

Woman for programs

by **TERRY GILBERT**
Times Staff

Selkirk College should take a leadership role in promoting pre-trades training programs for women, according to Marcia Braundy, the first female journeied carpenter in the province, who presented her idea to the members of the Selkirk board Tuesday evening.

Braundy suggested such a program could be developed under the guidance of a women's access coordinator.

"Women have been at a disadvantage in terms of technical and trades training. They don't get shop courses and they don't have the same influences from childhood that a boy does," Braundy said.

Board member Marion Beattie said she did not agree that a special program was needed for women, adding that some men are in the same situation. "If there is such a course it

should cover the whole works. If it's for women only it's just as discriminatory as if it went the other way."

Board member Father Walter Donald asked, "Is it appropriate for a community college to label itself advocate on behalf of women?"

Donald also asked if it was Braundy's intention that the college try to find two female students to participate in every trades program. "I feel that is a little unreasonable."

Braundy said the Ministry of Labor has already set that goal and "the college could enforce it to show good faith." The Ministry of Labor has confirmed two spaces available for women in apprentice programs in the province.

One board member pointed out that women have never been denied access to entering the trades programs in Selkirk College. He added that at some point the college has women

enrolled in every-trade program, and the first entered automotives at least 10 years ago.

JUMP HOOPS

College principal Leo Perra said the college received some money to hire a women's access coordinator, and possibly a person could be hired this fall. "But we still have a few hoops to jump through first," he said. One problem is funding. The Ministry of Education provides two-thirds of the funding for the program in the first year, 40 per cent in the second year, 30 per cent in the third year, and by the fourth year the college must have the program as part of its regular budget.

Perra pointed out that it will take some consideration before the college can make that type of financial commitment.

The report presented by Braundy will be examined by the board to see which recommendations can be acted upon.