

Penticton Western
May 2/08 AT

College adds programs in spite of shortfall

Okanagan College will be offering more programs — especially in the health and trades areas — to more students in the coming year as part of an \$80.47 million budget passed Tuesday.

The program decisions come despite a budget shortfall of more than \$900,000 created by recent changes to provincial funding

for the college.

“This has been a difficult budget situation for us, but we are committed to providing the education and training opportunities that the region needs,” explained Janet Shaw, chair of the college board of governors.

A surplus from the 2007-08 budget year makes the program expansion and a

balanced budget for 2008-09 possible, she explained.

“That money has given us a one-time buffer and we are using it this year, knowing that it won’t be available next year and we will have much work in the months ahead to ensure we have a sustainable financial situation.”