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NEWS RELEASE

A pilot project involving Cariboo College in in-service training for welders employed by Afton Mines has proved so successful that the arrangement may be extended to several other mining operations in the British Columbia Interior.

Welding Chairperson Nick Martin expects to meet soon with mine representatives to discuss the adapting of their welders' skills to the particular needs of the industry.

Some welders who possess the necessary certification under Provincial Government requirements are short on some aspects of knowledge and skill in oxy-acetylene and arc welding because their training and testing has emphasized pressure welding, Martin explains.

Accordingly, the Afton workers have been spending two days at the College, taking tests in both theory and practice, to determine the areas in which they need further training. The practical test consists of constructing "from scratch" a wheel chock which Afton then acquires for its operations (Afton pays for the steel used).

This type of contract training service to industry is similar to the arrangements already in effect at the College in the fields of Heavy Duty Mechanics and Carpentry.

C.W.F. Bishop
College Affairs Manager