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Graduated Adults Update for Spring 2015

COQUITLAM, BC – Jan.7, 2015 – On Thursday December 4, 2014, the provincial government announced that "beginning May 1, 2015, the Ministry of Education will no longer provide funding for tuition-free upgrading courses for adults who already hold a high school diploma". In response to this announcement, Coquitlam Continuing Education (School District No.43 (Coquitlam)) is urging graduated adults 19 years of age and older to register as soon as possible if they want to upgrade their high school courses for free (for students who meet eligibility requirements). SD43 annually enrolls over 800 graduated adult students in face-to-face and self-paced High School Credit courses.

As stated by Michael McGlenen, District Principal of Continuing Education, "adults who have graduated from high school need to act as soon as possible if they want to avoid paying tuition for high school credits. Night school courses start in early February and space fills up quickly. Interested adults should register now to avoid disappointment." Students can register on-line by going to <u>www.ce43.com</u> or by phoning Continuing Education at 604-936-4261.

Another popular option for adult students is self-paced learning courses, many of which are on-line, which allow adult students to complete courses at a pace of their choosing while having teacher support available on a drop-in basis at the Coquitlam Learning Opportunity Centre (CLOC) store-front location. According to Murray Peters, Vice Principal of Continuing Education, "adult students often take a full month to complete the first 5-10% of a course, so getting started as soon as possible is the best way to ensure the course can be completed tuition-free".

The announced changes to the Education Guarantee will not affect other popular programs for adult learners. SD43 will continue to be able to offer tuition-free Foundations English courses to graduated adults as well as tuition-free high school courses to non-graduated adults who want to upgrade or working to achieve their Adult Dogwood Diploma.