

Information Memo to all Faculty on Site Developments
from the Principal

November 8, 1971

Following my discussion with faculty last Wednesday, I felt I should spell out clearly to you just what has been decided on the College sites and what steps are now being taken.

1. Decision to go for three sites

At the November 1 meeting of Council the decision was made to proceed with negotiations and a brief in relation to the three sites: Inter-River, Cypress, and North Vancouver Lonsdale (Highschool). Very briefly, the basis of the decision was first of all that Inter-River is available, well located for the future development of North Vancouver to the east, and is the only piece of large land we can get in North Vancouver and could possibly move to in September 1972. Secondly, political reality at least (there are other factors), necessitates a site in West Vancouver and the Cypress area appears to be the only suitable land available. Thirdly, the North Vancouver Lonsdale school site, with its buildings, is viewed both as an excellent insurance policy in case a second referendum for permanent buildings fails, and is also regarded by many as being ideally located for such uses as a centre for continuing education and special education programs.

2. Steps now under way

There are two prime tasks on which we must move very fast. The most important task is the immediate preparation of a sites brief to the Minister covering the proposition rationale and plans on the three sites. The object of this brief is to gain the necessary Victoria approval. The second urgent task is to proceed with the steps leading to a proposed move of our core operation to Inter-River for next September. This involves first of all moving ahead with negotiations with North Vancouver District officials on both an agreeable price for the thirty-five acres (to ascertain the figure for the referendum) and negotiating a possible price and arrangement for a one year lease on Inter-River land. The lease proposition is necessitated by the fact that we may not be able to go to referendum before May of 1972 while we would need to be working on site before that time if we were going to have our core campus moved and set up there by September 1, 1972. Interim land lease costs do not need to be submitted to referendum.

Of less urgency are steps in furthering negotiations with the North Vancouver School Board for the possible transfer of their Lonsdale site to the College by September 1973, and the continuing investigation on a section of land at Cypress. The proposal on Cypress land is that we would delineate land which we wanted and then would proceed to expropriation from the private owners.

It is also important that we begin working on our educational specifications for future permanent facilities for Inter-River and possibly Cypress. This is a very important matter for the faculty and your forthcoming facilities trips reflect your realization of this. It is also a matter for the Research and Development Committee to help organize and I hope that committee will very soon renew its plan of sub committees to involve faculty and students in the development of specifications of certain major facility areas.

3. The development of the three sites and other "outposts".

I would like to reiterate that as far as I am concerned there is no intention of having a really dispersed, decentralized College operation. Faculty and student input, and my own research, have forcefully brought to my attention the many problems related to wide dispersal. However, the geographic-political facts of our College district make it absolutely impossible to go to the other extreme of absolute centralization of total operation. The plan, as I see it, is that from September next year our largest and main core campus with prime Media facilities, instructional labs, and administrative-support services, will be at the Inter-River site. I foresee the Lonsdale site (now the North Vancouver Highschool) developing, if approved, as more or less a special centre for particular programs, day or evening, into which the College is going to find itself in the next few years. The Cypress site, if developed, would ideally become the second major "satellite" to the Inter-River core. It would be the natural place, next to an eventual Squamish campus, to develop a compact "satellite" unit of learning areas, social and counselling areas, and media facilities, possibly electronically connected to the core campus. Until such a facility came into being at Cypress, or elsewhere in West Vancouver, we will probably have to continue to operate some evening classes out of the West Vancouver Secondary School.

Beyond these developments the College might continue to operate very small "outposts" similar to those now run at Lyn Valley, Seymour Heights, and Capilano Highlands. These are very small learning area arrangements primarily aimed at providing in-community evening credit courses to draw out some of the adult population. Such small teaching outposts do not really create serious student or faculty dislocation or diffusion of services.

4. Immediate College steps in developing Inter-River for 1972.

Internally, the College must start planning immediately the principal's proposed move to Inter-River for next September. This involves choosing an actual location there on which to site our complex of portable buildings, deciding what new portable facilities are needed, and developing a functional layout for all the facilities and parking. I will immediately be asking the members of the Research and Development committee, the Dean of Student Services and Librarian to come up with proposals on all these points and any of you who have suggestions or concerns on this matter can either raise them through the faculty representatives on the committee or directly to myself or Mr. Alan Smith.

I hope this brief outline has clarified some of the site matters. I also hope that you will feel free to come to me at any time with questions or concerns you may have on these points or on general site and facilities development.

C. H. Blum