

18 January 1980

NEWS RELEASE

(for immediate release)

The steady increase in the number of people needing institutional health care over long periods, combined with the current province-wide effort to release acute-care hospital beds now occupied by these people, has brought about a growing demand for trained Long Term Care Aides which Cariboo College is now attempting to help satisfy.

The College will initiate its first 15-week course in this area on February 18. As developed by the College's Department of Nursing, the course will give the students nine weeks of instruction in such core health care subjects as basic anatomy and physiology, psychology, communication skills, etc., and six weeks of practical experience in health care agencies.

The program has been instituted by the Provincial Ministry of Education at the request of and in cooperation with the Ministry of Health. The Cariboo program will follow a Provincial curriculum which has been accorded recognition province-wide by health care agencies.

The course is designed to be mobile, to meet the needs in communities throughout the region. Intermediate and long term care facilities are under construction or planned in Merritt, Lillooet and Williams Lake, and an expansion of Overlander Extended Care Hospital in Kamloops has been approved. All these projects point to the need for additional employees in the next few years.

Applicants for the course must have at least Grade 10 completed, or be eligible for mature students status, and should be interested in working with people. Medical examination requirements must also be met.

Students seeking sponsorship should contact their local Canada Employment Commission Office and contact the Registrar at Cariboo College for application information.

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