



BC CONFEDERATION OF PARENT ADVISORY COUNCILS

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September 22nd, 2005

Honourable Shirley Bond
Minister of Education
Deputy Premier
PO Box 9045 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2

Dear Minister Bond:

Literacy is a priority for citizens of British Columbia. Getting the right books into a beginning reader's hands, having interesting books available that lead a reader to want to read more, and teaching students to access and use resources to further their understanding of the world are all aspects of literacy. Teacher-librarians are trained professionals whose job is to provide literacy resources and teach information literacy skills.

Parents recognize the integral role of teacher-librarians and, through their Parent Advisory Councils, have voted in favor of the following resolutions at BCCPAC Annual General Meetings:

Resolution 2004.15: Teacher-Librarian Staffing

Be it resolved that BCCPAC urge the Ministry of Education to set requirements for Teacher Librarian staffing at:

- a) A minimum of .5 for each elementary school effective in the budget year 2004/2005.
- b) A full 1.0 for each elementary and middle school in the budget year 2005/2006.
- c) A minimum of 1.0 for each 702 students in high schools by the 2006/2007 budget year which honours the agreement between the BCTF and the province.

Resolution 1997.6 Teacher-Librarian Funding

That the British Columbia Minister of Education, Skills and Training, the Ministry of Education's Treasury Branch, and the Premier of the Province of BC increase funding for education in the amount required to provide a minimum of .4 FTE Teacher-Librarians in all schools in BC and that those funds be specially targeted to Librarian services.

Several major studies conducted over the past ten years have revealed the enormous impact teacher-librarians have on academic achievement. These studies identify the key factor as the

presence of a trained teacher-librarian working in cooperation with classroom teachers to enhance and develop educational goals. Attached are three research findings that support and describe the importance of funding teacher-librarians within our schools.

We are aware the Ministry of Education currently prefers not to specify target funding. We also recognize that there are other ways that the government can demonstrate its expectations and supports.

Your attention to this important issue for parents and students is appreciated.

In Partnership,



Kimberlee Howland
President
BC Confederation of Parent Advisory Councils

cc. BC College of Teachers
BC Teachers' Federation
BC School Trustees' Association
BC Principals' and Vice Principals' Association