

EFFORTS TO GET WORK THROUGH THE "ON-SITE" PROGRAM IN 1992 / 93 -
- SUMMARY

This took place from about mid-1992 onwards after I had completed a 6-month painting and decorating contract at the N.D.M.C. (National Defence Medical Medical Centre) in Ottawa, on Alta Vista Drive. It is no longer in use as a hospital at the time of writing this (May 2011)

The "ON-SITE" program was funded by the federal government up until January 1st 2007, but managed by Energy Pathways Inc. in Ottawa. Since January 1st 2007, when the federal government transferred responsibility for workforce adjustment and re-training to the provinces, in Ontario it has been known as the Ontario Job Creation Partnerships program.

Several people attempted to assist me with accessing this program. In particular they intervened with then-federal Minister for Immigration and Employment Bernard Valcourt. The people who tried to assist me were:-

Beryl Gaffney - then M.P. for Nepean

David Pratt - then a Councillor for the City of Nepean. He is known to my wife's family and wrote backup letters to Minister Valcourt and others on several occasions. Since then, among other things, he has been Minister of National Defence under the Liberal government of Prime Minister Paul Martin which preceded the Conservative government of Prime Minister Stephen Harper.

Allan Koury - then M.P. for Hochelaga-Maisonneuve in Montreal, Quebec where I was part-owner at the time of a small rental property.

Despite my own efforts and the efforts on my behalf of the above-named people, who from my standpoint always took exactly the right actions at the right time (with one very serious exception, noted below), **I never got on to the program in this instance or at any other time since I first tried in 1990 because of:-**

(a) wrongful dismissal from SNC in 1982 leading to the chain of events described below

(b) a series of blunders at federal government level combined with the absolute refusal of Bernard Valcourt to correct the situation - not only because he refused to admit the dysfunctionality of the usual eligibility rules, but also because he refused to acknowledge previous instances of my being prevented from accessing the program due to "insufficient insurable weeks of employment" caused by my wrongful dismissal from SNC in 1982 after only 15 weeks of employment following my immigration from the U.K. to work for them.

With regard to Beryl Gaffney, I found her final response to the bureaucratic bungling by Benard Valcourt to be not only disappointing but totally inappropriate, as noted below.

For whatever reason, she allowed protocol (commonly known as "political correctness") to get in the way of raising questions - that I considered necessary and unavoidable - with the Minister, in private or in public. This raises questions of who or what was dictating that she not ask the questions. **Something was seriously wrong with a system that caused Beryl Gaffney to say this - quote:-**

"To be honest with you, I felt all were out of line for me as a Member of Parliament to ask another."

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April 28th, 1993.

Dear Mr. Koury,

"ON-SITE"/ Energy Pathways Inc.

As discussed with you on the telephone at 12:00 noon yesterday, I attach a brief documented report on what has transpired.

I need immediate agreement to release of funds to permit me to join the "ON-SITE" programme for the normal 20 weeks. The "ON-SITE" programme is run jointly by C.E.I.C. and Energy Pathways Inc. and I am one of five people on Energy Pathways Inc. s list for Ottawa.

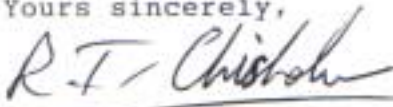
The objectives in my trying to join "ON-SITE" are:-

- (a) To get back to work as an engineer.
- (b) To get into the environmental field, which is expanding rapidly.

My U.I. benefits expire on May 15th, after which I will be "ineligible" for "ON-SITE" under the usual rules. Therefore, the matter is very urgent. My S.I.N. is - -

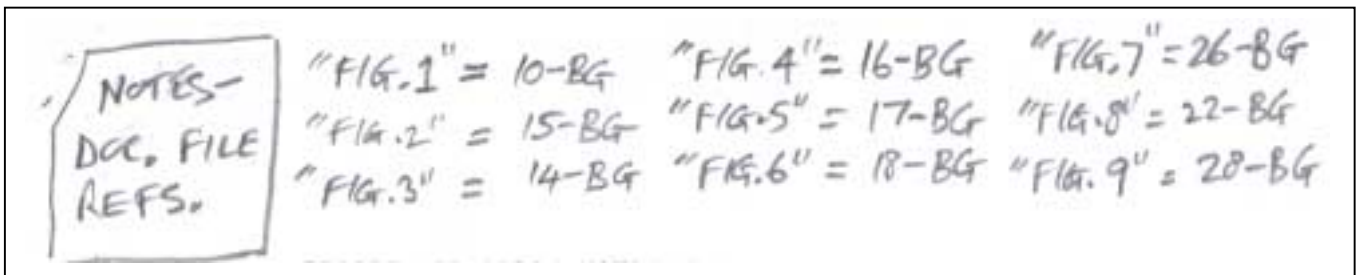
If - as was apparent during our conversation - you can get this straightened out when you see the Minister this afternoon, I should be most grateful.

Yours sincerely,



R.T. Chisholm

ROBERT T. CHISHOLM B.Sc.Hons.(Eng.), C.Eng.(U.K.),
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REPORT FOR ALLAN KOURY, M.P.

SUBJECT: ROBERT T. CHISHOLM B.Sc. Hons. (Enq.)

AND "ON-SITE"

Date: April 28th, 1993.

