

WOMEN IN TRADES
618B Victoria
Nelson, B. C.

June 21, 1983

Dear

I understand that several meetings have taken place in Vancouver during which it was decided that Women's Access did not want to be responsible for the implementation of the seminars Women In Trades, Kootenay Council, is developing for instructors, employers, job stewards, etc., called "Workplace in Transition, Integrating Women Effectively".

I feel that these decisions have, perhaps, been made prematurely, and without benefit of all the background information.

Some of this may be my responsibility in that Sally Mackenzie and I have been extremely heavily focused on creating seminars that speak to the issues effectively and hopefully do not elicit defensive responses. It was a difficult task but I believe we have accomplished it. We were remiss in not having addressed the Women's Access co-ordinators directly throughout, though we have certainly been viewing you as part of the support system for this project after the encouragement given it at the Women's Access meeting in January in Nelson.

Taking into consideration all of the above, I would like to share with you what we have been hoping for, pursuing, and developing in regard to implementation of these seminars.

Our original intent for the trades and technology instructor segments, as we discussed in January, is to train the Women's Access co-ordinators to co-lead the seminar at their own cam-

puses, with a member of Women In Trades, Kootenay Council. To ensure participation of these institutions, we have been negotiating with Lorne Thompson, of the Ministry of Education, to use his influence to encourage the administrations to hold the Seminars at each college with a trades or technology focus. At the same time, we are negotiating with the Chair of the Council of Principals and will be put on the agenda of their August 22nd meeting. We will be requesting formal support for the implementation of these seminars at each of their institutions.

In this way, the impetus for holding the seminars will come from the people with the most authority. We are not asking for required attendance, we are asking for endorsement and encouraged attendance. The role of the Women's Access Co-ordinators, as we see it, would be as a liaison with us, assisting with logistical preparations at their own institutions, and then co-leading the seminars.

We realize the tenuous position of the Women's Access Co-ordinators at the colleges at the present time. It is for this reason that we see the importance of implementing the project now. If we can train a large percentage of the trades and technology instructors in the next year and can get the University of British Columbia instructor training Department to incorporate this material into their training program, we will have covered a majority of bases before the demise, if in fact that takes place, of the Women's Access Program. Women in Trades has copyrighted this material, and also owns the slide/tape show that was developed for delivery with these seminars, "What Happens to Women In Tradesland".

Page Three

June 21, 1983

We will not allow this material to be used under unapproved circumstances. Therefore, there would be no reason to assume that, once trained, you would be required to give the seminars on your own. The stipulation under which we would bring Women's Access co-ordinators together to train you to give these seminars, would be that a member of Women In Trades, Kootenay Council, or someone identified by us would go out to do the workshops with you.

We feel that a training session is necessary, because the material, as well as the focus and tone of the delivery is quite sensitive and requires some background and discussion. We would focus more on that than taking you step by step through a workshop that is primarily directed at men.

The Women's Office of the Ministry of Labour has indicated to us that they are willing to fund, through us, a gathering of the Women's Access co-ordinators to participate in this training session. I have indicated to them that this training session in no way predisposes the individuals of that group to put on the seminars without the active participation of Women In Trades Kootenay Council, or their appointees.

We would like this training session to happen in mid to late July, before the 28th, as indicated in Vita Storey's letter to all of you last month.

Enclosed is a copy of our Agenda for the Seminars. Some of the material may be familiar to you, I'm sure quite a bit of it may not be.

Page Four

June 21, 1983

We are piloting this seminar at Selkirk College next week, and with the Provincial Council of Carpenters Executive and C.L.R.A reps in early July. We hope to have the bugs worked out soon after.

Women's Access co-ordinators have the unique position of being women's advocates and educational planners sometimes within not particularly welcoming institutions. We hope that by participating, with us, in the delivery of these seminars, the usefulness of that position within the institution will become ever more obvious.

Looking forward to your reconsideration of your participation, with us, in putting on the Seminars, "Workplace In Transition: Integrating Women Effectively", directed towards men, to facilitate the entry of women into the trades and technology workforce.

Your soonest reply would be appreciated, either by mail or phone: 352-9863, 226-7624.

Thank you for reading this lengthy letter. With all the previous confusion, I thought it important to clarify our ideas, actions, hopes and expectations.

With good feelings,

Marcia Braundy