

R.R. # 1

Winlaw, British Columbia

VOG 2JO

28 September 1983

Jule Morrow

Women's Program, Ministry of Labour

659 Leg-In-Boot Square

Vancouver, British Columbia

Jule Morrow:

I am writing to express my extreme dissatisfaction with the state of the Trade Advisory Committee on Women in Employment and Training. I was also insulted and offended by the lack of respect afforded to Valerie Ward and myself, as well as to members of that committee, when we attended the September 15th meeting as invited guests.

I will address the latter issue first. We arrived at the Deer Lake Centre and were directed to a room that was obviously no more than a large storage closet; we were surrounded by boxes and discarded pieces of furniture. Susan Reid informed the meeting that you were ill, that there was no agenda, and proceeded to follow your suggestion that she tell the group what the Women's Office was doing.

People like Dennis Duffy, Dennis Waunch, Rosemary Bonderud, Bill Darnell, Jackie Sandy, and Norm Cosulich are far too busy doing their paid jobs to sit and listen to a list of conferences and activities the employees of the Women's Office are participating in. People like Kate Braid and Alice McPherson, who are losing paid hours on the job to attend those meetings deserve far greater respect than that shown by your lack of attendance, especially when you were well enough to show up at the office later in the day. That is an insult! And especially to a committee as important and in as tenuous a state as that one!

It was also an insult that I should be subjected to the frustrated responses and even a resignation from members of that committee. Not that they were showing disrespect, but that you had allowed the Trade Advisory Committee to reach that state of anger and frustration.

For two years I have been listening to many members of that committee express their frustration with the disorganization and lack of focus of the meetings. I expressed some of that to you last spring, after my meetings with Dennis Duffy and Dennis Waunch, and other Joint Board Coordinators showed clearly that there was a lack in that committee. Obviously this has not changed.

The minutes from the last meeting had never even been typed up and sent out, much less thought given to an agenda for the next meeting. Excusing that with secretarial help being on holiday was not very appropriate. I am sure that many "more important" documents were typed and sent out in that interim. Surely, in a program with a staff of 10 people, someone could have done it.

I say this because the responsibility for writing and circulating agendas; focusing, directing, and facilitating the meetings; typing and circulating minutes; and notifying all members of meeting dates is yours, as the Interim Chair. Not consistently fulfilling these responsibilities and not electing a permanent Chair have seriously inhibited the work of that committee.

One result of not writing an agenda and circulating it was that no one on that committee was informed that we would be presenting the seminar on that day. A significant opportunity to inform a broad cross-section of industry of a tool that is proving useful was lost. Their potential feedback on ways to proceed with implementing this educational tool was also lost.

As this committee has the potential of playing such a vital role in improving the position of women in training and employment in B.C., it is essential that the Chair adopt a strong and consistent leadership role to assist in channeling the creative energies of the committee's diverse membership. I hope that this will speed the choosing of a permanent Chair, and also that the new Chair will be offered the support services necessary to do the job well, and that they will be paid for their time.

I trust that consideration will be given to these words. It is extremely rare for me to address someone, especially a woman working for women, in this way. The pressure to do so comes from putting the needs, feelings, and potential experience of all women above the feelings of one or a few individuals.

I think it is in order to expect the Women's Office to in some way fulfil its responsibilities to this committee to assist it to function in the most productive way possible.

Sincerely,

Marcia Braundy
Journeywoman Carpenter
Member: Women In Trades, K.C.
Vancouver WomenIn Trades Assoc.
Carpenters Local 2458

cc: Isabel Kelly