1. Initial discussions in December 1992 with C.E.I.C. indicated positions available throughout the year.
2. Only people receiving U.I. benefits can join the "ON-SITE" programme.
3. Eligible for U.I. benefits soon after July 10th, 1992, following completion of a 6-month insurable employment contract, painting and decorating, at N.D.M.C. - and hence eligible for "ON-SITE".
However, informed by C.E.I.C. that there were then "no more places".
4. Efforts prior to July 10th, 1992, to secure place on "ON-SITE", to commence on July 11th or a.s.a.p. after that, not successful because of regulations of which no prior notice or warning. Four letters available documenting this.
5. Letter from Beryl Gaffney, M.P. for Nepean, dated July 27th, to Minister Bernard Valcourt enquired as to what could be done to rectify the above situation. [FIG.1](#).
Similar letter sent by Councillor David Pratt. [FIG.2](#).
6. Beryl Gaffney's letter acknowledged by Minister's office on August 14th, 1992. [FIG.3](#).
7. Due to inaction, reminder sent by Beryl Gaffney on November 6th, 1992. [FIG.4](#).
Similar reminder sent by Councillor David Pratt on November 10th, 1992. [FIG.5](#).
8. In a letter to me dated January 14th, 1993, Beryl Gaffney M.P. detailed the reply from Minister Bernard Valcourt, which was totally unsatisfactory. [FIG.6](#).
9. Councillor David Pratt also received a reply from Minister Bernard Valcourt, but dated March 4th, 1993. Totally unsatisfactory, for the same reasons, and in addition claimed Councillor David Pratt's first letter not received by the Minister's office. [FIG.7](#).
10. Problems referred to in [FIG.6](#) and [FIG.7](#) never mentioned previously by C.E.I.C. or Energy Pathways Inc. or in "ON-SITE" information package which I have had since

January 1990. Therefore sought clarification by means of letter to Energy Pathways Inc. dated March 1st, 1993. FIG.8. This was copied to my local CEC, among other people.

Subsequently - on March 18th, 1993 - received up-to-date information package from Energy Pathways Inc. Extracts attached, FIG.9. Again, no mention of restrictions referred to in FIG.6. or FIG.7. Obviously omission of reference to any such restrictions in this info package is a C.E.I.C. responsibility.

11. During telephone conversation with Alan Sutherland of Energy Pathways Inc. on March 29th, 1993, informed as follows:-

11.1. Funding year for "ON -SITE" recently switched from Jan 1st/Dec 31st to April 1st/March 31st, WITH NO FUNDING ALLOCATED FOR PERIOD OF JAN 1ST, 1993/APRIL 1ST 1993, "CONVENIENTLY" COINCIDENT WITH MY OWN ATTEMPT TO JOIN "ON-SITE". NO PREVIOUS REFERENCE TO THIS FROM ANY SOURCE.

11.2 Funds still not allocated to "ON-SITE" for fiscal year April 1st, 1993/March 31st, 1994, but expected "soon". (As at time of writing - April 28th, 1993 - funds still not allocated, so far as I know).

11.3 Once in "ON-SITE" programme, U.I. benefit period is extended by up to 12 weeks beyond the usual cut-off date - but normal "ON-SITE" placement period is 20 weeks.

12. Require immediate agreement to release funds for "ON-SITE" in respect of Mr. Chisholm, for the normal period of 20 weeks.



ROBERT T. CHISHOLM B.Sc. Hons. (Eng.), C.Eng. (U.K.),
M.I.Mech.E. (U.K.) / Jr. Eng. (Quebec).

END OF REPORT FOR ALLAN KOURY

Other developments - see below

Note that the report above was an abridged version of actual events, compiled specifically for Allan Koury to use when seeing Minister for Employment and Immigration Bernard Valcourt in the afternoon of April 28th 1993.

13. Between items 8 and 9 above, on February 4th 1993

I had written again to Beryl Gaffney because of the unsatisfactory reply from Bernard Valcourt noted in item 8. I detailed a host of problems caused to me over the years by misinformation and sheer inefficiency on the part of C.E.I.C which was being constantly aggravated by the "lack of insurable weeks of employment" problem resulting from dismissal by SNC after only 15 weeks. I included four questions for her to put to Bernard Valcourt.

14. In her reply to me dated March 9th 1993, Beryl Gaffney acknowledged the frustrations at my end and that I was doing everything possible to find work, and my four questions. But then she said - quote:-

"There were really four major questions in your February 4th letter that you wanted me to ask of the Minister. To be honest with you, I felt all were out of line for me as a Member of Parliament to ask another."

So far as I am concerned, this was a just a weak-kneed piece of kowtowing to protocol - or "political correctness"- as a so-called "excuse" for doing nothing. She also completely ignored the SNC business and its interactions with the other problems in keeping me out of work.

Then she says - quote:-

"Try not to be too discouraged with your lack of employment. Something will come your way."

- having achieved NOTHING effective at all to remove the obvious stumbling blocks, caused merely by stupid little rules and regulations which nobody wanted to do anything about and which everybody was refusing to admit as the source of the problems. All it boils down to is an empty platitude. As I write this, in May 2011, this a clear case of what Prime Minister Stephen Harper terms the "defeatism" that he expressed disapproval of in this May 2002 speech reported on the front page of the Financial Post of May 30th 2002.

