

# Learning Centre: standing room only

Centre resource availability does not reflect school growth and demand for program

By Daniel Wilson  
*Kwantlen Chronicle*

Kwantlen's tutoring services need more space, according to John Redmond, head instructor at the school's Learning Centre.

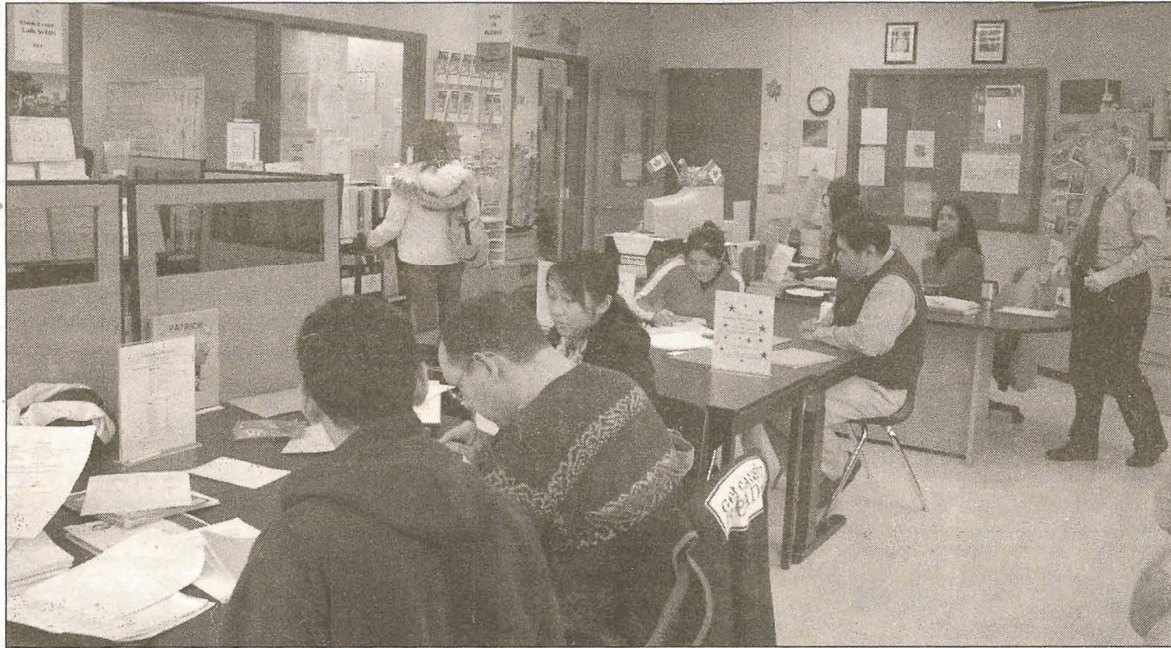
"We need more space," said Redmond. "That's the big thing, we really need more space."

At this time of year, the Learning Centre is experiencing a peak in attendance, with final exams approaching and end-of-the-semester projects coming due. The Learning Centre is packed every day, with not enough resources to go around.

"Right now there's no space in there," said Redmond. "It's getting really busy now and there [are] a finite number of students we can take and I'm sure there are lots of students turning away because they can't come in and sit down. We had two math instructors in here the other day and there [were] so many students, they had to stand up around the math instructors."

In another case, Patrick Duffy, a chemistry instructor, visited the Learning Centre on Tuesday to help for an hour and ended up staying three hours as a result of the demand for his help.

The most common courses students need help in are math, chemistry, physics and English, according to Redmond. As a result of this, the Learning Centre often experiences ups and downs in attendance, on a yearly basis, as the semester pro-



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**Kwantlen's Richmond Learning Centre is business as usual on Tuesday, Nov. 22. The centre is experiencing one of its peaks in attendance as the semester comes to a close.**

gresses and exams are written.

"There are peaks and valleys," said Redmond. "The first peak is around the time of the first mid-terms. [Attendance] suddenly drops off after mid-terms and then it rebuilds depending on who's giving other quizzes and exams. It will really drop off as soon as [final] exams begin, except again for math."

Math tutors are constantly in demand by students, so much so, that Redmond suggests Kwantlen establish a Math Centre, like some other schools, to specifically handle math

student needs.

The Learning Centre computer lab is regularly full, as well as most of the tutoring tables. Students can avoid the crowds at the learning centre, by scheduling appointments with tutors and abiding by the drop-in schedules of other tutors.

Currently, there are no plans to expand the Learning Centre and attendance records are kept through a sign-in sheet to justify current funding for the centre.

Regardless, Redmond urges students to drop by if they need help

and asks that instructors look into helping out at the learning centre.

"We encourage instructors from fields where we don't have tutors to volunteer their office hours down at the learning centre," said Redmond.

For more information, visit the Learning Centre section of the Kwantlen website, under the Future Students pull-down menu and Services for Students option. The Learning Centre also offers a brochure titled 'Is This Your First Time in the Learning Centre', that will inform students on how to get help.

## Tutoring Information

Learning Centres are available on the Surrey, Richmond and Langley campuses. Students can drop by anytime for help; or they can schedule up to two half-hour, one-on-one sessions, per week in each of the programs they want help with.

The process for a student wanting to get help in a course, begins with visiting the Learning Centre and either viewing a list of tutors and signing up for tutoring sessions or stopping by for drop-in tutoring sessions. The drop-in sessions are done on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Tutors at the Learning Centre have been assigned, based on their excellent performance, to be peer tutors by instructors of those programs. Some faculty members are also available for tutoring, as well as full-time Kwantlen staff at the Learning Centre.

Students can receive help with math, sciences, English, and ESL courses, as well as with reading, writing, study skills, and learning strategies.

Also, the Learning Centre, along with the Counselling and Advising department of Kwantlen runs an information session titled Getting Good Grades 101, which costs \$10. This makes it the only Learning Centre course to have a fee.

This course will next be offered in the early weeks of January and will cover; dealing with stress, time issues, taking notes, taking exams, and whether or not to withdraw from a course.