

**MINISTRY OF EDUCATION  
BRIEFING NOTE**

**PREPARED FOR:** Honourable George Abbott, Minister, for **Decision**, at the request of the Resource Management Division, to accompany a letter.

**SUBJECT:** Request by School District No. 71 (Comox Valley) to access Ministry of Education Restricted Capital.

**BACKGROUND:**

- The Board of Education of School District No. 71 (Comox Valley) has not had sufficient funds from their Annual Facility Grant each year to undertake upgrades required at schools throughout their District.
- As a result of the facility condition assessments conducted by VFA in 2009, schools in the district require significant investment in physical structures and mechanical systems.
- The District requests permission to access \$4,127,800 of their Restricted Capital to undertake a number of upgrading projects at various schools and buildings across the district (see Appendix A).

**DISCUSSION:**

- In their financial statements for the period ending March 31, 2012, the Comox Valley School District had \$4,761,000 in their Ministry of Education Restricted Capital and projected a balance of \$4,661,000 for the period ending June 30, 2012.


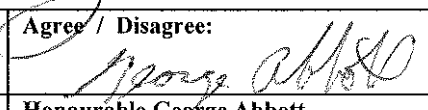
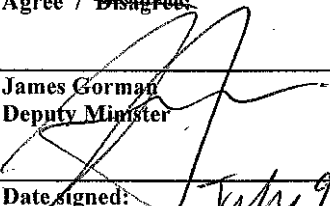
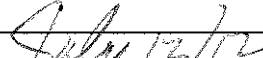
**OPTIONS:**

- Option 1: Approve the request to access Restricted Capital funds.
- Option 2: Do not approve the request to access Restricted Capital funds

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Option 1- a letter to the Board approving the request accompanies this note for the Minister's signature.

**LINKS TO OTHER MINISTRIES:** n/a

<u>Contact Information</u>  Resource Management Division 216-9356		Agree / <del>Disagree</del>	
	ADM initial	James Gorman Deputy Minister	Honourable George Abbott Minister
		Date signed:  July 9/12	Date signed:  July 12/12

**MINISTRY OF EDUCATION  
BRIEFING NOTE**

**PREPARED FOR:** Honourable George Abbott, Minister, for **Decision** at the request of Resource Management Division

**SUBJECT:** Approval of Capital Project Funding Agreements for the new Mar Jok Elementary School in West Kelowna, and an addition to Okanagan Mission Secondary in School District No. 23 (Central Okanagan).

**BACKGROUND:**

In November 2011, Government supported the construction of a new elementary school in West Kelowna (Mar Jok Elementary) and an addition to Okanagan Mission Secondary in Kelowna. The projects were notionally approved by government in March 2012, and through application of a risk screen assessment it was determined that the Minister of Education would have final project approval authority.

**MAR JOK ELEMENTARY**

- The new elementary school will be located on the corner of McDougall Road and Rosewood Drive in West Kelowna.
- The site is part of a joint development with the City of West Kelowna, and includes a community park and playfield which the school will have use through a joint-development agreement.
- The school will have a nominal capacity of 60 FDK + 400 Grades 1 – 6 students.
- Total Project Budget (excluding reserve items) is \$13,517,696. In addition, an allowance of \$1,241,797 is included as a part of the Project Agreement to cover a number of specified risks.
- The District of West Kelowna will partner with the district and offer a number of community services in the Neighbourhood Learning Centre space.

**OKANAGAN MISSION SECONDARY**

- The existing secondary school is located on Gordon Drive in Kelowna.
- Capacity is 750 secondary students; current enrolment is 1,025 and is expected to increase to 1,131 over the next 5 years.
- The addition will provide 300 student spaces at a Total Project Budget (excluding reserve items) of \$15,031,663. In addition, an allowance of \$2,468,230 is included as a part of the Project Agreement to cover a number of specified risks.
- The project also includes a Neighbourhood Learning Centre which will be an upgraded drama room with related facilities for community use.

Partnerships BC carried out a procurement review and recommended Design Bid Build as the preferred procurement option for both projects. Construction is expected to commence in the spring of 2013 and be completed in the fall of 2014 for both projects.

**DISCUSSION:**

The District has reviewed the Capital Project Funding Agreements for these projects; the documents are attached for the Minister's approval and signature.

**OPTIONS:**


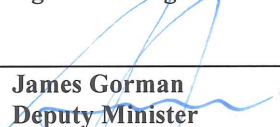
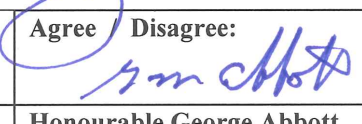
- Option 1: Approve and sign the Capital Project Funding Agreements  
Option 2: Do not approve the Agreements

**RECOMMENDATION:**

- Option 1: A letter of approval and two copies of the Project Agreements accompany this note.

**LINKS TO OTHER MINISTRIES:** n/a

Attachments: Okanagan Mission Secondary Project Agreement (2 copies)  
Mar Jok Elementary Project Agreement (2 copies)  
Approval letter

<u>Contact Information</u>		Agree / <del>Disagree:</del>	Agree / Disagree:
Resource Management Division 356-7814			
	ADM initial	James Gorman Deputy Minister	Honourable George Abbott Minister
		Date signed: Aug 27/12	Date signed: Aug. 29/12



September 10, 2012

Ref: 161983

Rolli Cacchioni, Chair  
Board of Education  
School District No. 23 (Central Okanagan)  
1940 Underhill St  
Kelowna BC V1X 5X7

Dear Mr. Cacchioni:

I am pleased to inform you that the Capital Project Agreements for Okanagan Mission Secondary and Mar Jok Elementary schools have been approved.

These agreements detail the obligations of the Board to deliver these projects within the approved scope and budget. Ministry staff will soon be in contact with district officials to discuss details of these projects.

The Ministry looks forward to working with your Board towards the completion of these important projects for the Central Okanagan School District.

Sincerely,

Don McRae  
Minister

pc: Hugh Gloster, Superintendent of Schools  
Larry Paul, Secretary-Treasurer

Pages 5 through 44 redacted for the following reasons:

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## MINISTRY OF EDUCATION BRIEFING NOTE

**PREPARED FOR:** Honourable George Abbott, Minister, for **Decision**, at the request of the Resource Management Division, regarding School Site Acquisition Charges in SD No. 23 (Central Okanagan)

**SUBJECT:** Conclusion of a School Site Acquisition Charge facilitation

### BACKGROUND:

- Under the *Local Government Act*, school site acquisition charges (SSAC) may be collected by boards of education for the purpose of providing capital funds to assist in the acquisition of eligible school sites in growing school districts.
- The Act provides that a SSAC scheme is required where a board's long-term capital plan, as approved by the Minister of Education, identifies a need for school sites resulting from new residential development projected over a 10-year planning horizon.
- The Act also sets out a prescriptive consultative process that requires boards and local governments to work together to determine the impact of new residential development on the demand for new or expanded school sites.
- Where local government objects to a board's resulting eligible school sites proposal, a dispute resolution mechanism enables the Minister to appoint a facilitator to help all parties reach agreement on the eligible school sites requirement for the school district.
- If no agreement is reached, the facilitator must provide a report that describes the nature of the disagreements and makes recommendations as to an appropriate resolution.
- This information will assist the Minister on whether to approve the proposed school site requirements, as part of the capital plan approval process provided under the *School Act*.
- On May 26, 2010, the Board of Education passed the Eligible School Site Resolution (ESSR) and forwarded it to the five local governments within the Central Okanagan School District:
  - City of Kelowna
  - Corporation of the District of Peachland
  - District of Lake Country
  - District of West Kelowna
  - Regional District of Central Okanagan
- On September 7, 2010, the District of Lake Country formally rejected the eligible school site requirements, followed by the District of West Kelowna on September 14, 2010, and the Corporation of the District of Peachland on October 12, 2010.
- The City of Kelowna and Regional District of Central Okanagan did not object to the ESSR.

### DISCUSSION:

- Beth Johnson, Johnson & Elligott, who had previously completed SSAC facilitations for SD No. 43 (Coquitlam), was appointed to facilitate an agreement between the parties.
- During May 2011, a series of independent meetings were conducted with representatives from the School District and the five local governments.
- A joint facilitation meeting followed in June 2011, but concluded with the participants being unable to reach agreement regarding the ESSR.

- During the facilitation process, both the District of Peachland and the District of West Kelowna felt the Westbank First Nation (WFN) should also voluntarily collect SSAC scheme on behalf of the School District on residential development on WFN lands.
- While the two municipalities were aware that the WFN was not a local government under the authority of the Province and therefore not subject to provincial or local government laws such as development cost charges, they remained unwilling to approve the ESSR unless the Board first met with the WFN Band Council to explore this possibility.
- The Board requested a meeting with the Band Council, which responded only that it would consider the request.
- The Band Council has since met with Board trustees and School District staff, who reported that the WFN only gave a lukewarm reception to the idea of voluntary SSAC participation.
- In her report, the facilitator found that none of the objections raised by the Corporation of the District of Peachland, the District of Lake Country, and the District of West Kelowna fit the strict criteria provided under the *Local Government Act*, as none of their objections specifically addressed any of the proposed eligible school sites.
- The facilitator deemed that all of the proposed school sites were reasonably required to address enrolment demands from new residential development in the School District and recommended the ESSR adopted by the Central Okanagan Board of Education be approved by the Minister of Education.

**LINKS TO OTHER MINISTRIES:** Ministry of Community Services

#### OPTIONS:

**Option 1:** Accept the recommendation of the facilitator and approve the Eligible School Sites Resolution for School District No. 23 (Central Okanagan).

**Option 2:** Do not approve the Eligible School Sites Resolution for School District No. 23 (Central Okanagan) and require the Board to re-visit its eligible school sites requirements.

#### RECOMMENDATION:

Option 1

<u>Contact Information</u>  Resource Management Division 356-7814		<input checked="" type="radio"/> Agree / <input type="radio"/> Disagree: <i>Approved via SP</i>	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Agree / <input type="radio"/> Disagree:
	ADM Initial	James Gorman Deputy Minister	Honourable George Abbott Minister <i>George Abbott</i>
		Date signed: <i>July 18/12</i>	Date signed: <i>Aug 2/2012</i>

**MINISTRY OF EDUCATION  
BRIEFING NOTE**

**PREPARED FOR:** Honourable George Abbott, for Decision at the request of the Assistant Deputy Minister, Open Government and Community Partnerships, for the Council of the Federation Meeting, July 25-27, 2012, in Halifax.

**SUBJECT:** Council of the Federation (COF) Literacy Award 2012.

**KEY POINTS:**

- 1) Selection committee has chosen the recipient for the 2012 COF Literacy Award in B.C.

**BACKGROUND:**

At the July 2004 meeting of the Council of the Federation (COF), Premiers "agreed to create a COF medallion that will recognize the excellence of learners, educators, volunteers, businesses, and other organizations in each province and territory." The award is to be presented annually at a COF meeting.

