## FIRE & SAFETY DIVISION JUSTICE N E WAY S

LEARNING TOGETHER FOR SAFER COMMUNITIES

**SPRING/SUMMER 2002** 



# Fire Service Leadership Diploma Program Receives an Award for Program Excellence

Former JI Board Member & Mayor Betty Toporowski (left) shares her congratulations with JI President Jack McGee (right) in presenting the Program of Excellence Award to Geoff Burston, Bob Aldcorn & John Vokes for the Fire Service Leadership Diploma Program recognized at the annual awards ceremony held November 21, 2001 at the JI's New Westminster campus.

he Fire & Safety Division's Fire Service Leadership Diploma Program was presented with the Award for Program Excellence in a ceremony that recognized achievement and excellence in Justice Institute programs. The Fire Service Leadership Diploma is the Fire & Safety Division's new fire officer training program that meets all criteria identified by a task force established to provide input into

the replacement of the Company Officer and Command Officer programs. Based on the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 1021, Professional Qualification Standard for Fire Officers, the program also meets the requirements of the British Columbia Fire Officer Standard. Students who have previous work related knowledge or studies are eligible to apply for transfer of credit or Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (PLAR). The Fire Officer courses are available in a distance education and classroom format on a semester basis. To accommodate the needs of fire departments, courses can be conducted at regional locations where there are sufficient students to make up a class.

The Fire Service Leadership Diploma Program is designed to allow students to complete Fire Officer I through IV and when combined with approximately 10 academic credits will qualify for a Diploma.

The program is also designed to provide certification in several stand-alone topics such as Fire Service Instructor I and II, Emergency Scene Management I and II, and Public Fire and Life Safety Educator I.

Congratulations to Bob Aldcorn, Deputy Director, Fire Academy and Geoff Burston, Program Coordinator, Accreditation and Officer Programs, on a job well done.

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FIRE & SAFETY DIVISION

www.jibc.bc.ca

#### British Columbia Fire Service Research Study Summary

his document is a brief synopsis of the results of the British Columbia Fire Service Study. At the outset, I would like to thank all of those who responded to the survey and agreed to be interviewed. Your opinions were comprehensive and informative. The final report viewing at our website, www.jibc.ca.ca

#### **Demographics**

The survey was distributed in 2 forms, electronic and paper, in late October 2001. In total, 165 fire service members completed the survey portion of this research, and of this number, 98 (or approximately 60%) opted for the hard-copy (paper) version. Some demographics of those who returned surveys include:

- an almost exclusively male sample, with only four (less than 3% of those respondents) women:
- a mature population, with two age categories of 35-45 and 45 years and older accounting for 80% of the survey population;
- career fire fighters making up just under half of the respondents (47%), while 22% are volunteer, 15% are paid/auxiliary, 3% industrial, and the remaining 13% occupy other positions in the British Columbia fire service:
- a modest geographic dispersion, with: 21% from Zone 1 (Vancouver Island), 39% from Zone 2 (Lower Mainland), 18% from Zone 3 (Okanagan/Interior), 5% from Zone 4 (Kooteneys), and 17% from Zone 5 (North).

#### **Fire Service Training Needs**

Both the survey and interviews asked questions • regarding fire service training needs. Below are some of the more important findings regarding what respondents report these needs of the British Columbia fire service are:

- over 98% report that it is important to have a theoretical understanding of fire protection techniques and fire management issues;
- fire suppression was ranked the most important fire fighter job task, followed by fire prevention, motor vehicle accident rescues, medical emergencies, and public education/fire life education;

#### Perceptions on Justice Institute's • Fire & Safety Division (IIFSD)

One of the key reasons for the commissioning of this report was to survey BC's fire service members on their opinions regarding the training service(s) provided by the Justice Institute's Fire & Safety . to be completed by mid-May will be available for Division. The ranking of most important concerns surrounding the JIFSD reported in both surveys and interviews were:

