



**association of university and college employees**

May 1, 1981

The Executive  
Vancouver Municipal & Regional Employees  
Union  
545 West 10th Avenue  
Vancouver, B.C. V5Z 1K9

Dear Friends:

I am enclosing herewith a copy of a letter I wrote to the Vancouver School Board. I thought perhaps it might be of some interest to your union and its members since they too engage largely in clerical work and will undoubtedly be affected by micro-electronics and technological change. I am sure too that many of your members will have children in the public school system and may wish to express concern on their behalf to the school boards and government.

A copy of this letter was sent to all school boards in the Lower Main-Land as well as to Brian Smith, the Minister of Education.

Also, I wish to congratulate you and your members for your strength and principles displayed in your long strike.

Fraternally,

Carole Cameron  
Union Organiser  
AUCE Local 1

Enc.

NEW ADDRESS:  
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University of British Columbia  
Vancouver, B.C.  
V6T 1W5



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May 1, 1981

To: School Boards in the Greater Vancouver Regional District

Dear Sir or Madam:

At the end of March I attended a conference in Ottawa entitled Micro-Electronics and the Work Environment. The conference was sponsored by the Women's Bureau of the Federal Department of Labour.

There is no doubt that the introduction of technological changes into our working lives will make grave changes, it is already happening. A major area of concern relates to fields of work women have traditionally gone into, one place where a most severe loss of jobs will occur. The educational system to date does not appear to be advancing programs that would direct young women into non-traditional work or non-traditional education. Women still appear to be directed into the Arts in higher education or into clerical, library or service type work.

It seems to me both as a union representative of 1,500 library and clerical workers at the University of British Columbia, 93% of whom are women and as a taxpayer and mother of a daughter in the public school system, that School Boards in the Greater Vancouver Regional District should take the lead in programs that encourage women away from traditional areas. I also think it is absolutely essential to prepare all young people for the technological changes they will encounter in their working lives. There appears, from the conference, to be an unwillingness on the part of the federal government to deal with any of these problems until they occur. You will realize that education is an essential part of preparing people for changes, such changes that they will have little or no control over but that will affect their lives in very extreme ways. People's ideas of work and employment will need to be revised drastically and it would be good if young people could leave high school somewhat prepared, mentally at least, for this.

Studio D of the National Film Board, the women's section, is prepared to produce film material dealing with the above subject. I would urge you, in whatever way you are able, to support this project. Film is one of the most useful ways to educate people. These films could encompass what has occurred to date with respect to the introduction of micro-electronics, with how further changes will affect our work as we know it and it could encourage young people, mainly women, away from traditional work and traditional education.

... continued ...

I learned yesterday, that of all the provinces in Canada, British Columbia has the lowest percentage of women in professional occupations. I feel the School Boards in the Greater Vancouver Regional District must become responsive to the concerns raised in this letter and take the lead with changes in the educational system. Micro-electronics and technological change are upon us. The time for the educational system to address itself to this new technology is now.

Yours truly,

Carole Cameron  
Union Organiser  
AUCE Local 1

cc: the following School Boards

Burnaby  
Coquitlam  
New Westminster  
North Vancouver  
Surrey  
Richmond  
Langley  
Maple Ridge  
Vancouver  
West Vancouver