The intent of the award is to promote literacy at the provincial and territorial level and to raise its profile across Canada. The first award in 2005 was presented to the Columbia Basin Alliance for Literacy, for its outstanding achievement in displaying leadership and excellence in literacy. In subsequent years the award was presented to:

- Linda Mitchell, in recognition of over 25 years of leadership in literacy related services;
- Joan Acosta, in recognition of 25 years of leadership in adult literacy and creation of the Westcoast Reader;
- Janice Douglas, in recognition of 40 years of service at the Vancouver Public Library;
- Laurie Gould, for 35 years of service at Vancouver Community College in the field of adult literacy;
- Pete Grinberg, in recognition of 25 years as an educator and for developing Street School while working at the Kamloops Regional Correctional Centre; and
- Dee McRae, for 17 years of service to Northwest Community College and for her contribution to district literacy planning.

This year, Nova Scotia is the lead jurisdiction for the Literacy Award process and will host the COF meeting on July 25-27, 2012, in Halifax, where the recipients will be announced.

Nominations for the British Columbia award were accepted until May 31, 2012. This was the first year that nominations were accepted only electronically. A total of six high-calibre nominations were received, which is consistent with the number of nominations received by other jurisdictions, including B.C. in previous years. The selection committee convened on June 14, 2012, to review nominations and choose a recipient.



### **Judging Criteria:**

In past years, nominations were open to individuals, organizations, and projects. However, based on selection committee feedback that it was difficult to compare the merits of organizations and individuals, the Ministry modified the process for this year to include only organizations, services, or partnerships this year, which resulted in more equitable comparison. Nominators were provided an information sheet outlining the criteria for selection along with the call for nominations, and nominated organizations provided their consent as part of the nomination process.

The selection committee considered the level of community collaboration and partnership, leadership in innovation, and evidence of measureable outcomes in the literacy field. Please refer to Appendix 1 for the complete list of criteria.

### **Selection Committee and Process:**

The role of the selection committee in the COF Literacy Award process is to review the nominations and select a recipient. The Minister of Education is then informed of the selection through a briefing note shortly after the selection committee is adjourned.

This year, the selection committee was chaired by a Ministry of Education staff person, and had six members representing the following organizations:

- Ministry of Advanced Education ;
- Ministry of Children and Family Development
- Vancouver Aboriginal Friendship Centre
- Coquitlam Public Library;
- SD 43 - Coquitlam;
- BC Association of Family Resource Programs.

### **DISCUSSION:**

The selection committee is proposing the following recipient for the 2012 COF Literacy Award in B.C.:

#### **2012 COF Literacy Award recipient in B.C.: Literacy Alliance of the Shuswap Society (LASS)**

LASS strives for continual improvement by setting goals, planning actions and strategies, evaluating progress, and celebrating achievements. Many of the activities have received extensive coverage in the media, people are bringing their children and taking part in the events, and the literacy focus is being woven into the culture of the communities in School District 83 – North Okanagan Shuswap.

Participation in LASS programs has been impressive:

- Unplug and Play Family Literacy Week involved 1,257 participants
- One-to-One Children's Literacy Program has involved over 200 community volunteers across 13 schools in School District 83 – North Okanagan Shuswap.
- Children participating in the One-to-One Children's Literacy Program increased their reading speed by 10 and 82 per cent and their reading accuracy by 12 and 41 per cent in only four months.

- Coyote Cafe After School Reading Program provides an engaging opportunity for aboriginal students and supports the districts work toward meeting goals set out in its Aboriginal Education Enhancement.

In summary, LASS exemplifies commitment to community collaboration, innovative literacy practices, and positive literacy outcomes for all learners and is a worthy recipient of the 2012 Council of the Federation Literacy Award for British Columbia.

#### Next Steps:

According to instructions from the COF Secretariat, the name and bio of the award recipient (Appendix 2) is to be submitted to the COF Secretariat prior to June 28, 2012, in advance of the COF meeting on July 25-27, 2012.

Given the outstanding level of the nominations, and consistent with past practice, the committee also recommends that a letter of commendation come from the Premier to thank each nominee for agreeing to have their names stand for this award.

A formal presentation of acknowledgement will be made to the award recipient in the fall of 2012, preferably by the Premier, on International Literacy Day, Saturday, September 8, 2012. Opportunities for announcement will be coordinated through Government Communications and Public Engagement (GCPE).

#### LINKS TO OTHER MINISTRIES AND ORGANIZATIONS:

Ministry of Advanced Education

Ministry of Children and Family Development

Intergovernmental Relations Secretariat, Office of the Premier

#### ATTACHMENTS:

Appendix 1: Judging Criteria – Call for Nominations and Information Sheet

Appendix 2: 2012 COFLA Recipient Bio

<u>Contact Information</u>		Agree / <del>Disagree</del>	Agree / <del>Disagree</del>
	ADM initial	James Gorman Deputy Minister	Honourable George Abbott Minister
Libraries and Literacy 250.356.1791 280-20/BN		Date signed: July 6/12	Date signed: July 11/12

## Appendix 1: Judging Criteria – Call for Nominations and Information Sheet



March 27, 2012

Ref: 156390

Dear literacy partners:

Re: Council of the Federation Literacy Award – 2012 Call for Nominations

I am pleased to announce that the 2012 call for nominations for the Council of the Federation (COF) Literacy Award is now open. This year British Columbia will present the COF Literacy Award to an organization that, through partnerships and collaborations, demonstrates outstanding achievement, innovative practice and excellence in literacy.

Since 2005, BC has presented the COF Literacy Award to acknowledge organizations and individuals contributing to increased literacy through partnerships, practices and programs. Last year's recipient, Dee McRae, exemplifies all of the qualities that this award promotes. Dee's unwavering commitment to literacy in BC is remarkable, contributing to a more literate society by changing the way community literacy services are delivered; designing and delivering innovative tutor training; and influencing how literacy progress is measured locally and provincially. We are proud of all of our recipients, as well as all those who have been nominated over the years. The depth and breadth of work promoting literacy is truly impressive.

I encourage you to consider nominating an organization that, through partnerships, has made a significant contribution to the field of literacy in BC.

Visit [http://www.readnowbc.ca/communities/cof\\_literacy\\_award.php](http://www.readnowbc.ca/communities/cof_literacy_award.php) to learn more about all of BC's previous recipients, to access the nomination form (also attached), and for more information about the criteria for selection.

The deadline for nominations is May 31, 2012, so don't delay! I invite you to share the COF Literacy Award nomination information with any BC organization working to improve literacy through partnerships.

Sincerely,

Paige MacFarlane  
Assistant Deputy Minister

Attachment

Ministry of Education  
Office of the Assistant Deputy Minister

Mailing address:  
PO Box 9101 Stn Prov Govt  
Victoria BC V8W 9H3

Telephone: (250) 354-0391  
Facsimile: (250) 354-9267



### Council of the Federation Literacy Award 2012 - Information Sheet

#### What is the Council of the Federation Literacy Award?

The Council of the Federation (COF) Literacy Award was established by Canada's Premiers to recognize outstanding achievement, innovative practice and excellence in literacy. Canada's provinces and territories are repositories of innovative principles, practices and programs that reflect the very highest ideals in literacy best practices, and serve the varying needs of many different types of learners. Each year, 13 COF Literacy medallions are awarded, one for each province and territory.

In 2012 British Columbia will present the award to an organization that, through partnerships or collaborations, demonstrates excellence in providing or developing literacy programs, services, or projects that benefit learners.

#### Who is eligible?

Any BC based public, private or non-profit program, group or organization that demonstrates outstanding achievement, innovative practice and excellence in literacy for the benefit of learners. This year's award will be awarded to an organization that, through partnerships and collaborations, demonstrates outstanding achievement, innovative practice and excellence in literacy.

#### What will the Council of the Federation Literacy Award winner receive?

Recognition will include a medallion, certificate, formal presentation, and public promotion.

#### What is the nomination format and how do I submit?

The form is attached. You may also visit

[http://www.readnowbc.ca/communities/cof\\_literacy\\_award.php](http://www.readnowbc.ca/communities/cof_literacy_award.php) to access the nomination form, view a list of previous recipients, and for other information.

Please submit the nomination package, preferably as one file, via email to:

[llb@gov.bc.ca](mailto:llb@gov.bc.ca). Subject line: COF Literacy Award 2012 [name]

#### Who do I contact if I have questions?

Please send an email to [llb@gov.bc.ca](mailto:llb@gov.bc.ca), attention Virginia Rego, Literacy Advisor.

You may also phone: 250-356-1791 or 1-800-663-7051

When is the deadline? May 31<sup>st</sup> 2012

## 2012 Council of the Federation Literacy Award

### B.C. Recipient Bio: Literacy Alliance of the Shuswap Society (LASS)

When LASS first evolved, it approached the scene with the attitude of “what can we do to help or support you” rather than “this is what we’re doing.” The representatives of LASS met with other groups, showed respect to the work being done by other volunteers and agencies and truly boosted the ability of many to provide literacy opportunities to those in need.

In addition to fostering collaboration and partnerships in the community, LASS has put into place a variety of well-received, innovative literacy programs that target learners of all ages and across all sectors. As with the respect shown to other volunteers and agencies, LASS approached learners with this same attitude. Some of the successful literacy programs provided by LASS include: Unplug and Play Family Literacy Week, Save/Spend/Share Financial Literacy Program, Financial Fitness Series, Coyote Café After School Reading Program, “Pawsitive” Reading Program, and One-to-One Children’s Literacy, which involves over 175 community volunteers across 13 schools.

LASS strives for continual improvement by setting goals, planning actions and strategies, evaluating progress, and celebrating achievements. One of the key indicators of success of the work being done by LASS is that people are talking about the literacy events. Many of the activities have received extensive coverage in the media, people are bringing their children and taking part in the events, and the literacy focus is being woven into the culture of the communities in School District 83 – North Okanagan Shuswap.

In summary, LASS exemplifies commitment to community collaboration, innovative literacy practices and positive literacy outcomes for all learners and is a worthy recipient of the 2012 Council of the Federation Literacy Award for British Columbia.

**MINISTRY OF EDUCATION  
BRIEFING NOTE**

**PREPARED FOR:** Honourable George Abbott, Minister of Education, and Honourable Mary McNeil, Minister of Children and Family Development

**SUBJECT:** BC Confederation of Parent Advisory Councils' 2012 AGM resolutions

**BACKGROUND:**

The BC Confederation of Parent Advisory Councils (BCCPAC) has recently written to the Minister of Children and Family Development to bring her attention to two member resolutions flowing from the BCCPAC AGM. These resolutions, along with twelve others, have also been sent to the Ministry of Education.

The Ministry of Children and Family Development has agreed to meet with BCCPAC to discuss these resolutions and has requested a briefing note from the Ministry of Education in preparation for this meeting.

