

11 June 1979

NEWS RELEASE

(for immediate release)

The personal-interview phase of Cariboo College's survey of community educational needs will be under way throughout the 50,000-square-mile College region starting the latter part of this month.

The wide-ranging study, designed to collect data and opinions as a basis for a comprehensive educational plan, began last week in the secondary schools of the six districts comprising the region. Some 5,000 students in Grades 11 and 12 completed questionnaires dealing with their present and future educational needs.

A third phase of the survey involves students and former students of the College itself. They are being asked in a mailed questionnaire this month about the courses they have taken at the College in relation to their employment and their future plans.

Later this summer and fall, according to Acting College Principal Leo Perra, the survey will focus on the business and industrial sectors, with potential employers being asked about their experiences with College trainees and about their ideas on what programs the College should be offering in preparation for the job market.

The interviews will be conducted by four university and college students specially recruited and trained for the project, Perra said. They will be approaching selected households and will have about 20 minutes' worth of questions to ask.

"We earnestly hope the people contacted will cooperate with our interviewers," Perra said. "The College's educational plan must be based on plenty of thoughtful public input if it is to reflect the community desires and needs and give us the necessary program signposts for the next five years."

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The interviewees will be asked, for example, what roles they would like to see the College fulfilling in cultural and other areas as well as education; what types of programs and specific courses they think should be offered; and to what extent they would be interested in third- and four-year university courses offered in the region.

Their advice will also be asked on such matters as how best to spread the word about actual and potential College programs and courses, and how some courses can be conveyed to areas geographically removed from teaching centres.

The students conducting the interviews in the various communities include two former Cariboo students, Kathleen Ritter and Sandra Marriott; Tom Yow, from Simon Fraser University; and Debbie Oustland, a former student a Notre Dame University.

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