- 1. cost (28%)
- 2. accessibility for all fire departments in British Columbia (22%)
- 3. focus on timely, relevant programming (19%)
- 4. accreditation by external standards such as NFPA and IFSAC(16%)
- 5. poor organization and lack of credibility surrounding the organization (11%)
- 6. program consistency over time (5%)

Below are some additional important respondent perceptions regarding the JIFSD:

- 51% are dissatisfied with the current level of influence/input being provided to the JIFSD using representatives of the Fire Service Associations on the Fire & Safety Division • Advisory Committee. These results were NOT significantly different over zones, job classification or command/non-command positions:
- 66% agree that the pre-employment fire fighter training program does a good job of providing suitable candidates for fire service. These results were NOT significantly different over zones, job classification or command/noncommand positions;
- 68% agree that on the whole, interactions with the coordinators from the JIFSD have been positive; however, this approval decreases significantly as distance from the lower mainland increases with highest disagreement from zone 5 (North) (74%).
- 78% agree that on the whole, interactions with the administrative support staff from the JIFSD have been positive; however, this approval decreases significantly as distance from the lower mainland increases and with iob description. The highest disagreement came from zone 5 (North) (46%) and from volunteers (48%).

- 81% agree that on the whole, interactions with instructors/tutors from the JIFSD have been positive. These results were NOT significantly different over zones, job classification or command/non-command positions;
- 81% agree that on the whole, interactions with personnel at the registration office at the JIFSD have been positive; however, this approval decreases significantly as distance from the lower mainland increases and with job description. The highest disagreement came from zone 5 (North) (48%) and from volunteers (48%).
- 87% report that the JIFSD should pursue online (Internet or "Web" based) distance education training. These results were NOT significantly different over zones, job classification or command/non-command positions;
- 60% do not believe that they have received good value for the money spent on training programs offered by the JIFSD. These results were NOT significantly different over zones, job classification or command/non-command positions;
- 91% agree that the JIFSD treats some departments more favourably than others. These results were NOT significantly different over zones, job classification or command/noncommand positions:
- 71% agree that the JIFSD is unresponsive to client feedback. This opinion was significantly more predominant among individuals in command positions;
- 77% agree that the JIFSD has not done enough to make its programs available to areas outside of the Lower Mainland. These results were NOT significantly different over zones, job classification or command/non-command positions.

Bryan Kinney, Ph.D. Candidate Aili Malm, Ph.D. Candidate Simon Fraser University School of Criminology 8888 University Drive, Burnaby, BC, V5A 1S6

For copies of the full report please contact Cathy Lange Administrative/Research Assistant Fire & Safety Division (604) 528-5668 or clange@jibc.bc.ca

### Fire & Safety Division Advisory Committee Members

**Wayne McLeod,** Fire Chiefs' Association of BC -- Industrial (Chair)

**Bob Brett,** BC Professional Fire Fighters' Association

**Rick Dumala,** Fire Commissioner

**Bruce Dundas,** BC Fire Training Officers' Association

**Dave Ferguson, Fire** Chiefs' Association of BC -Volunteer

**Gord Freeborn, Fire** Chiefs' Association of BC -Career

**Jeff Lambert,** BC Fire Prevention Officers' Association

**Les Schumacher,** Volunteer Fire Fighters' Association

**Bob Aldcorn,** JIBC, Fire & Safety Division

Cathy Lange, JBC, Fire & Safety Division

John B. Vokes, JIBC, Fire & Safety Division

#### Fire & Safety Division Initial Response to the Survey Results

s you can see, the results of the British Columbia Fire Service Research Study are in and have been presented to the Fire & Safety Division Advisory Committee (FSADC Committee) and Division staff. Thank you to all of you who took the time to fill out the survey and return it in either hard copy or on-line format.