**DISCUSSION:**

The first resolution relates to a principal's authority to direct persons to leave school premises:

**2012.1 Changes to Section 177 of the School Act**

*Section 177 of the BC School Act be amended to include a process which requires reporting of any such offence to police or other authority, confirmation from that authority that the maintenance order is appropriate, and include an expiration of maintenance orders as well as an appeal process for any maintenance orders issued.*

The Ministry of Education has prepared the following response to this resolution on section 177 (attached). It has received ADM approval and will be compiled with responses to other BCCPAC resolutions before proceeding through sign-off by the Deputy Minister and Minister.

*Section 177 of the School Act authorizes principals and other school administrators to direct individuals to leave school property and to call for assistance from a peace officer if necessary. Persons directed to leave school property may not return without the prior approval of the principal or other administrator. Section 177 does not make any reference to maintenance orders.*

*This provision is included in the Act for the protection of students and staff, and to support the maintenance of order on school premises. A parent who is concerned that he or she has been inappropriately excluded from school premises may wish to contact the district superintendent or board of education. In addition, a parent who feels that a decision under this section significantly affects the education, health or safety of his/her child, may initiate an appeal of the decision under section 11 of the School Act.*

*It would be a matter of serious concern to the Ministry if section 177 was being systematically misused, or if normal chains of accountability and appeal in districts were ineffective in addressing any issues that did arise. However, to date the ministry has no evidence that this is the case. As such, no legislative change is contemplated at this time.*

The second resolution relates to the number of children who can be assigned to a Kindergarten class:

### **2012.13 Full Day Kindergarten Supervision**

*BCCPAC request the Ministry of Education amend the School Act to include a section on supervision of kindergarten children, which applies to non-instructional time to meet the minimum child to adult supervision ratios of the Child Care Licensing Regulation under the Community Care and Assisted Living Act. Funding be provided by sustainable funds and not taken out of current funding from the education ministry.*

Under the Child Care Licensing Regulation, the child to adult ratio in a group child care setting with children of Kindergarten age is 12:1. However, section 2 of the *Community Care and Assisted Living Act* provides that it does not apply to schools.


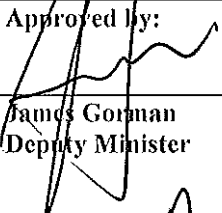
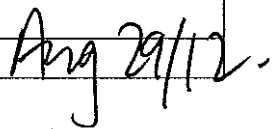
Under the *School Act*, maximum Kindergarten class size is 22. During the school day, there are typically two non-instructional periods – morning recess and lunch. BCCPAC appears to be requesting that the 12:1 ratio apply during recess and lunch.

The Ministry has prepared the following response to this resolution:

*We appreciate that the transition to Kindergarten may be challenging for some young children. We also know that BC schools take extra steps to support this transition and to ensure a safe environment for students.*

*Government has no plans to amend the School Act to apply the child to adult supervision ratios found in the Child Care Licensing Regulation to Kindergarten children during non-instructional time. These ratios have never applied to schools; nor do they apply to other circumstances in which children are gathered together for educational rather than child care purposes.*

Attachments: BCCPAC letter to Minister McNeil, August 9, 2012; BCCPAC letter to Minister Abbott, August 9, 2012; BCCPAC - resolutions to be considered at 2012 AGM; Section 177, *School Act*

<u>Contact Information</u>		Approved by:
Governance, Legislation and Regulation Div Tel: 250-356-6760 File: 280-20	 ADM initial	 James Gorman Deputy Minister
		Date signed: 

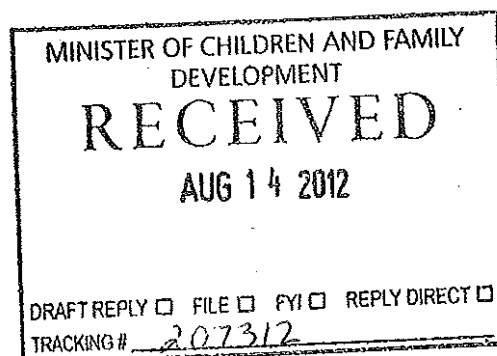


# BC CONFEDERATION OF PARENT ADVISORY COUNCILS

Suite 200, 4170 Still Creek Drive, Burnaby, BC V5C 6C6  
 Tel: (604) 687-4433 Toll free: 1-866-529-4397 Fax: (604) 687-4488  
 E-mail: [info@bccpac.bc.ca](mailto:info@bccpac.bc.ca)

August 9, 2012

Honourable Mary McNeil  
 Ministry of Children and Family Development  
 PO Box 9057 Stn Prov Govt  
 Victoria, BC V8W 9E2  
 Email: [MCF.Minister@gov.bc.ca](mailto:MCF.Minister@gov.bc.ca)



## RE: 2012 B.C. CONFEDERATION OF PARENT ADVISORY COUNCILS - MEMBER RESOLUTIONS

Dear Minister McNeil,

At the 2012 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:

### **2012.1 Changes to Section 177 of the School Act**

Section 177 of the BC School Act be amended to include a process which requires reporting of any such offence to police or other authority, confirmation from that authority that the maintenance order is appropriate, and include an expiration of maintenance orders as well as an appeal process for any maintenance orders issued.

### **2012.13 Full Day Kindergarten Supervision**

BCCPAC request the Ministry of Education amend the School Act to include a section on supervision of kindergarten children, which applies to non-instructional time to meet the minimum child to adult supervision ratios of the Child Care Licensing Regulation under the Community Care and Assisted Living Act. Funding be provided by sustainable funds and not taken out of current funding from the education ministry.

We kindly ask that you review this resolution and we welcome an opportunity to discuss this with your Ministry at your earliest convenience. If you have any comments or questions please respond to [info@bccpac.bc.ca](mailto:info@bccpac.bc.ca)

Sincerely,

Terry Berting, BCCPAC President  
 On behalf of BCCPAC Board of Directors  
[terryberting@bccpac.bc.ca](mailto:terryberting@bccpac.bc.ca)



Terry Berting  
 President

Cell. (778) 870-3547  
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[www.bccpac.bc.ca](http://www.bccpac.bc.ca)

## BC CONFEDERATION OF PARENT ADVISORY COUNCILS

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## BC CONFEDERATION OF PARENT ADVISORY COUNCILS

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E-mail: [info@bccpac.bc.ca](mailto:info@bccpac.bc.ca)

Attachment 2  
Ref: #161593

August 9, 2012

The Honourable George Abbott  
Minister of Education  
PO Box 9045, Stn Prov Govt  
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2  
Email: [Minister.Educ@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Minister.Educ@gov.bc.ca)

### **RE: 2012 B.C. CONFEDERATION OF PARENT ADVISORY COUNCILS - MEMBER RESOLUTIONS**

Dear Minister Abbott,

At the 2012 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:

#### **2012.1 Changes to Section 177 of the School Act**

Section 177 of the BC School Act be amended to include a process which requires reporting of any such offence to police or other authority, confirmation from that authority that the maintenance order is appropriate, and include an expiration of maintenance orders as well as an appeal process for any maintenance orders issued.

#### **2012.2 Support for the Copyright Modernization Act as it pertains to education**

BCCPAC support the Copyright Modernization Act as it pertains to education

#### **2012.3 Customized Item-Level FSA for School Planning Councils (SPCs)**

Resolution 2005.22 Customized Item-Level FSA Reports for School Planning Councils (SPCs) be reaffirmed by the BCCPAC membership.

##### ***2005.22 Customized Item-Level FSA Reports for School Planning Councils (SPCs)***

*BCCPAC ask the Ministry of Education to provide to all School Planning Councils, free of charge, customized item-level FSA reports for all categories of students present in their school, (including gender, French Immersion, Aboriginal, ESL, and special needs) with district, provincial, and year-to-year comparisons.*

#### **2012.4 FSA Cohort Data for School Planning Councils (SPCs)**

Resolution 2005.23 FSA Cohort Data for School Planning Councils (SPCs) be reaffirmed by the BCCPAC membership.

##### ***2005.23 FSA Cohort Data for School Planning Councils (SPCs)***

*BCCPAC ask the Ministry of Education to provide, free of charge to School Planning Councils upon request, cohort FSA data reports as produced by Edudata, which distinguish between students*

*that wrote both Grade 4 and Grade 7 tests in the same school from those that wrote them in different schools, and for all subgroups of students present in the school, with district and provincial comparisons.*

#### **2012.5 BC School Sports**

BC School Sports change its current regulation D12.3.1 to align with the choice of high schools provided to students graduating from middle or junior secondary school to those described in the School Act to allow them to compete for the school they attend.

#### **2012.9 Return targeted Funding**

BCCPAC lobby the Ministry of Education for the return of all Special Education, Special Needs, and ESL Targeted Funding.

#### **2012.10 Reporting on Student Suspensions and Expulsions**

BCCPAC request the Minister of Education to propose an amendment to the School Act making it mandatory for Boards of Education to keep a record and report all district student suspensions and permanent expulsions from school or district and provide this information on a regular basis to the Ministry of Education, District Achievement Committees and School Planning Councils. Reporting will be categorized by school, number of actual students, length of suspension, reason for suspension, number of permanent expulsions from school or district, and total number of suspension days per month. BCCPAC further request this information to be included in the B.C. K to 12 education system annual report.

#### **2012.12 Disqualification of Board Employees**

BCCPAC request the Minister of Education to propose an amendment to Section 34 of the School Act, Disqualification of Board employees as follows;

*Section 34 of the School Act sets out that an employee of a board of education is disqualified from being nominated for, being elected to or holding office as a trustee on any board of education, unless the employee takes a leave of absence while running for office and resigns from the position of employment if elected.*

#### **2012.13 Full Day Kindergarten Supervision**

BCCPAC request the Ministry of Education amend the School Act to include a section on supervision of kindergarten children, which applies to non-instructional time to meet the minimum child to adult supervision ratios of the Child Care Licensing Regulation under the Community Care and Assisted Living Act. Funding be provided by sustainable funds and not taken out of current funding from the education ministry.

#### **2012.14 Question Period for Public School Board Meeting**

BCCPAC reaffirm the 2007.17 Question Period for Public School Board Meetings motion (see below)

##### **2007.17 Question Period for Public School Board Meetings**

BCCPAC request the Minister of Education to propose an amendment to the School Act making it mandatory for School Boards to have a question period during regularly scheduled public board meetings and to have those questions and responses recorded in school board minutes.

#### **2012.15 PAC Gaming Grant Allowable Expenditures**

BCCPAC request that the Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General instruct the Gaming Branch to amend the guidelines of allowable expenditures of PAC gaming funds to permit a broader range of applicable areas of support within the school community which includes the implementation of the

recommendations suggested in the BCCPAC submission made to the BC Community Gaming Grant Review."

**2012.16 Communications with Parents**

That BCCPAC lobby government to instruct Schools and School Districts to allow PACs the ability to send electronic communication without the requirement of individual email addresses and that parents be required to opt out if they do not wish to receive e-mail messages from the PAC.

