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December 2008

BCCPAC Representation Report

Submitted by: **Ron Broda, President**

Name of Event: Teacher Congress

Date of Event: November 28th, 2008

Location of Event: Wosk Centre, Vancouver

I was invited by the Minister of Education to attend and observe the annual Teacher Congress which was held on November 28th. The presidents of the BCTF, BCSTA, BCSSA were also present to observe the sessions presented to 116 invited teachers and their discussion with the Minister of Education.

Presentations on the agenda included:

"Developing Global Citizens"	Dr. Martha Piper
"Sharing the Dream Webcasting Series"	Students from College Heights Secondary, Prince George, B.C.
"Integrating Sustainability into the Classroom"	Youth Climate Leadership Alliance
"Healthy Schools Network"	

Q & A session with Minister

Themes of questions asked included:

-Daily Physical Activity and Healthy Schools implementation challenges.
-Mental Health issues related to healthy schools initiative.
-Class size and composition generally and related to provincially examinable courses.
-Brain train of students seeking post secondary education outside of BC due to admission policies related to provincial exams.
-Poverty issues and their effects in the classroom.
-Grad rates what is really being done to improve them.
-FSA results lose them or use them.

"Me to We" Approaches to Fostering Student Engagement"	Marc Keilburger

The highlight of the day was the final presentation by Marc Keilburger. He and his older brother work together as educators assisting teachers in finding ways to engage students in global issues. They right a weekly column published in the Vancouver Sun and Toronto Star on Mondays and provide teaching resources related to those topics.

Marc and his brother were involved in making a difference on global issues as young children themselves. Marc described how his older brother Craig, then 12, travelled to India and interviewed children trapped in a world of slave labour and produced a documentary to bring greater attention to this program. More information can be found on their website www.freethechildren.com and in their book "Me to We".

Respectfully submitted,

Ron Broda, President