student government and be prepared to express themselves on how best Capilano College students can serve their interests. It is expected that students will give voice to their ideas. We want to relate to the needs of the students in educational pursuits and in preparing for living in a changing and technical society.

It is expected too, that students will have time to consider some of the values and the meaning of life as it affects them personally. A student voice in college affairs is a prime example of a democratic approach to responsible student faculty relationships.

Capilano College is a comprehensive community college, i.e. the programs are both academic and career-oriented, the College is community minded and the opportunities are at a post-secondary, college or adult level. It seeks: to prepare students for transfer, to prepare students to achieve occupational competence, to prepare students for living in a contemporary society, to provide a counselling service which enables the student to discover his aptitudes for his future educational goal and career. Opportunities to learn are to be provided through classes, seminars, workshops and lecture series to meet the occupational and cultural needs of the community. Recent great strides in learning techniques and methods of communication will enhance the educational process for college students.

Capilano College is only beginning. It will afford opportunities for students, faculty and the community to develop the curriculum, enlarge the scope of its functions and serve the citizens for the betterment of our economy and well-being in the Province, and specifically within the limits of our College Region. The student enrolment has demonstrated the immediate need to prepare for a new college campus, the Council is even now considering the feasibility of a site and separate college facilities.

As principal, I express my appreciation to all concerned for their assistance in the development of the College to this point. It has been gratifying to participate in this exciting new educational opportunity. We aim to make Capilano College progressive, flexible in curriculum, modern in its teaching techniques, student and community-oriented. I wish every student success, and compliment him on choosing Capilano College.