



BC CONFEDERATION OF PARENT ADVISORY COUNCILS

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September 23, 2013

The Honourable Peter Fassbender
Ministry of Education
PO Box 9045, Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2
Email: educ.minister@gov.bc.ca

RE: 2013 B.C. CONFEDERATION OF PARENT ADVISORY COUNCILS - MEMBER RESOLUTIONS

Dear Minister Fassbender,

At the 2013 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 the following resolutions:

2013.1 Access to Provincial Funds for School Playgrounds

The BCCPAC urge the B.C. Government to either reinstate the Community Gaming Grant for playground capital funding or to request that the annual facilities grant be increased sufficiently to provide for the ongoing replacement of playgrounds as required.

2013.2 Increased Funding for Literacy Centres

The BCCPAC request additional targeted funding from the BC government to increase the number of intensive reading intervention programs, maintaining a minimum ratio of one highly trained teacher to seven students, to meet eligible students' appropriate needs for this service in school districts.

2013.3 Change To Funding Formula For New School Construction

The BCCPAC lobby the Ministry of Education and Ministry of Finance to change the current funding formula when calculating the anticipated enrolment of a new or replacement school. It is requested that this new formula would utilize leading indicators like pre-school enrolment and birth rates, as well as current K- 12 population, to predict appropriate school size requirements in the planning and funding process.

2013.6 Support of Outdoor Schools

The BCCPAC support reaffirmation of the need for more outside school opportunities for students.

2013.7 Educational Electronic Device PST Tax Exemption and Tax Refund or Credit

the BCCPAC work with the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Advanced Education and Ministry of Finance to eliminate the PST on electronic devices essential for the New Education Plan, as outlined in the Ministry of Education's 21st Century Learning Plan. Devices such as, but not limited to, laptops, Ipads, tablets, computers, notebooks, E-readers, scientific and graphing calculators would be categorized as "school supplies" when being used for educational purposes for children aged 5 to 19

years of age. In addition to the PST exemption, we request that a tax credit or tax rebate be offered to offset the additional cost of technology.

2013.9 Legislation for District and School-based Emergency Preparedness Plans

The BCCPAC lobby the BC Government on behalf of all parents and BC students to enact provincial legislation which puts a legal requirement on boards of education and local governments to develop district and school-based emergency preparedness plans in co-operation with provincial authorities. Such legislation should require that schools have personnel with training and equipment as well as funding for emergency supplies and kiosks at school sites. The cost of this program should be shared between the participating local governments, Boards of Education and the appropriate Provincial Authorities.

2013.11 On/Off Switches for WiFi Routers and Protocol for the Use of Wireless Devices

BCCPAC calls on Boards of Education:

1. to provide on/off switches to WiFi routers; and
2. to establish a protocol of use that
 - (i) WiFi routers and WiFi/3G functions of computers/laptops/tablets are to be turned on only when they are needed for access to the internet via the wireless network; and
 - (ii) Bluetooth function is to be turned on only if it is needed for accessing other Bluetooth-enabled devices.
3. to observe safety warnings and follow safety instructions in the user manual of iPad by reducing the duration of use under wireless mode and keeping the iPads away from the students' bodies.

Note:

1. and 2.(i) are for schools in which WiFi has been installed.
- 2.(i) and 2.(ii) are for all schools with computers, laptops and tablets that have WiFi/3G/Bluetooth functions.
3. is for schools in which iPads are used.

We have included a compilation of all the approved resolutions and corresponding rationale from our 2013 annual general meeting for your convenience.

We kindly ask that you review these resolutions and provide a written response indicating steps you are prepared to take to address the concerns expressed in these resolutions. We also welcome an opportunity to discuss them in person with your organization at your earliest convenience. If you have any comments or questions please respond to info@bccpac.bc.ca

Sincerely,



Terry Berting, BCCPAC President
On behalf of the BCCPAC Board of Directors
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