

College fears cutbacks

Hilda Rizun, chairman of the Capilano College council, expressed her fears last week that the college will not be given adequate funding to carry out the programmes it hopes to mount.

"We receive funding from three provincial councils," Rizun said, "the academic council, which handles academic and technical; occupational training which is vocational and management advisory which looks after capital requests and instructional services."

"Each college gets a portion of the monies allotted," Rizun added saying that at Capilano College all the fat left to be cut from the budget has been removed; there's nothing left.

"If any further cuts have to be made, they will be in the programmes."

"We have a five year education plan laid out to cover the years 1981-86," she said. "We've laid out where we see the college going. This was presented by the board and developed after a great deal of internal consultation. We held public meetings, got community input and also issued a missions and goals statement."

"Now we are finding that plan has to be looked at in view of annual financing, so long term projects may suffer. This makes the existing planning process impractical."

Despite the threat of a cutback in funding Rizun says Capilano College intends to keep operating in Squamish and on the Sunshine Coast. If there is not enough money available it may be necessary to scale down some programs.

"We intend to maintain all our programs," she added "but some may have to be changed to different packages."

"We have to maintain a balance between our academic, occupational and technical programs."

She said it would be difficult to make

any reductions in faculty in less than a year as the faculty is covered by a collective agreement. Time lines for reducing the faculty are nine months to nine months and a year. The faculty was reduced by seven this year.

The board is concerned with financing

and at present the finance committee is going through the budget process discussing alternatives in order to have a logical sequence of events. We have to work with the money we receive and to use our funds as reasonably as possible.

"We are looking at alternative financ-

ing services," she added. "When the government doesn't know how much money is available or where it is coming from and we don't know either, we are going to have to be prepared to respond and make reasonable decisions regarding priorities."

Rizun said that Capilano College is known as one of the most cost-efficient colleges in the province. The budget planning process is as advanced as any and take a pro-active stance and does the most with whatever it receives.

"We may have to look at alternate forms of funding if conditions become too difficult," she said. "We have set up a committee to do a feasibility study to look at industry, societies and the public and review other methods of funding."

"We have to be realistic," she added, "and we have to have funding to continue our work."

She touched on the moratorium on capital building and how it might affect the Squamish campus.

"We don't know any more than you have seen in the papers," she said, "but we do anticipate a delay. But again, there is no point in having buildings if no monies are available to mount programmes in them."

Regarding the Women's Resource Centre she said that although there is no full time coordinator, women's educational programmes will still be offered in Squamish under another form of delivery.

Referring to the North Vancouver campus she said the college would be moving into the new multi-purpose building on time and within budget. The new building has a new vocational area, new science labs and a new business management area.

"But," she said, "even with the new building there isn't lots of empty space sitting around, even with our present enrollment."



Hilda Rizun, chairman of Capilano College Council, talks about the impact funding cutbacks will have, on page 4.