10.3

December 2008

Report to the BCCPAC Board of Directors

Submitted by: Ron Broda, President

Meeting with Minister of Education

Date: November 3, 2008
Location: Minister's Office, Parliament Building, Victoria

In Attendance:

Name	Partner Group	Job Description
Shirley Bond		Minister of Education, Deputy Premier
James Gorman		Deputy Minister of Education
Lisa Dominato		Executive Assistant to Minister of Education
Sherri Mohoruk		Superintendent Liaison
Ron Broda		President, BCCPAC

The Minister of Education was presented a letter containing the resolutions passed at our 2008 AGM that were destined for the Minister's attention.

There was a discussion about what direction the accountability program may be taking specifically with respect to School Plans and District Reviews. Both the Minister and Deputy Minister assured me that the Ministry remains committed to the accountability process. There will however be some changes. There will be more of an emphasis on insuring that the planning process is both effective and efficient in improving student achievement. Judy Arnold's group has been moved from the accountability branch to the achievement branch. Their work will be more focussed on school plans and making them better. District Reviews will continue. However, they will be used in a more strategic manner and not in as predictable a cycle as they have. They will be focussed in areas where there is an apparent need or upon request of a District that believes it would benefit from an outside view.

There was a discussion related to gaming funds and some challenges related to the level of funding available to DPACs and the inability of PACs to use those funds for parent education or conferences. This issue has been discussed with the Minister in the past. Gaming funds fall under the jurisdiction of the Solicitor General. The Minister invited BCCPAC's President to prepare a brief on the issues and concerns that she would present to the Solicitor General and make representations on our behalf.

There was a discussion on the SPLSS/PIRC program. The Minister is very impressed with the achievements of the program to date. She was brought up to date on the stage of planning for the future that BCCPAC is currently at. It was made known to the Minister that this project is one of BCCPAC's main priorities and that there is some concern about the viability of this project long term without committed financial support for the project. Both the Minister and Deputy Minister

indicated very clearly that they support parent education whole heartedly and are committed to providing the required funding contingent on a satisfactory strategic business plan for the project.

There was agreement that meetings between the Minister and BCCPAC should be scheduled on a regular basis rather than on an as needed basis as has been past practice. The Minister has committed to scheduling another meeting with BCCPAC's President before Christmas.

Respectfully submitted,

Ron Broda, President