**2012.17 Parent Choice regarding Exposure to EMF Emissions *from SRC Safety Wi-Fi Subcommittee***

BCCPAC calls on each Board of Education to have one public school at each education level (elementary, middle, secondary) that is free of Wi-Fi, cordless phones and cell phones. This school will only be equipped with wired computers and wired telephones for personal, educational and administrative purposes. This will not be required in cases where there is only one school available of that type in that district.

**2012.18 Wi-Fi In Classrooms**

BCCPAC call on Boards of Education to cease to install Wi-Fi and other wireless networks in schools where other networking technology is feasible.

We kindly ask that you review these resolutions and we welcome an opportunity to discuss them with you at your earliest convenience. If you have any comments or questions please respond to [info@bccpac.bc.ca](mailto:info@bccpac.bc.ca)

Sincerely,



Terry Berting, BCCPAC President  
On behalf of the BCCPAC Board of Directors  
[terryberting@bccpac.bc.ca](mailto:terryberting@bccpac.bc.ca)



## **BC Confederation of Parent Advisory Councils**

# **Resolutions**

## **2012 Annual General Meeting**

**Saturday May 26, 2012**

**Executive Plaza Hotel & Conference Centre  
405 North Road  
Coquitlam, BC**



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*For additional information on resolutions you can request contact information for the submitting member through the BCCPAC office, or visit websites suggested in the rationale.*

# Board Resolutions

## 1. Changes to Section 177 of the School Act

Submitted by: BCCPAC Board of Directors

*Be it resolved that*

Section 177 of the BC School Act be amended to include a process which requires reporting of any such offence to police or other authority, confirmation from that authority that the maintenance order is appropriate, and include an expiration of maintenance orders as well as an appeal process for any maintenance orders issued.

### Rationale:

Currently this section of the School Act is being misused across BC in selected incidents to ban parents from entering school property when a conflict occurs in a relationship between staff and parents. While there are valid instances where individuals should be kept away from school property to ensure the protection of students and staff, these instances should officially be reported to police authorities and/or WorkSafe BC. Reporting of these occurrences will provide accountability to ensure this action is not being abused, and additional assurance for the safety of our school communities by ensuring authorities are aware of the situation, are able to provide resources and supports and to ensure that the rights of all involved are protected. There is currently no official appeal process for parents served with a Section 177 maintenance order nor is there an expiry or ability to remove one of these maintenance orders which could have criminal implications if breached.

### Destination:

Ministry of Education  
Ministry of Public Safety and the Solicitor General  
Ministry of Justice and Attorney General  
BC Ombudsman

*For more information or questions on resolution 1 please contact:*

Name Ann Whiteaker  
Email: [annwhiteaker@bccpac.bc.ca](mailto:annwhiteaker@bccpac.bc.ca)

CARRIED ☐

DEFEATED ☐

OTHER ☐

## 2. Support for the Copyright Modernization Act as it pertains to education

Submitted by: BCCPAC Board of Directors

*Be it resolved that*

BCCPAC support the Copyright Modernization Act as it pertains to education.

## Rationale:

The "Copyright Modernization Act" or Bill C-11 includes a change to the provisions for fair dealing that will enable the use of copyrighted materials for the purpose of education in a structured context, in a manner that takes into consideration the legitimate interests of the copyright owner. In addition to education, parody and satire have likewise been added as new purposes for fair dealing. The Bill introduces new measures aimed at enriching the educational experience, notably by facilitating use of the latest technologies when appropriate measures have been adopted to prevent abuse, as required:

- Teachers and students will be allowed to use copyrighted material in lessons conducted over the Internet. The amendments would apply to teachers and students who are in the physical classroom as well as to those who are participating in the lessons or viewing recordings of the lessons afterwards using Internet technology. For example, this allows music students—both those in the classroom and those who are participating from a remote location—to perform a copyright-protected song together as part of a lesson.
- Teachers will be allowed to digitally deliver course materials to students, subject to fair compensation to copyright owners. Students will be allowed to print a single copy of these course materials.
- For educational and training purposes, teachers and students will be allowed to use material that they find on the Internet as long as it has been legitimately posted there by copyright owners without expectation of compensation. For example, teachers and students could make multiple copies of articles found on the Internet and distribute them to classmates.

The Bill also adjusts existing provisions to make them more technologically neutral.

- The existing provisions that allow parts of a work to be copied for display to students will be amended so that they are no longer linked to specific technologies, such as flip charts and overhead projectors.
- The existing provisions that allow certain copyright material, such as a play, to be performed in the classroom will now be extended to allow teachers and students to watch legitimately acquired films and other audiovisual works.
- A school will no longer be required to pay copyright royalties to record a broadcast of a current affairs program, with the exception of documentaries, for educational purposes.

To read Bill C-11 in its entirety please visit - <http://balancedcopyright.gc.ca/eic/site/crp-prda.nsf/eng/home>

## Destination:

BC Confederation of Parent Advisory Councils (BCCPAC)  
Federal Ministry of Industry  
Federal Ministry of Canadian Heritage  
Ministry of Education

*For more information or questions on resolution 2 please contact:*

Name: Susan Wilson

Email: [susanwilson@bccpac.bc.ca](mailto:susanwilson@bccpac.bc.ca)

CARRIED ☐

DEFEATED ☐

OTHER ☐



### 3. Customized Item-Level FSA Reports for School Planning Councils (SPCs)

Submitted by: BCCPAC Board of Directors

*Be it resolved that*

Resolution 2005.22 Customized Item-Level FSA Reports for School Planning Councils (SPCs) be reaffirmed by the BCCPAC membership

#### *2005.22 Customized Item-Level FSA Reports for School Planning Councils (SPCs)*

*That BCCPAC ask the Ministry of Education to provide to all School Planning Councils, free of charge, customized item-level FSA reports for all categories of students present in their school, (including gender, French Immersion, Aboriginal, ESL, and special needs) with district, provincial, and year-to-year comparisons.*

#### **Rationale:**

SPC members require customized and consistent data to evaluate trends in teaching excellence, challenges within the system and best practises within their school communities so they can ensure areas requiring supports may be sustained and best practises can be identified and shared. Providing data based on cohorts allows SPCs to better support evaluate and share successful programs focused on specific struggling cohorts in relation to school goals and allocation of resources.

#### **Destination:**

Ministry of Education

BC Confederation of Parent Advisory Councils (BCCPAC)

BC Teachers' Federation (BCTF)

BC School Superintendents (BCSSA)

BC Principals and Vice Principals Association (BCPVPA)

*For more information or questions on resolution 3 please contact:*

Name: Cathy Jewett

Email: [cathyjewett@bccpac.bc.ca](mailto:cathyjewett@bccpac.bc.ca)

CARRIED ☐

DEFEATED ☐

OTHER ☐

### 4. FSA Cohort Data for School Planning Councils (SPCs)

Submitted by: BCCPAC Board of Directors

*Be it resolved that*

Resolution 2005.23 FSA Cohort Data for School Planning Councils (SPCs) be reaffirmed by the BCCPAC membership.

#### *2005.23 FSA Cohort Data for School Planning Councils (SPCs)*

*That BCCPAC ask the Ministry of Education to provide, free of charge to School Planning Councils upon request, cohort FSA data reports as produced by Edudata, which distinguish between students that wrote both Grade 4 and Grade 7 tests in the same school from those that wrote them in different schools, and for all subgroups of students present in the school, with district and provincial comparisons.*

### **Rationale:**

SPC members require customized and consistent data to evaluate trends in teaching excellence, challenges within the system and best practises within their school communities so they can ensure areas requiring supports may be sustained and best practises can be identified and shared. Providing data based on cohorts allows SPCs to better support evaluate and share successful programs focused on specific struggling cohorts in relation to school goals and allocation of resources.

### **Destination:**

Ministry of Education  
BC Confederation of Parent Advisory Councils (BCCPAC)  
BC Teachers' Federation (BCTF)  
BC School Superintendents Association (BCSSA)  
BC Principals and Vice Principals Association (BCPVPA)

*For more information or questions on resolution 4 please contact:*

Name: Cathy Jewett  
Email: [cathyjewett@bccpac.bc.ca](mailto:cathyjewett@bccpac.bc.ca)

CARRIED ☐

DEFEATED ☐

OTHER ☐

## **5. BC School Sports**

**Submitted by:** BCCPAC Board of Directors

*Be it resolved that*

BC School Sports change its current regulation D12.3.1 to align with the choice of high schools provided to students graduating from middle or junior secondary school to those described in the School Act to allow them to compete for the school they attend.

### **Rationale:**

The current regulation has the effect of assigning students to a high school for BCSS competition based on their choice of middle or junior secondary school. Students who decide to attend a different high school for their senior years other than the high school their current school feeds into are barred from representing that school in BCSS competitions. This deprives the student and their parents of choosing a different high school based on the educational goals of the student.

Parents have successfully advocated for the ability to have choice of school and program for their students that will best meet their unique educational goals. This current BCSS regulation removes this choice as intended by the Ministry of Education that allows these students to make career planning and course selections in grade ten.

The aims and objectives of BCSS are as follows

1. The aims and objectives of the Society shall be in complete harmony with the aims of education as set forth by the Ministry of Education.
2. Participation in the activities of this Society shall be encouraged as an integral part of the total education process.
3. All students should have the opportunity to realize the physical, social and emotional values that can be derived from interschool competition."

Blocking a student from participating in BCSS competitions is contrary to all these stated goals.

We urge the BCSS to align its regulations with the current choices presented in the School Act, to encourage increased participation and opportunities in school sport programs.

### Destination:

BC School Sports  
Boards of Education  
BC School Trustee Association (BCSTA)  
BC Principals and Vice Principals Association (BCPVPA)  
Ministry of Education

*For more information or questions on resolution 5 please contact:*

Name: Cathy Jewett  
Email: [cathyjewett@bccpac.bc.ca](mailto:cathyjewett@bccpac.bc.ca)

CARRIED ☐

DEFEATED ☐

OTHER ☐

### 6. Clarification of Special Education Categories and Funding

Submitted by: BCCPAC Board of Directors

*Be it resolved that*

the words "and currently provided" be struck from the wording of resolution 2004.32 Clarification of Special Education Categories and Funding

That BCCPAC implore the Minister of Education to

- a. provide greater clarity for the interpretation of the special education categories, in consultation with school districts, and
- b. fund special education students based on the support required ~~and currently provided~~ to address the impact that medical conditions have on the student's education.

### Rationale:

- Current Policy manual (March 2011) is very detailed in the criteria for reporting students on the Ministry of Education 1701 Data Collection Form ([http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/datacollections/february/public\\_school/pi1701.pdf](http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/datacollections/february/public_school/pi1701.pdf))
- This resolution was drafted within a year of the change to the funding model of Special Needs students to the current funding of low incidence Special Needs only. It refers to

"the support required and currently provided" as a benchmark for funding, implying that students receive services even though funding to the districts has been cut. We are now 8 + years into the current funding model, and for most students, this is no longer the case. The gold standard for service should not be what they are receiving, but what they require.

