



## BC CONFEDERATION OF PARENT ADVISORY COUNCILS

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November 2, 2009

The Honourable Rich Coleman  
Minister of Housing and Social Development  
PO Box 9058  
STN PROV GOVT  
Victoria, BC,  
V8W 9E1

Dear Minister Coleman,

At the 2009 BCCPAC Annual General Meeting, member delegates representing Parent Advisory Councils (PACs) and District Parent Advisory Councils (DPACs) gathered together from around the province to discuss important issues vital to student success and approved several resolutions.

At this time, we would like to bring to your attention ***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.***

Firstly, we would appreciate your immediate attention and consideration of the highlighted portion of this resolution. As PACs celebrate 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 adding “**parent education and 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 the government has to meaningful parent involvement.

We would also like to take this opportunity to remind you of the contents and message being communicated in the numerous letters 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. PACs and DPACs from around the province continue to express their concern and disappointment in the recent cuts to school and classroom targeted funding received from gaming grants.

BCCPAC strongly urges not only the reinstatement of these funds but also an increase as per Resolution 2009.18. Current cuts to PAC/DPAC gaming funds is creating further demands and pressure on parents to fundraise to meet student and school needs. For your convenience a list which provides a sample of PAC expenditures is attached to this letter, entitled: "Education Items Purchased by PACs".

Obviously the financial need at schools is enormous, and the \$40 per student would provide an acceptable level of replacement funds for the numerous items that were previously funded by education budgets.

BCCPAC strongly feels that on-going parent leadership support and education is necessary for parents 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 convenience.

Sincerely,

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

Ann Whiteaker  
President & CEO

Enclosure

Cc

Honourable Minister Margaret MacDiarmid, Ministry of Education  
Premier Gordon Campbell  
Sherri Mohoruk, Superintendent, Liaison Division, Ministry of Education