



BC CONFEDERATION OF PARENT ADVISORY COUNCILS

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March 31, 2010

Honourable Shirley Bond
Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General
PO Box 9053, STN PROV GOVT
Victoria, BC
V8W 9E2

Dear Minister Bond,

Annually at the BCCPAC General Meeting, member delegates representing Parent Advisory Councils (PACs) and District Parent Advisory Councils (DPACs) gather together from around the province to discuss important issues vital to student success including parent involvement.

At this time, we would like to bring to your attention several resolutions passed by the membership:

Resolution 2009.18: Equal Access to BC Gaming Revenues.

BCCPAC strongly recommends that the government consistently apply its existing Gaming Policy and Enforcement Branch guideline to provide gaming revenues of \$40 per student per year to all PACs. Furthermore BCCPAC also strongly recommends that parent leadership education costs be included as an eligible use of PAC gaming revenues.

Resolution 2004.31: Restoring Gaming funds for Educational Parent Conferences

That BCCPAC strongly urge the government to reverse gaming changes of April 1st, 2003 disallowing PACs to pay for parental educational conferences, including BCCPAC Conferences, from Direct Access Gaming Funds and that these funds should also be permitted to cover accommodation and transportation where needed.

We would appreciate your immediate attention and consideration of these resolutions. As PACs celebrate over twenty years since being legislated into the School Act we can clearly see that meaningful parent involvement at all levels of education has and continues to make a difference to student success. One challenge parent involvement has faced over the years, and continues today, is how to cover the costs associated with providing education to parents. The Government is in a position to help relieve some of the pressure associated with this, by reinstating “**parent education and adding BCCPAC membership dues**” to the list of eligible uses of gaming revenues. This becoming a reality at this time would clearly demonstrate the importance and commitment government has to meaningful parent involvement in the education system.

We would also like to take this opportunity to mention to you the message being communicated to us in numerous communications from Parent Advisory Councils (PACs) and District Parent Advisory Councils (DPACs) with regards to the importance of gaming funds and the financial support they provide for non-curricular and extra-curricular programs, services, materials and activities. Parents appreciate the recent addition of five dollars per student to this funding and would request that consideration be given to an additional increase as per Resolution 2009.18.

Growing demands on education dollars has created increased pressure on parents and PAC funds to support student learning opportunities and equipment to meet the needs of personalized learning for the 21st Century. Obviously, the financial need in schools is enormous, and the \$40 per student would provide additional support and assistance for our schools.

BCCPAC feels strongly that through on-going support of parent leadership and parent education opportunities, parents will be better able to carry out their important role as equal partners in public education. By allowing parent education and membership dues as an eligible use of gaming funds and revisiting the allocation of funds to PACs and DPACs, public education and student success in British Columbia will greatly benefit. I look forward to your reply and an opportunity to discuss this important and timely matter with you at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "A. Whiteaker".

Ann Whiteaker
President

cc:
Premier Christy Clark
Honourable Minister George Abbott, Minister of Education
James Gorman, Deputy Minister of Education