- Recommend that "and currently provided" be deleted

#### Destination:

BC Confederation of Parent Advisory Councils (BCCPAC)

*For more information or questions on resolution 6 please contact:*

Name: Deborah Garrity, Chair of Special Needs Committee

Email: [pacworld@yahoo.ca](mailto:pacworld@yahoo.ca)

CARRIED ☐

DEFEATED ☐

OTHER ☐

#### 7. Funding for Pre-screening and Ongoing Assessment

Submitted by: BCCPAC Board of Directors

*Be it resolved that*

that the title of Resolution 2010.9. *Funding for non-designated students in need* be amended to read *Funding for Pre-screening and Ongoing Assessment* and this resolution be reaffirmed

#### Rationale:

The current title does not reflect the content and purpose of the resolution and therefore this clarification to the wording would be helpful for those who are referencing resolutions.

It is important that screening is done as early as possible to ensure necessary resources and supports are in place for each student to support learning. In addition to this, ongoing assessment is also a very important component for the continued success of every child.

Current wording:

#### 2010.9 Funding for non-designated students in need

*That BCCPAC urge the Ministry of Education to mandate School Districts to pre-screen all new and Kindergarten students as well as providing ongoing appropriate assessment for all students, as needed, including for learning and behavioural challenges, so that students who qualify for Ministry funding and/or IEP's can be formally assessed, have designations put in place, and have learning interventions implemented in a timely manner, and that Ministry of Education is to work with other appropriate ministries to ensure adequate funding for this initiative.*

#### Past Rationale

To properly fund the Basic Public Education to support with E/A help the many children without a designation but are still in desperate in need of time and resources that qualify for no help at all in the classrooms because most assessments are not done until grade four but usually in grade seven.

**Destination:**

BC Confederation of Parent Advisory Councils (BCCPAC)

*For more information or questions on resolution 7 please contact:*

Name: Deborah Garrity, Chair of Special Needs Committee

Email: [pacworld@yahoo.ca](mailto:pacworld@yahoo.ca)

CARRIED ☐

DEFEATED ☐

OTHER ☐

# Member Resolutions

## 8. Electronic Device and Internet Usage

**Submitted by:** Errington Elementary PAC, SD69 Qualicum

*Be it resolved that*

BCCPAC requires that the Ministry of Education adopt and implement a consistent province wide policy regarding rules and accepted usage of electronic devices. BCCPAC insists this policy includes a standardized provincial student internet access and usage agreement, with parental permission designed for each of - primary grades (ages 13 and under) and secondary grade levels.

### **Rationale:**

Parents support students' right to use school computers and systems in a safe and respectful way, under supervision. With the introduction of Wi-Fi Internet access into our provinces, schools, combined with the popularity of handheld electronic communication devices, consistent supervision of usage is not always possible. A consistent emphasizes on the importance of safe usage through an access agreement which outlines examples of prohibited use, explains privacy and confidentiality of the school operating system, contains guiding principles on cyber bullying, harassment and intimidation for internet access and handheld electronic devices will support safe and respectful use of these devices.

### **Destination:**

Ministry of Education  
BC Boards of Education  
BC School Trustees Association (BCSTA)  
BC School Superintendents Association (BCSSA)

*For more information or questions on resolution 8 please contact:*

Name: Kelly Guild, Errington Elementary PAC  
Email: [kbguild@telus.net](mailto:kbguild@telus.net)

CARRIED ☐

DEFEATED ☐

OTHER ☐

## 9. Return Targeted Funding

**Submitted by:** DPAC, SD40 New Westminster

*Be it resolved that*

BCCPAC lobby the Ministry of Education for the return of all Special Education, Special Need, and ESL Targeted Funding.

## Rationale:

Provincial targeted funding was withdrawn in 2002, replacing it with untargeted funding distributed into student basic allocation that districts could then spend at their 'direction and discretion.'

However, as districts are unable to extract the exact amount of untargeted funding rolled into each district student basic allocation amount, how this unknown amount of untargeted funding is being spent is a problem. This is particularly evident when a deficit occurs, possibly due to additional funding required for these students. Returning to a targeted funding formula would allow Boards of Education to clearly identify and allocate funds based on actual funding needs, and should there be a deficit, be in a better position to argue for increased targeted funding from the Ministry of Education.

## Background:

BCCPAC Motion already carried: 1998.10 Oppose the Elimination of Target Funding for Special Needs. That the BCCPAC lobby the Ministry of Education, Skills and Training to retain the Special Education Targeted Funding.

## Destination:

Ministry of Education  
Boards of Education  
BC School Trustees Association (BCSTA)  
BC Teachers' Federation (BCTF)

*For more information or questions on resolution 9 please contact:*

Name: New Westminster DPAC  
Email: [nwdpac@yahoo.ca](mailto:nwdpac@yahoo.ca)

CARRIED ☐

DEFEATED ☐

OTHER ☐

## **10. Reporting on Student Suspensions and Expulsions**

Submitted by: DPAC, SD40 New Westminster

*Be it resolved that*

BCCPAC request the Minister of Education to propose an amendment to the School Act making it mandatory for Boards of Education to keep a record and report all district student suspensions and permanent expulsions from school or district and provide this information on a regular basis to the Ministry of Education, District Achievement Committees and School Planning Councils. Reporting will be categorized by school, number of actual students, length of suspension, reason for suspension, number of permanent expulsions from school or district, and total number of suspension days per month. BCCPAC further request this information to be included in the B.C. K to 12 education system annual report.

## Rationale:

Currently, districts are not required to report out on the number of suspension days actual individual students are receiving or expulsions from school or district. As cumulative number of suspension days are not being reported on, while educational support is given on suspensions of more than five days, multiple suspensions of less than five days throughout a given school year may be depriving students of the educational support and/or student services he/she may need for a more successful educational outcome.

With more transparent, and regular, school and district reports on suspensions (both number of actual individual students and suspension days) and expulsions would support District Achievement Committees, Schools and the Ministry of Education with a comparable disciplinary action snapshot of each school and district in the Province. By providing these 'snapshots,' districts can then self-identify whether the cumulative numbers of students/total suspension days at each school pose possible barriers to school, district and provincial student improvement goals.

By tracking and reporting this information, relevant data will be provided to direct needed supports and interventions for these vulnerable students and school communities to support school and district improvement goals.

Further research and information on this topic available in the document "Focus on Suspension: A Resource for Schools" published 1999 by the Ministry of Education, Special Programs Branch

<http://www.bccpac.bc.ca/UserFiles/file/Resources/Focus%20on%20Suspension.pdf>

## Destination:

Ministry of Education  
BC Boards of Education  
BC Principals' and Vice Principals' Association (BCPVPA)  
BC School Trustees Association (BCSTA)

*For more information or questions on resolution 10 please contact:*

Name: New Westminster DPAC  
Email: [nwdpac@yahoo.ca](mailto:nwdpac@yahoo.ca)

CARRIED ☐

DEFEATED ☐

OTHER ☐

## 10. Universal District Complaint Process

Submitted by: DPAC, SD40 New Westminster

*Be it resolved that*

BCCPAC request the Minister of Education to set guidelines for universal district complaint processes which include standard processes and maximum wait times.



## Rationale:

The complaint process varies widely across school districts resulting in discrepancies in the amount of time parent(s) must wait and the number of steps taken in order to appeal a decision that 'significantly affects the education, health or safety of a student.

## Destination:

Ministry of Education  
BC Boards of Education  
BC School Superintendents Association (BCSSA)  
BC School Trustees Association (BCSTA)

*For more information or questions on resolution 11 please contact:*

Name: New Westminster DPAC  
Email: [nwdpac@yahoo.ca](mailto:nwdpac@yahoo.ca)

CARRIED ☐

DEFEATED ☐

OTHER ☐

## 12- Disqualification of Board Employees

Submitted by: DPAC, SD40 New Westminster

### *Be it resolved that*

BCCPAC request the Minister of Education to propose an amendment to Section 34 of the School Act, Disqualification of Board employees as follows;

*Section 34 of the School Act sets out that an employee of a board of education is disqualified from being nominated for, being elected to or holding office as a trustee on any board of education, unless the employee takes a leave of absence while running for office and resigns from the position of employment if elected.*

## Rationale:

Employees of any Board of Education serving as school trustees on another Board of Education are unable to engage in all levels of decision-making due to potential conflict of interest or perceived bias based on their employment loyalties. The public deserves a full Board able to consider all issues collectively to support good decision-making, in the best interests of the electorate unencumbered by outside, undue influence.

### Background information

Alberta

In an 8-1 decision, the Supreme Court of Canada has upheld Alberta legislation that *requires teachers and other school employees to take a leave of absence while running for office as school trustees, and to resign from their employment if elected to school boards*. The Supreme Court ruled that the legislation does not violate either the guarantee of freedom of expression in section 2(b) or the equality guarantee in section 15(1) of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms. [...]

## Ontario

<http://cge.ontarioschooltrustees.org/files/en-ch2.pdf>

A candidate for school board office cannot be a clerk, deputy clerk, treasurer or deputy treasurer of a municipality within the jurisdiction of a board.

The following persons are disqualified from being elected to school board office:

- any person not eligible to vote in the municipality;
  - an employee of a school board unless he or she takes an unpaid leave of absence before being nominated, and resigns, if elected to the office;
  - a judge of any court;
  - a member of the Lethe office;
  - a judge of any court;
  - a member of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario, a Senator or a member of the House of Commons;
- or
- an inmate of a penal or correctional institution under sentence of imprisonment.

Note: An employee of a school board who wishes to run for office on *any* school board must take an unpaid leave of absence prior to being nominated. If elected, the employee must resign. *A person may not be employed by one school board and hold office on a different school board.*

## British Columbia

Disqualification of Board Employees (*Note: current wording*)

Section 34 of the School Act sets out that an employee of a board of education is disqualified from being nominated for, being elected to or holding office as a trustee on *the* board, unless the employee takes a leave of absence while running for office and resigns the employment if elected.

## Destination:

Ministry of Education  
Office of the Premier  
BCTF  
CUPE  
Other Board employee groups

*For more information or questions on resolution 12 please contact:*

Name: New Westminster DPAC  
Email: [nwdpac@yahoo.ca](mailto:nwdpac@yahoo.ca)

CARRIED ☐

DEFEATED ☐

OTHER ☐

**Submitted by:** Ecole Robb Road Elementary, SD71 Comox Valley

*Be it resolved that*

BCCPAC request the Ministry of Education amend the School Act to include a section on supervision of kindergarten children, which applies to both instructional and non-instructional time to meet the minimum child to adult supervision ratios of the Child Care Licensing Regulation under the Community Care and Assisted Living Act.

**Rationale:**

This change will address the need for adult supervision ratios for full-day kindergarten students that are developmentally appropriate. Parents have expressed concern that full day kindergarten students do not have enough adult supervision consistently throughout their school day, which needs to be addressed immediately to ensure the health and safety of these students. These four and five-year-olds are entering an entirely new environment. As they begin their schooling, it is essential that the public school system provide a safe environment and protect the well-being of our youngest students. This should be in the form of a legislation policy that applies to all of BC's school children.

