

Kootenay Women In Trades and Technology

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Dear Members of the Minister's Committee on the Industry Training and Apprenticeship Commission:

For the many months you were working on your governance document for ITAC, Deputy Minister George Ford was assuring the Provincial Apprenticeship Board that concerns about inclusion of an equity mandate and representation would certainly appear in the final document. When the almost final document was tabled in February, it contained almost no equity language. Only after strong letters to the Ministers involved did the 12 white men and 1 white woman of your committee include asking business, labour and education to reflect equity in its nominations for membership. There is still no mention of ensuring equity considerations in the mandate and responsibilities of the Commission, and there is no Standing Committee to deal with equity inclusion.

In considering that, of the 51 equity recommendations that were passed by the Provincial Apprenticeship Board (only because there were designated equity representatives pushing them through), only 4 have had any action at all, (two completed and two others begun): leaving equity in the hands of business, labour, education and the bureaucrats in this government without a clear mandate, is just not good enough.

Regardless of their gender or designated group, those individuals have been appointed to represent the issues of business, labour and education, and often know little of the policies, programs and initiatives which will increase the participation of designated group members.

Particularly since this Commission will have fiscal and spending authority over entry level training, industrial training and apprenticeship, where women, visible minority people, aboriginal people and persons with disabilities have not achieved access anywhere near their demographic representation in this province, I would like to urge you to:

1. Reconsider the representation to include representation from designated group advocacy organizations with an interest in employment and training issues.
2. Include increasing equity participation in training and apprenticeship as part of the mandate and responsibilities.
3. Set a Standing Committee on Equity in Training and Apprenticeship.
4. Broaden the consultation process on this legislation beyond the vested interests of the Minister's Committee, and allow a representative group from Women in Trades and Technology (WITT) and the Women's Employment and Training Coalition to review the legislation before it goes forward.

Sincerely,

Marcia Braundy
VP - Kootenay WITT

cc: WITT groups
WETC membership
Deborah Pearce, Times Colonist