The meaning behind the responses is not always immediately apparent and further dialogue with the field will be encouraged. However, for the near future, we have decided to focus on the four areas of 'important findings' which are: access issues, timely and relevant programming, accreditation of courses/programs, and communication. The report points out that cost is also an area of concern, however, the reality is that the Fire & Safety Division must charge a fair market price for its programs if it wishes to remain a viable entity. To ensure that students and employers feel that there is good value for the money, the Division will place a high priority on adequately addressing the other four key areas of concern. This will be accomplished in a number of ways. Greater access to programs will be achieved through emphasis on communicating the availability of programs and by promoting training within each region. (See our article on

'Upcoming Regional Training', page 6). Priority will be placed on development and delivery of courses and exams in electronic and on-line formats to overcome geographical discrimination. To determine relevant and timely programming, the Division will rely heavily on input from the Fire & Safety Advisory Committee and other sources of direction in order to gain a sense of the needs within the fire service. A strong emphasis is put on the importance of having programs accredited by a third party and this will continue as programs and standards change or are updated. Communicating information that will be interesting and relevant to the fire service will be the most difficult challenge.

We would like to thank Bryan Kinney and Aili Malm for their hard work on creating the survey and providing us with tangible feedback to work with.

Thank you again for the comments and be assured that our staff is committed to act on the input that was received and to improve the perceptions that the fire service has of some of the Fire & Safety Division services.

For copies of the full report please contact Cathy Lange Administrative/Research Assistant Fire & Safety Division (604) 528-5668 or clange@jibc.bc.ca

#### **ACCREDITATION NEWS**

The Fire & Safety Division recently received accreditation by the International Fire Service Accreditation Congress (IFSAC) for two more levels: Hazardous Materials Emergency Response-Technician course (NFPA 472) and Plan Examiner I (NFPA 1031). This means that the Hazardous Materials Emergency Response Awareness, Operations and Technician levels are all now accredited and certification will be given as each level is completed.

To date the Fire & Safety Division has fourteen program levels accredited through IFSAC. We are currently working

on receiving accreditation for Technical High Angle Rope Rescue Awareness, Operations and Technician levels, Confined Space, Fire & Life Safety Educator I and Fire Inspector II.

To our students, IFSAC accreditation means that you are receiving consistently, high quality in areas that include program delivery method and evaluation, credentials of instructors, security of exams, a system that ensures fairness and that your learning is transferable wherever IFSAC certification is recognized.

Spring/Summer 2002

#### **PEOPLE NEWS**

#### Our best wishes go to...

GORD McCLEARY has left his position of Technician at the Fire and Safety Training Center to take the position of Deputy Fire Chief with the Big White Fire Department. Gord has indicated his intent to continue as a part-time instructor with the Fire & Safety Division.

**LEONA PRILL**, Program Assistant in the Fire Academy for seven years, has resigned to relocate to Saskatchewan.

JOHN CONSIGLIO has retired from his position as Hazmat/ Industrial Instructor at the Fire and Safety Training Center. Originally a chemist with the Provincial Emergency Program, John was an instructor with the Pacific Marine Training Institute, which became a part of the Justice Institute in 1993.

We are unhappy to report that LINDELL RADLOFF, Program Assistant with the Fire Academy for seven years, has been placed on long-term disability due to being diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis.

### Congratulations to JACK TYLER who received the 20 year service recognition award and MARCELA



popovici who received the 10 year service recognition award at the JI Annual Awards Ceremony on November 21, 2001.

#### New Staff at the Maple Ridge Campus

**GREG METCALFE**: Program Developer

Greg spent 13 years in educational publishing in Saskatchewan before moving to B.C. He continued in that field until 1997 when he left to complete his Masters in Leadership and Training, at which time he formed his own company focusing on organizational management and development for the non-profit sector. During this period he taught in the Marketing Department at B.C.I.T. which led to consulting for the federal government in small business development.

