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NEWS RELEASE

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Workshop for Working Women

"Old wives' tales" are still preventing Kamloops women from upward mobility in the world of business management but the situation is gradually changing.

That's the assessment of Nadia Olafson, chief counsellor at Cariboo College. Mrs. Olafson is co-ordinating a "Workshop for Working Women: Moving Into Management" scheduled for 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, October 18 in the college boardroom.

One of the topics at the workshop will be a survey of businesses conducted during the past summer by the college counselling department which aimed at determining attitudes toward local area women in regard to management positions.

"There is still some feeling against women in management, and some company managers still feel that women are not as emotionally stable as men and are likely to quit work sooner due to marriage, etc.

"Some of that holds water but there are more and more women who continue or return to careers," the counsellor said.  
"The major stumbling block to them doing so is the hiring policy of some businesses."

The workshop, sponsored jointly by the college counselling department and the Business and Professional Women's Club, will attempt to provide women with information on the means of overcoming this obstacle. In addition to suggesting various courses and readings helpful to the objective of obtaining management positions, the workshop will feature several women who have made headway in the field.



Anyone interested in participating can register with the Cariboo College Continuing Education Department by calling 374-3661. Mrs. Olafson asks that participants register by October 15.

She also suggested that each participant bring, as a guest, a girl currently in Grade 11 or 12 who plans to enter the work force.

Dress should be casual, since room may be limited if response is good, and participants should bring their own lunch.

Mrs. Olafson will address the meeting, followed by the guest speakers. Discussions with each speaker will then be held within smaller groups.

Among the topics to be covered during the seminar are civil rights as they apply to women seeking employment, women and union-management negotiations, management skills, how to manage children in a single parent family while working and how to look for a better job while holding down the one you've already got.

Mrs. Olafson said that management opportunities for women are being opened up by several types of businesses. Banks and accounting firms are among those offering training programs open to the general public. Sales is another field which has opened up considerably to women, with real estate and insurance firms often employing female sales personnel.

The workshop is open to men as well as women, and Mrs. Olafson is hopeful that it will lead to concrete results in the form of specific courses for women wishing to enter management.

C.W.F. Bishop  
Director of Student Services  
and College Affairs

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