Inadequate supervision has been repeatedly identified as a risk factor for kindergarten students sustaining injuries (Eberl, Schalamon, Singer, Ainoedhofer, Petnehazy, & Hoellwarth, 2009). Not surprisingly, strategies identified that may reduce school injuries include environmental modifications and increased supervision. (Josse et al., 2006; Spinks, Scott, Bain, Nagle, Macpherson, & McClure, 2008; Sluja, Brenner, Morrongiello, Haynie, Rivera, & Cheng, 2004). At this age, many children require guidance in regards to respecting and interacting with their peers.

Existing BC legislation provides child to staff ratios for this age of children in care in community facilities. The Child Care Licensing Regulation, Schedule #E (also Division 4, section 34), states specific ratios of children to caregivers: For a Group Child Care setting for children at the age of Grade One and younger, the ratio is 12 children to 1 adult. When there are 13-22 children, there must be two adults present at all times. Kindergarten class sizes exceed 12 students however currently additional adult supervision is not required in the school setting as long as Ministry of Education prescribed K-3 class sizes are met.

It is noteworthy that Canadian common law has established that educators owe their pupils a duty of care (Rohler & Henry, 2007). Canadian courts have held that the standard of care owed to a pupil by a school board and its principals and teachers is that of a "careful or prudent parent in the circumstances" (Rohler & Henry, 2007, p.32).

Parents expect and trust that their children are appropriately supervised for their age group during both instructional time and non-instructional time in the public school system.

Child Care Licensing Regulation under the Community Care and Assisted Living Act may be found here. [http://www.bclaws.ca/EPLibraries/bclaws\\_new/document/ID/freeside/12\\_332\\_2007#section34](http://www.bclaws.ca/EPLibraries/bclaws_new/document/ID/freeside/12_332_2007#section34)

**References:**

- Eberl, R., Schalamon, J., Singer, G., Ainoedhofer, H., Petnehazy, T., & Hoellwarth, M.E. (2009). Analysis of 347 kindergarten-related injuries. *European Journal of Pediatrics*, 168.
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Saluja, G., Brenner, R., Morrongiello, B., Haynie, D., Rivera, M., Cheng, T. (2004). The role of supervision in child injury risk: definition, conceptual and measurement issues. *Injury Control and Safety Promotion*, 11 (1).

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### Destination:

BC Confederation of Parent Advisory Councils (BCCPAC)

Ministry of Education

Ministry of Children and Families

BC School Trustee Association (BCSTA)

BC Principals and Vice Principals Association (BCPVPA)

BC School Superintendents Association (BCSSA)

BC Teachers' Federation (BCTF)

*For more information or questions on resolution 13 please contact:*

Name: Jody Macdonald, Ecole Robb Road Elementary PAC

Email: [jodymacdonald@shaw.ca](mailto:jodymacdonald@shaw.ca)

CARRIED ☐

DEFEATED ☐

OTHER ☐

### 17. Question Period for Public School Board Meeting

Submitted by: DPAC, SD40 New Westminster

*Be it resolved that*

BCCPAC reaffirm the 2007.17 Question Period for Public School Board Meetings motion (see below)

*2007.17 Question Period for Public School Board Meetings That BCCPAC request the Minister of Education to propose an amendment to the School Act making it mandatory for School Boards to have a question period during regularly scheduled public board meetings and to have those questions and responses recorded in school board minutes.*

### Rationale:

Not all districts provide a question period and thus visitors are unable to question information brought forward and presented to the Board.

**Destination:**

Ministry of Education  
BC School Trustees Association (BCSTA)

*For more information or questions on resolution14 please contact:*

Name: New Westminster DPAC

Email: [nwdpac@yahoo.ca](mailto:nwdpac@yahoo.ca)

CARRIED ☐

DEFEATED ☐

OTHER ☐

# 2012 RESOLUTION VOTING INSTRUCTIONS

Name of PAC/DPAC: \_\_\_\_\_ School District: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Proxy holder: \_\_\_\_\_

This form may be used to provide your delegate with directions on how to vote on the items below. By authorizing a delegate (completing the Proxy Voting Form) you are entrusting the delegate carrying your proxy to exercise your voting rights on all matters that will be dealt with at the AGM. As BCCPAC has neither the means nor the authority to verify that member voting suggestions are followed by authorized delegates, please be sure communication is clear for the proxy holder regarding your DPAC/PACs voting intentions and whether you wish to provide discretion in how to vote, as new information is often shared and presented at the time of debate.

BCCPAC urges each member to choose delegate(s) wisely and whenever possible send their own delegate to the AGM.

	RESOLUTIONS	VOTING INSTRUCTIONS
	<b>Board Resolutions</b>	
1	Changes to Section 177 of the School Act <i>Notes:</i>	Yes__ No__ Open__
2	Support for the Copyright Modernization Act as it pertains to education <i>Notes:</i>	Yes__ No__ Open__
3	Customized Item-Level FSA Reports for School Planning Councils (SPCs) <i>Notes:</i>	Yes__ No__ Open__
4	FSA Cohort Data for School Planning Councils (SPCs) <i>Notes:</i>	Yes__ No__ Open__
5	BC School Sports <i>Notes:</i>	Yes__ No__ Open__

6	Clarification of Special Education Categories and Funding <i>Notes:</i>	Yes__ No__ Open__
7	Funding for Pre-screening and Ongoing Assessment <i>Notes:</i>	Yes__ No__ Open__
	<b>Member Resolutions</b>	
8	Electronic Device and Internet Usage <i>Notes:</i>	Yes__ No__ Open__
9	Return Targeted Funding <i>Notes:</i>	Yes__ No__ Open__
10	Reporting on Student Suspensions and Expulsions <i>Notes:</i>	Yes__ No__ Open__
11	Universal District Complaint Process <i>Notes:</i>	Yes__ No__ Open__
12	Disqualification of Board Employees <i>Notes:</i>	Yes__ No__ Open__
13	Full Day Kindergarten Supervision <i>Notes:</i>	Yes__ No__ Open__
14	Question Period for Public School Board Meeting <i>Notes:</i>	Yes__ No__ Open__

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS - VOTING INSTRUCTIONS

Name of PAC/DPAC: \_\_\_\_\_ School District: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Proxy holder: \_\_\_\_\_

## Candidate Position List:

<i>Candidate</i>	<i>School District</i>	<i>President</i>	<i>1st Vice President</i>	<i>2nd Vice President</i>	<i>Secretary</i>	<i>Directors</i>
Terry Berthing	SD41 Burnaby	✓	✓	✓		
Angie Carlyle	SD69 Qualicum			✓		✓
Ayesha Haider	SD41 Burnaby					✓
Wendy Harris	SD40 New Westminster		✓	✓	✓	✓
Bonnie Krisher	SD71 Comox Valley		✓	✓		✓
Nicole Makohoniuk	SD22 Vernon			✓		✓
John Puddifoot	SD39 Vancouver		✓			
Kal Randhawa	SD40 New Westminster			✓		✓
Liz Therres	SD23 Central Okanagan		✓	✓		✓

Voting instructions for your PAC/DPAC Delegate: indicate the first and/or second candidate choice your PAC/DPAC is voting for. Leave blank if your PAC/DPAC has no preference, allowing the authorized delegate to choose on your behalf. Please keep in mind that persons may be running for more than one position.

<i>Position</i>	<i>Choice One</i>	<i>Choice Two</i>
<i>President</i>		
<i>1<sup>st</sup> Vice President</i>		
<i>2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President</i>		
<i>Secretary</i>		
<i>Director 1</i>		
<i>Director 2</i>		



# RESOLUTIONS & BOARD OF DIRECTORS VOTING RESULTS

*This page is provided for delegates to record AGM resolution voting results to assist with reporting back to their respective members.*

	RESOLUTIONS	RESULTS
	<b>Board Resolutions</b>	
1	Changes to Section 177 of the School Act <i>Notes:</i>	Carried__ Defeated__ Other__
2	Support for the Copyright Modernization Act as it pertains to education <i>Notes:</i>	Carried__ Defeated__ Other__
3	Customized Item-Level FSA Reports for School Planning Councils (SPCs) <i>Notes:</i>	Carried__ Defeated__ Other__
4	FSA Cohort Data for School Planning Councils (SPCs) <i>Notes:</i>	Carried__ Defeated__ Other__
5	BC School Sports <i>Notes:</i>	Carried__ Defeated__ Other__
6	Clarification of Special Education Categories and Funding <i>Notes:</i>	Carried__ Defeated__ Other__
7	Funding for Pre-screening and Ongoing Assessment <i>Notes:</i>	Carried__ Defeated__ Other__
	<b>Member Resolutions</b>	
8	Electronic Device and Internet Usage <i>Notes:</i>	Carried__ Defeated__ Other__
9	Return Targeted Funding <i>Notes:</i>	Carried__ Defeated__ Other__

10	Reporting on Student Suspensions and Expulsions <i>Notes:</i>	Carried__ Defeated__ Other__
11	Universal District Complaint Process <i>Notes:</i>	Carried__ Defeated__ Other__
12	Disqualification of Board Employees <i>Notes:</i>	Carried__ Defeated__ Other__
13	Full Day Kindergarten Supervision <i>Notes:</i>	Carried__ Defeated__ Other__
14	Question Period for Public School Board Meeting <i>Notes:</i>	Carried__ Defeated__ Other__

## Nominations Results

<i>Position</i>	<i>Elected Candidate</i>
<i>President</i>	
<i>1<sup>st</sup> Vice President</i>	
<i>2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President</i>	
<i>Secretary</i>	
<i>Director 1</i>	
<i>Director 2</i>	

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING ( *the "AGM"* )

### VOTING INFORMATION & PROXY RULES

The following applies to all Regular Members:

1. Each Regular Member in good standing is entitled to one vote. For the purposes of the 2012 Annual General Meeting (the "AGM") a Regular Member is in good standing if membership fees have been paid by December 15, 2011. To exercise that vote, a Regular Member in good standing must complete a proxy vote form and submit it to BCCPAC in exchange for a voting card.
2. Life, Honourary and Associate Members are not entitled to vote.
3. All proxy forms must be completed and signed by **two members of that member's PAC/DPAC executive** in order for an authorized delegate to exercise Regular Member voting rights.
4. In order to allow for the efficient operation of the Annual General Meeting, members are encouraged to mail, fax, or scan and email completed proxy forms to the BCCPAC office in advance. Proxy forms received in this manner **no later than May 18, 2012 at 4:30 pm**, will be verified and registered by BCCPAC in advance of the AGM. Voting cards for these proxies may be picked up by the authorized delegate at the Proxy Room with proof of identity. Confirmation of proxy forms that are submitted in advance will be sent within three days of receipt and registration to the Executive officers who signed the form. If you do not receive confirmation please contact the office.
5. Proxy forms not received by May 18, 2012 are required to be delivered to the Proxy Room at the venue (which will be open during the Spring Conference) in order to receive a voting card to participate at the AGM. Please note that as proxy forms need to be validated and processed before they can be exchanged for voting cards, BCCPAC cannot guarantee that proxy forms received after 5:00 pm on May 25, 2012 will be processed and exchanged for voting cards in time for the start of the AGM.
6. The delegate carrying your proxy should be aware of how your council wishes its vote to be cast (a Voting Instruction Form is available on the BCCPAC website). Members should be aware that new information frequently comes to light during the debate on a motion. Please be aware that by authorizing a delegate and/or authorizing the transfer of your proxy you are assigning your voting right to the individual who holds your proxy at the time of any vote. BCCPAC has no way of guaranteeing that the proxy holder will vote the way your council wishes.
7. Members who are unable to send their own PAC or DPAC delegate to the Annual General Meeting or whose voting delegate cannot be present for the entire meeting may authorize another person present to cast their vote.