#### MUHAMMAD SULEMAN MAHTAB: Marine Instructor

Muhammad completed 2 years pre-sea training in 1980 prior to spending 22 years in the world-wide maritime industry on almost all types of deep-sea vessels. Muhammed completed his Master Marine Certificate of Competency from the Sydney Institute of Technology in 1990 - 1991 and rose to the rank of Master in 1997. Muhammad completed his Canadian re-certification of Master Mariner Certificate of Competency in 2001. He has also completed a Masters in Business Administration (Marketing) and actually served as a Marketing Manager for a short period of time.

#### BRYAN CALLOWHILL: Hazardous Materials Instructor

Bryan obtained a B.Sc.(Hon.) in 1969 from the University of Guelph, Ontario specializing in Chemistry with supporting courses in Biology & Physics. He was a Plant Physiology research Assistant at the University of Guelph. He spent 2 ½ years as a secondary school teacher in Ontario then spent 30 years as a Civilian Member with the RCMP Forensic Laboratory system, 15 years as a forensic alcohol specialist and 15 years as a forensic chemistry specialist. He is a specialist in physiology and pharmacology, breath-testing instrumentation, fire accelerants, explosive analysis, glass, paint, textiles & fibres, physical matching, chemical analysis of transported dangerous goods and identification of other chemical and physical unknowns. Bryan has taught at BCIT in the Forensic Science Technology program in addition to various courses for the JIBC Police and Fire Academies.

#### JEFF WOOD: Scientific Technical Officer

Before Joining the Justice Institute Jeff was self-employed as a marine mechanic, providing fabrication and repair on large ships. For two years Jeff worked as a part-time technician at the Maple Ridge Campus and is now employed full time as a Scientific Technical Officer.

#### SHORTTAKES

An Award of Merit was presented to IFSTA/ Fire Protection Publications by the Society for Technical Communications, for the Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting Manual. We are pleased to acknowledge that Bruce Hall, Fire Chief, Whistler Fire Department represented the JIBC, Fire & Safety Division in the development of this manual. Congratulations Bruce and other committee members.

Thank you to Lloyd Lees for his contribution on the Fire & Safety Division's behalf to IFSTA/ Fire Protection Publications, Respiratory Protection Manual.

Jack Tyler

#### TRAINING NEWS

#### Fire Service Leadership Diploma **Distance Education Program**

#### Fall Term 2002

#### September 1 - November 30, 2002

It may be a bit down the road yet but we all know how time flies! Please remember to have your application form in by August 16, 2002. This will give us time to ensure that material is mailed before the start of the course. Thanks very much and have a great summer before hitting the books in the fall!

#### More Inspector Courses:

The Fire & Safety Division is pleased to offer a series of new courses structured to allow a progressive development of skills and knowledge to support fire inspection and related functions. The courses are as follows:

Fire Inspector I (partnered with the NFPA) IFSAC accredited **FIP-100** 

FIP-150 Plan Examiner I (partnered with the NFPA) IFSAC accredited

**FIP-160** BC Fire Code I

FIP-170 BC Building Code I

F276 Fire & Life Safety Educator I

For more information, or to register for these courses, please contact Geoff Burston (604-528-5679; gburston@jibc.bc.ca).

#### **IFSTA**

The Fire & Safety Division is the B.C. Distributor of Fire Protection Publications. Fire Protection Publications publishes training manuals that are validated by IFSTA as well as additional learning and teaching materials that compliment those manuals. If you haven't received the most recent Catalogue or if you wish to order materials please contact Pat Carnegie-Dunlop at:

Phone: 604-528-5670 604-528-5660

Email: pcarnegie-dunlop@jibc.bc.ca



The Awareness level of the Technical High Angle Rope Rescue Program has recently been re-designed to meet and exceed NFPA 1670 and 1006.

This 3-day course will standardize embankment rescue and provide the foundation skills for students who would like to move into the Operations and Technician levels. The course includes: ropes and knots, equipment familiarization, basic anchoring and rigging systems, rappelling, patient packaging and low angle/embankment rescue scenarios. The course consists of both classroom and field instruction. Students will be given written and practical evaluation. Although the requirement exists in the operations level, candidates will be certified to low angle technical rope rescue upon successful completion of this level.

