



BC CONFEDERATION OF PARENT ADVISORY COUNCILS

Suite C, 2288 Elgin Avenue, Port Coquitlam, BC V3C 2B2
Tel: (604) 474-0524 Toll free:1-866-529-4397 Fax: (604) 474-0967
E-mail: info@bccpac.bc.ca

August 6, 2015

Ms. Shelly Elwood, President
BC School Superintendents Association
208 – 1118 Homer Street
Vancouver, BC V6B 6L5
Email: sherry.elwood@sd71.bc.ca

RE: 2015 B.C. CONFEDERATION OF PARENT ADVISORY COUNCILS - MEMBER RESOLUTIONS

Dear Ms. Elwood,

At the 2015 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 resolution, we kindly ask that you review this resolution **listed in Section A** and provide a written response indicating steps you are prepared to take to address the concerns expressed. We also welcome an opportunity to discuss the resolution in person with your organization at your earliest convenience.

Section A

2015.28 – Seismic Upgrades Needed for Schools

BCCPAC call on the Ministry of Education to fully fund repairs and replacement of all British Columbia schools that have deemed 'high risk' and in need of seismic upgrades by 2020.

In addition we have listed the following resolutions (Section B) passed by our membership that may be of specific interest to your organisation and you may wish to comment on:

Section B

2015.13 – Reaffirmation of Resolution 2007.6: Prohibition on Asbestos Removal

BCCPAC advocates for prohibition on asbestos removal in schools except in emergency situations when asbestos cannot be covered, contained, or sealed.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that BCCPAC advocates for guidelines that ensure that

- any emergency removal never takes place during "in session time" unless students have been evacuated from the premises until state of the art air quality testing technology is performed and indicates the absence of risk to students.

2015.14 – Reaffirmation of Resolution 2008:22: Construction Guidelines

BCCPAC advocate for the development of guidelines to protect student Health and Safety during construction when students occupy a school.

2015.17 – Transfer of Special Needs Supports and Adaptations to Post Secondary Institutions

BCCPAC strongly urge the Ministry of Education to enter into a process with the Ministry of Advanced Education to create a clear and systematic way for graduating students with IEPs to have their adaptations transitioned, with the protection of other confidential information, to the post-secondary school(s) of their choice.

2015.18 – Advocating for Systemic and Cultural Change

BCCPAC advocates for systemic and cultural change in our schools to reflect the principles of sustaining passion for learning, building on strengths and addressing challenges.

2015.19 – Transitional Support for Systemic Change

BCCPAC advocates for sufficient targeted resources including support services for school staff whenever substantial systemic change is being implemented.

2015.21– Proper Funding for Quality Public Education in B.C.

BCCPAC insist on the Government’s commitment to an immediate significant increase in grants to School Districts in B.C., which directly address the Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services’ five recommendations for K-12 Public Education in B.C. - Nov. 2014 (pgs.24-25) which read as follows:

22. Provide stable, predictable, and adequate funding to enable school districts to fulfill their responsibility to provide continued equitable access to quality public education, and to meet required repair and maintenance needs.
23. Provide adequate capital funding to school districts for facility improvements, seismic upgrades, and additional schools in rapidly growing communities.
24. Provide support for proposed new K-12 initiatives such as personalized learning and enhanced trades and technology training.
25. Provide resources to identify and address the growing number of students with special needs and those with minimal English language skills.
26. Restore the separate library line item in the Ministry of Education budget for public libraries, and commit to stable, ongoing funding.

2015.22 – Reflective Clothing Recommendations

BCCPAC advocate for guidelines that require reflective material on all outerwear that is supplied to students by districts for school sponsored programs.

2015.23 – Regulation of Special Education Assistants

BCCPAC advocates for the creation of an organization similar to the Teacher Regulation Branch to oversee and regulate the conduct of Special Education Assistants.

2015.24 – Standards for Special Education Assistants

BCCPAC advocates for provincially mandated standards and practices for Special Education Assistants and similar support staff that include training, conduct and discipline processes.

2015.25 – Reaffirmation of 1998.2 Retribution

BCCPAC promote the development of policy and procedure in collaboration with schools and school districts to ensure that students and parents will not experience retribution when bringing their concerns forward to school district staff.

2015.26 – Outdoor Play Structures

BCCPAC call on the provincial government to provide new funds to cover the full cost of accessible outdoor play environments and equipment for new and replacement schools and for schools where existing equipment is deemed unsafe.

We have included a compilation of all the approved resolutions from our 2015 Annual General Meeting for your interest.

If you have any comments or questions about how to respond, please direct them to info@bccpac.bc.ca

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nicole Makohoniuk', is written over a light yellow rectangular background.

Nicole Makohoniuk, BCCPAC President
On behalf of the BCCPAC Board of Directors
nicolemakohoniuk@bccpac.bc.ca

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