#### How to Use a Proxy Form

Prior to the AGM:

- ☐ Fill out the proxy form
- ☐ Have the proxy form signed by **two members of your council's executive**.
- ☐ Mail original (keep a copy for your records), fax, or scan and email a copy of the proxy form to BCCPAC no later than May 18, 2012, at 4:30 pm. OR
- ☐ Bring the signed proxy form to the venue on May 25 or 26, 2012.

For the Annual General Meeting:

- ☐ Bring your proxy form with you
- ☐ Upon arrival, please register at the BCCPAC registration desk to receive your AGM delegate package
- ☐ Please go to the Proxy Room to register proxy form(s) (if these were not sent to the BCCPAC office in advance) and/or to pick up voting cards.

If you do not know whether your PAC or DPAC is a member in "good standing" please contact the BCCPAC office in advance of the AGM to verify.



## AUTHORIZED PROXY VOTE FORM

1. Each Regular Member in good standing, which has paid their membership fee by December 15, 2011 is entitled to vote at the 2012 Annual General Meeting (AGM). Each Regular Member must complete this form to provide details of the official delegate(s). Two member council executive signatures are required.
2. This proxy may be transferred to another person present, in the event your delegate cannot be present for the entire AGM.

If you do not wish to authorize a transfer, check here

☐

<b>For Office Use:</b>	
<b>Voting</b>	
<b>Card #:</b>	_____

In compliance with the Bylaws of the B.C. Confederation of Parent Advisory Councils, Part 4.10:

We, \_\_\_\_\_  
(Name of member PAC/DPAC) (School District #)

hereby authorize \_\_\_\_\_  
(Name of Delegate)

or \_\_\_\_\_  
(Name of Alternate Delegate - optional)

to vote on our behalf.

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Signature*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Signature*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Member Council Executive Title*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Member Council Executive Title*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Phone*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Phone*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Email address (Please print clearly)*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Email address (Please print clearly)*

<b>For Office Use:</b>	
Name of Authorized Delegate/Alternate: _____ Print name	_____ Signature
Transfer Authorization to: _____ Print name	_____ School/District PAC



*SCHOOL ACT*, RSBC 1996

**Maintenance of order**

177 (1) A person must not disturb or interrupt the proceedings of a school or an official school function.

(2) A person who is directed to leave the land or premises of a school by a principal, vice principal, director of instruction or a person authorized by the board to make that direction

- (a) must immediately leave the land and premises, and
- (b) must not enter on the land and premises again except with prior approval from the principal, vice principal, director of instruction or a person who is authorized by the board to give that approval.

(3) A person who contravenes subsection (1) or (2) commits an offence.

(4) A principal, vice principal, or director of instruction of a school or a person authorized by the board may, in order to restore order on school premises, require adequate assistance from a peace officer.

## MINISTRY OF EDUCATION BRIEFING NOTE

**PREPARED FOR:** Honourable Don McRae, Minister, for **Information** at the request of Assistant Deputy Ministry, Open Government and Community Partnerships Division

**SUBJECT:** Ministry connections with UBC's Faculty of Education via a strategic partnership in Growing Innovation in Rural Sites of Learning; and continued strategic focus on rural education.

### BACKGROUND:

#### *UBC Eleanor Rix Professorship in Rural Teacher Education*

In 2009, Dr. Donald Rix and S. 22 Laurie donated \$2.5 million to the University of British Columbia (UBC) to create a first-of-its-kind two-year professorship in rural teacher education. The Eleanor Rix Professorship in Rural Teacher Education (the Professorship) was created to examine how best to support and prepare teachers for the unique challenges presented by teaching in rural school communities. Over the past two years, the Professorship has focused its rural teacher education efforts on several fronts, including the Faculty of Education's rural satellite West Kootenay Teacher Education Program, graduate research support, creation of a New Rural Teacher Program (in-development), support for UBC Rural Education Advisory Board (for superintendents of rural school districts), as well as support for *Growing Innovation in Rural Sites of Learning* ("Growing Innovation") - a partnership involving 18 B.C. school districts and the Ministry of Education.

In spring 2011, the Ministry of Education entered into a research partnership with UBC Faculty of Education to create Growing Innovation, a provincial initiative that has been highly successful for all partners and participating school districts/schools.

The Ministry's connection to the Professorship is narrow. The relationship is this:

- Funds from both the Professorship and the Ministry were contributed to UBC's Faculty of Education to launch Growing Innovation (spring 2011).
- The start-up of Growing Innovation was dependent on the \$300K contribution agreement from the ministry to UBC Faculty of Education.
- UBC then combined the ministry's contribution with funds from the Professorship, which allowed Dr. Linda Farr-Darling, Associate Professor in the UBC Department of Curriculum & Pedagogy and appointee to the Professorship, to focus her time and coordination efforts on Growing Innovation (among other things).

## DISCUSSION:

### *Ministry Funding for Growing Innovation*

In spring 2011, UBC Faculty of Education received a one-time contribution agreement from the Ministry for \$300K in order to support Growing Innovation. This financial contribution was not intended to support the on-going operational costs of Growing Innovation, it was instead designed to ‘jump start’ innovative practice in rural school communities. The initiative has since resulted in an impressive approach for supporting rural school communities; one that involves educators, students, parents, community members, graduate students, faculty members, researchers, ministry staff, and others in working together to find innovative solutions.

Beyond the Ministry’s financial contribution, its role in this partnership was to seek emergent research findings that could support system transformation efforts (e.g., insights and implications for curriculum design, formative assessment, reporting policy, knowledge transfer, professional learning for educators, etc...). These insights are currently being shared with internal and external stakeholders to inform policy directions and system transformation efforts.

In January 2012, an additional one-time financial contribution of \$75K was awarded to UBC Faculty of Education to support the *diffusion* of Growing Innovation approaches to other rural and remote school communities. This work is resulting in the development of a diffusion learning framework. The deliverables associated with this contribution agreement (\$75K) will be available in August 2012 and include videos showcasing the results of Growing Innovation.

In June 2012, the Minister’s Office received a written request from Dr. Linda Farr Darling, requesting additional ministry funding to support Growing Innovation. Due to economic realities, the ministry has no plans to provide additional monies to UBC for Growing Innovation, particularly because the two previous contribution agreements were designed as one-time awards, and the associated deliverables have been successfully achieved.

Negative consequences resulting from this funding decision are not anticipated.

### *Continued Focus on Supporting Rural and Remote Schools*

The Ministry’s commitment to supporting rural and remote school communities remains strong. There are a number of initiatives currently underway, or in development, that support this focus. These include:

#### **Rural Education Partners Council (REPC):**

Ministry funding in support of REPC = \$25K

REPC aims include:

- To facilitate open and on-going educational decision making regarding provincial rural funding, policies, and strategies
- To provide opportunities for education partners to work collaboratively to identify challenges and opportunities in order to better serve the needs of rural learners



**Rural Education Research Partnership with Vancouver Island University (VIU):  
Increasing Literacy and Learner Confidence in Rural and Remote Schools:**

- Ministry funding in support of VIU partnership: \$200K
- During the 2012-213 school year, 11 rural/remote schools in six districts will participate in a formal research study that intensely supports professional development for educators and tracks the corresponding achievement levels of their learners (i.e., by PEN so that long-term analysis by the ministry will be possible).

**UVic-Saanich Rural Research Partnership:**

Ministry funding in support of UVIC partnership = \$0

- Saanich and other surrounding school districts are piloting innovative school-based strategies and programs
- These pilots are supported and researched by University of Victoria (UVic) faculty members and Ministry staff, who track successes and note emergent themes that support teacher education programming and system transformation efforts
- Pilot examples include a Global Solutions Institute at Claremont Secondary School, a school-based focus on team teaching and integrated curricula at Bayside Middle School, a 'Teaching School' at Reynolds (where pre-service teachers will experience teacher education classes within the context of a secondary school), and a potential Learning Commons renewal at UVic.

**UBC Rural Education Advisory**

Ministry funding in support of UBC Rural Education Advisory = \$0

- Ministry representatives will continue to attend quarterly meetings of UBC-REA during which superintendents from rural and remote districts come together to support each other with implementation strategies for rural school communities
- Example topics include Aboriginal Education, distributed learning, the development of a New Rural Teachers Program (in early discussion at UBC), and diffusion of Growing Innovation principles.

<u>Contact Information</u>  Libraries and Literacy 250.356.1083 Department File		<b>Approved by:</b>  
	<b>ADM initial</b>	<b>James Gorman Deputy Minister</b>
		<b>Date signed: Sept. 5, 2012</b>

**MINISTRY OF EDUCATION  
BRIEFING NOTE**

**PREPARED FOR:** Honourable George Abbott, Minister, for **Information** at the request of the Assistant Deputy Minister, Governance, Legislation and Regulation for July 12, 2012 meeting with representatives of the BC Retired Teachers' Association (BCRTA)

**SUBJECT:** Request for emeritus recognition for retired teachers and discussion at the next BC Teachers' Council meeting

**BACKGROUND:**

The BCRTA have requested changes to the teacher regulation policy, allowing for special emeritus recognition for retired teachers. In 2011, the BCRTA and the former BC College of Teachers (College) agreed to "educator emeritus" recognition for retired teachers that addressed the perceived loss of status of not having a teaching certificate after retirement while maintaining a cost-efficient regulatory framework. Education stakeholders supported the proposal. College bylaw and policy amendments were made to establish "emeritus" recognition in July 2011. However, because the timing – both in terms of annual certification renewal for 2011/12 and with the subsequent implementation of the *Teachers Act* - no certificate holders had emeritus status conferred.

Teachers have generally considered a teaching certificate to be similar to a post-secondary degree, conferring the status of that achievement for life. Under the previous certification system, retired or non-practicing teachers retained their certification but signed a declaration that they would no longer teach and would not use their certificate to work as a teacher. Retired teachers did not pay an annual fee to maintain certification and non-practicing teachers paid half the usual fee.