This course is portable and can be offered in regional locations. For more information about this and other programs offered by the Fire & Safety Division, please contact Dan Murphy at 604-462-1000 or e-mail dmurphy@jibc.bc.ca

"Life is not measured by the breaths you take, it is measured by the moments that take your breath away!"

SPRING/SUMMER 2002

#### TRAINING NEWS:

#### **Accessibility**

We continue to expand our range of courses and increase our efforts to make all courses more accessible throughout the Province. Building on the success of the distance education version of the Fire Service Leadership Diploma Program (Fire Officer I, II, III and IV), we are offering more and more workshops outside the Justice Institute's New Westminster and Maple Ridge campuses. These include Emergency Scene Management I and II (F120 and F160), which have recently been delivered in Saanich, Comox, and Sidney. The brand new Fire & Life Safety Educator I (F276) has been scheduled in Abbotsford, Victoria, Kamloops, Castlegar (as part of the Kootenay Training Weekend) and Nanaimo. Already in 2002, Fire Service Instructor courses are being delivered in Port Alberni, Victoria, Langley, Burnaby, Abbotsford, Metchosin, North Vancouver, Sechelt, Castlegar (as part of the Kootenay Training Weekend), and Quesnel (as part of the BC Fire Training Officer Association conference).

Versions of the Fire Inspector I course (partnered with the NFPA) has been delivered in Langford, Kamloops, Surrey, Vancouver, and View Royal, with more offerings during the year in Victoria and Kamloops, in addition to the classes held at the Justice Institute New Westminster campus.

#### **Course Schedule on the Internet:**

Because we frequently add to our delivery schedule, the best way to find out which courses are scheduled, where they are running, cost, etc. is to check our website. For the most current schedule, please access the Justice Institute website at www.jibc.bc.ca and select the Fire & Safety Division home page.

#### **Upcoming Regional Training**

In response to the demand for certified training in regional locations, the Fire & Safety Division is pleased to announce the following:

Kootenay Training Weekend, Castlegar June 21, 22 & 23, 2002

A direct mailing has taken place for this seminar with our 2002

& 2003 catalogue. For more information on the training weekend please call (250) 365-1208.

#### Okanagan Fire Training Conference, Westbank September 20, 21 & 22, 2002

Training topics will include Auto Extrication II, Pumps and Pumping, Fire Service Instructor I, Technical High Angle Rope Rescue Awareness Level (Over-the-bank-rescue), Hazardous Materials Operations, and Live Fire Level II (North Okanagan Regional District Training Centre). For more information contact Assistant Chief Dean Colthorp at (250) 768-5616 or dcolthorp@wfr.ca

Planning is underway for a training weekend in Metchosin on south Vancouver Island in October. If you can't wait or need more information immediately, please contact Fire Chief Cal Beaton at (250) 478-1307.

In addition, long-term planning is taking place for a weekend training session in the Prince George area for spring 2003.If you are interested in hosting a weekend training conference of certified or practical training, please contact Dan Murphy or Bob Gates at (604) 462-1000 or dmurphy@jibc.bc.ca or bgates@jibc.bc.ca.

It is our goal to have at least one weekend of certified training within each region on an annual basis. These seminars are an example of our commitment to bring training where it is needed at the lowest possible cost to the fire service.

#### We Welcome Your Involvement:

In our effort to decentralize our courses to better serve British Columbia, we value the contribution of fire departments that offer to "host" courses. Delivery of courses outside the Justice Institute's main campus relies heavily on local initiative and willingness of a department to help administer the courses and to serve their area. While additional costs associated with instructor travel and accommodation may need to be factored in to the per student cost, benefits of this strategy include the significantly reduced cost to departments of staff travel and accommodation and lost time away from the work location. If you are interested in hosting one of the many Fire Officer, Fire Inspector, Fire & Life Safety Educator or Fire Service Instructor courses available for delivery outside the Justice Institute main campus, please contact

Geoff Burston (604) 528-5679; gburston@jibc.bc.ca).

#### **IMPORTANT NOTICES...**

#### **Fee Structure**

Due to the realities introduced by a compressed financial environment, the fee structure for all of the Justice Institute of B.C. courses is under review. Fire departments will receive a direct mailing by September 1<sup>st</sup> indicating price increases to come into effect January 1, 2003.

#### The 2002 & 2003 Fire & Safety Division

**course catalogue** has been published and distributed. Additional copies are available to fire department at no charge. If you are an individual who would like to receive our newsletter directly, our subscription price is \$10/year. To order either items please call (604) 528-5657.

#### **Department Student Status Reports**

Please note, a new fee structure, as follows, is in place for departments requesting Student Status Reports.

Departments under 100 members \$100.00
Departments 100-150 members \$150.00
Departments 150-200 members \$200.00

Departments over 200 members negotiated on an individual basis

Please contact Marcela Popovici at (604) 528-5674 for these reports.

#### **Justice Institute Store**

Located at the JI's main campus in New Westminster, the JI Store is a retail outlet managed to support and promote the work of the JI and its clients. The store offers an ever-expanding array of crested clothing, student supplies, JI publications, specialty equipment related to the JI's work, and gifts selected to ensure the JI's reputation for quality is represented through its merchandise. Open weekdays and some Saturdays. For store hours please call (604) 528-5870 or e-mail: jistore@jibc.bc.ca.

#### JI Foundation Golf Tournament

Wednesday, September 18, 2002 Northview Golf Course 1:30 p.m. Shotgun Start

Entry Fee \$150 (includes power cart, green fees, sandwich & non-alcoholic beverage from the golf course kiosk, dinner and "golfer's kit"). For information about Registration, Sponsorship or the Foundation, visit our website at www.jibc.bc.ca or call (604) 528-5874

#### JI Library Buy-a-Book Campaign

The Justice Institute is honoured to recognize William Deverell, award winning crime writer, lawyer and former journalist as the first Honourary Campaign Chair of the Justice Institute's Annual Buy a Book Campaign. Deverell's most recent novel, *The Laughing Falcon*, was published in September 2001.

The **Buy A Book Campaign** is an initiative by the fundraising arm of the Justice Institute, the JI Foundation, in support of the JI Library.

The JI Library serves 40,000 users around the province including students and professionals who work in areas such as policing, fire fighting, paramedics, corrections, social services, conflict resolution, emergency management and courts.

Financial contributions to the library translate into an ability to purchase the most current and relevant information for professionals working in the fields of public safety, conflict resolution and social services—the people who keep B.C.'s communities safe. To date the campaign has raised \$10,400 due to the generosity of 69 donors. Donations thus far will allow the library to buy 208 new books!

For further information or to make a donation contact:

Francine Gaudet, JI Foundation, Director

Justice Institute of B.C.

(604) 528-5582



Spring/Summer 2002

#### STAFF LIST

#### Fire & Safety Division

#### Fire Academy

Pat Carnegie-Dunlop ............ 604-528-5670 Administrative Supervisor: for the Fire Academy and support service to the Deputy Director. Responsible for sales and distribution of IFSTA publications and paraphernalia. dunlop@jibc.bc.ca



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John B. Vokes, Publisher Cathy Lange, Editor



FIRE & SAFETY

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#### NEW WESTMINSTER CAMPUS Fire Academy

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#### MAPLE RIDGE CAMPUS Fire & Safety Training Centre

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#### Fire & Safety Training Centre

Muhammad Suleman Mahtab ... 604-462-1000 Lead Marine Instructor: Main focus is on Marine programs and ensuring all of these programs meet current standards. mmahtab@jibc.bc.ca

Contributions to the newsletter are welcome.