**DISCUSSION:**

Under the *Teachers Act*, certification is for employment purposes only and requires valid teaching credentials, current criminal record checks and an annual licensing fee. No special status for retired teachers is contemplated by the legislation. Retiring teachers are able to retain their certification by continuing to pay full annual certification fees. As a transition measure, a time-limited (now expired) process was put in place to allow simplified re-certification for already retired teachers. At this time, any teacher with lapsed certification is required to undergo the full certification process if they wish to re-certify for employment purposes.

Following the enactment of the *Teachers Act*, all reasonable means were used to notify retired teachers of the legislative changes and advising that they would need to upgrade their certificates by January 6, 2012, in order to remain certified. Letters and e-mails to

the last known addresses, messages to retired teachers' associations and British Columbia Teachers Federation, and advertisements in papers across British Columbia were used to inform retirees and others. In addition, in March 2012 a letter of appreciation and recognition from the Minister of Education (see attached) was sent to all retired teachers. Of the approximately 12,000 non-practicing (retired) teachers in November 2011:

- 2,300 upgraded their status to practicing;
- 7,400 took no action so their certification was cancelled by the legislation; and
- 1,300 had taken action to relinquish their certificates rather than have them cancelled.

The BCRTA has generally been opposed to this licensing approach for a number of reasons including:


- A perceived loss of status and recognition for its members;
- The cost to members of maintaining certification;
- The perceived shame of applying for criminal record checks; and
- The perceived time and effort required for retired teachers to re-certify if returning to the education workforce.

The BCRTA have recently re-introduced the proposal of special "emeritus" recognition for retired teachers (see attached) and are likely seeking support for this proposal from the Minister. Producing such a recognition certificate by the Teacher Regulation Branch would not be onerous.

The BCRTA may also like to discuss their attendance at the next BC Teachers' Council meeting to present their Emeritus proposal. All BC Teachers' Council meetings are open to the public and processes will be in place for the October 18<sup>th</sup> meeting to request an opportunity to make presentations.

Attachment 1: Minister of Education letter to Retired Teachers (February 29, 2012)

Attachment 2: BCRTA proposal for Emeritus Status (May 12, 2012)

<u>Contact Information</u>  Claire Avison Governance, Legislation and Regulation Ph: 250-356-6760		Approved by:  
	ADM initial	James Gorman Deputy Minister
		Date signed: July 20, 2012

Minister of Education's Letter to Retired Teacher

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S. 22

On behalf of the Government of British Columbia, I wish to thank you for your contribution to the education system, your profession and, most importantly, the children of this province. Your service to British Columbia students should be recognized, and it is with great respect of this service that I write you today.

Retired teachers represent some of the very best of British Columbia. You have dedicated your career to the educational advancement of the people of this province and, in doing so, have played a crucial role in building the society that we cherish today and hope for the future. For every success story in BC, there is a very clear link back to building blocks that were put in place, in large part, by teachers.

While you no longer play an active role in the classroom and have earned a well-deserved retirement, I have no doubt that you will continue to be a community leader. I am sure that your dedication to education, lifelong learning and community-building continues, and for that I again wish to offer my sincere appreciation.

---

Honourable George Abbott  
Minister of Education

s.22

## BCRTA proposal for Emeritus Status (May 12, 2012)

**What**

A card, or certificate, issued by the Ministry to a teacher upon retirement.

**Purpose**

1. To acknowledge that the person did indeed serve as an educator in BC.
2. To indicate that the teacher retired honorably—similar to an “honorable discharge” from the armed services.
3. To award an honorary status, once “practising” status is surrendered.
4. To reassure the retiree that the “certification” awarded after all those years of studying and training is not lost, but one’s information is kept on file so that a return to practising status is possible—should the person find it necessary, out of financial need or the discovery that retirement was “entered prematurely”. The card makes it clear, however, that there may be some conditions.

**Why**

1. Many teachers are proud to belong to the teaching profession and, upon retirement, would like to have some tangible confirmation that they were, indeed, a part of the teaching profession in BC.
2. Nice to have it confirmed that one did not leave “under a cloud”.
3. The Teachers’ Act makes it seem that, upon retirement, one loses one’s certification, (as in qualifications, or credentials), that one is no longer considered to belong to the teaching profession. Being awarded “emeritus” status maintains the link with the profession, without implying that one is “licensed” to teach.
4. The last lines on the card confirm that all is not lost, that it is possible to return to the school system without having to start entirely from scratch.

## **MINISTRY OF EDUCATION BRIEFING NOTE**

**PREPARED FOR:** Honourable Don McRae, Minister of Education, for **Information**

**SUBJECT:** K-12 International Education Advisory Group meeting on September 18, 2012

### **BACKGROUND:**

The governments of British Columbia and Canada are increasingly recognizing the importance of international education. Both governments have recently released strategies to increase international student enrolments.

In BC, there are approximately 13,800 K-12 international students. These students contribute approximately \$160 million in direct tuition and \$168 million in tertiary revenue. BC also certifies Offshore Schools in countries like China, Korea, Thailand, Qatar and Egypt with over 8,000 registered students. In 2011/12 offshore programs generated approximately \$2 million in revenue with 34 fully certified and 18 approved applicant schools. The program is currently being redesigned and will begin accepting applications in December 2012.

The Ministry has established a K-12 International Education Advisory Group to support the provincial and ministry international education direction, comprised of members from key school districts and relevant organizations. The first meeting of the K-12 International Education Advisory Group will take place on September 18, 2012 in Vancouver. The agenda is attached (Appendix One). In particular, the group will provide advice in support of the Province's International Education Strategy (Appendix Two) and the Ministry of Education's Strategic Framework for K-12 International Education (Appendix Three), agreed to in principle by the Minister on May 31, 2012.

The advisory group is expected to meet three times between September 2012 and June 2013. All seven of the invited members are able to attend the first meeting (Appendix Four). A general summary of the Ministry's International Education activities is attached (Appendix Five).

### **DISCUSSION:**

The purpose of the first meeting is to solicit feedback on the ministry's strategic framework.

It is proposed that the second meeting be scheduled in November 2012 to focus on changes to the BC offshore school program agreement and on finalizing implementation plans for the strategic framework including evaluation metrics. The proposed third meeting is proposed for April 2013, would review results achieved to date, further discuss performance metrics and revise plans for future action.

The first meeting's proposed agenda frames discussion around the three areas of international education activity: (i) offshore school programs, (ii) onshore programs, (iii) distributed learning for international students.

Several areas are outlined as potential concerns for members of the advisory group:

### ***Provincial International Education Strategy***

- Government will interfere and regulate the sector
- Government's targets for increased enrolment (+ 50% by 2015) may be perceived as overly ambitious.

### ***K-12 Strategic Framework***

- Focus on quality could be seen as a judgement of current practice.
- Assumptions presented in the strategic framework (Appendix Three), particularly:
  - government regulation is needed to ensure a high-quality product; and
  - international education should be limited to educational providers already running excellent programs for B.C. students.
- Ministry authority to close sub-standard offshore and onshore programs.

### ***BC's Offshore School Program***

- Educational quality may be perceived as low and detracting from the integrity of the BC educational brand.
- Offshore schools may be seen to decrease ability to recruit international students to BC.
- The Ministry's hold on acceptance of new applications for offshore schools.

### ***BC's Onshore International Education Program***

- Increased government attention and, potential regulations could be seen to "interfere" with current practice and dampen entrepreneurial aspects.
- Inclusion of homestay guidelines in strategic framework; may be viewed as out of scope.
- Unclear ministry policies and inconsistent interpretation of policies among districts and authorities, e.g. challenge and equivalency policies.
- Different interpretations of quality assurance.
- Lack of Ministry assistance for marketing.

### ***International Distributed Learning:***

- Single license through School District No. 73 (Kamloops/Thompson) may be seen to be unfair.
- Competes with recruitment of offshore and onshore bricks and mortar schools.
- Difficult to verify that students are actually doing the work themselves.

### **Attachment(s):**


Appendix One: Agenda

Appendix Two: British Columbia's International Education Strategy

Appendix Three: Ministry of Education K-12 International Education Strategic Framework

Appendix Four: Draft Terms of Reference and Members' List

Appendix Five: Summary of Ministry of Education K-12 International Education

<b>Contact Information</b>  International Education Branch Tel: 250-356-6760 File: 280-20		<b>Approved by:</b> 
	<b>ADM initial</b>	<b>James Gorman Deputy Minister</b>
		<b>Date signed: Sept. 12, 2012</b>

## MINISTRY OF EDUCATION BRIEFING NOTE

**PREPARED FOR:** Honourable George Abbott, Minister; for Decision, at the request of Governance, Legislation and Regulation Division.

**SUBJECT:** Mandate and Composition of K-12 Provincial International Education Advisory Group

### BACKGROUND:

The Ministry of Education's International Education Strategic Framework and Plan, approved in principle by the Minister on May 31, 2012, includes the direction to develop a provincial advisory group. The advisory group would provide advice and assist with the implementation of the strategic plan. This note presents options for this work.

The strategic framework identifies three settings for the delivery of B.C. international education programs that are of interest to the Ministry:

- (i) offshore schools;
- (ii) onshore programs; and
- (iii) distributed learning (DL).

Historically, the Ministry has not had an active role in onshore international education activity and international DL is still in a pilot stage. Early indications are that the sector welcomes the Ministry's more active engagement in this field, however, it is also concerned about possible intrusion in this area which has been largely unregulated to date.

The framework includes six areas of activity for the Ministry:

- (i) legislative/policy
- (ii) high level oversight (includes evaluation)
- (iii) funding
- (iv) quality assurance
- (v) information
- (vi) consultation

### DISCUSSION:

There are a range of international education organizations active in British Columbia and in Canada. *Appendix One* (attached) describes these organizations in more detail.

Four sets of decisions will shape the form and composition of the advisory group:

- level of "formality";
- level or strategic importance of participants;
- mandate; and
- representation and balance.



Formality

Options range from an informal *ad hoc* advisory group to a formal group, having public-facing, transparent operating procedures.

Participants

Options range from subject matter experts to key sector leaders.

Mandate

Options include: time-limited or ongoing duration; advice-only or specified decision-making authority; and a scope that is limited to specified aspects of the strategic plan or open to all aspects.

Representation

Dynamics to be considered include number of public and independent school districts and authorities; groups with expertise and or large, existing programs balanced against groups that wish to grow expertise or expand operations; rural and urban; and expertise in onshore, offshore and distance learning.

**OPTIONS: (Presented as Decision Matrices)**

S. 13

**Composition Options:**

S. 13

Date Drafted: June 8, 2012  
Revision No.:



3

CLIFF No: 159955

**LINKS TO OTHER MINISTRIES:***Ministry of Advanced Education**Ministry of Jobs Tourism and Innovation***RECOMMENDATION:**

Option 3

Attachment: Appendix One: International Education Representative and Sectoral Organizations

<u>Contact Information</u> Claire Avison A/ADM Governance, Legislation and Regulation Ph: 250-356-6760		AGREE / Disagree: 	Agree / Disagree: 
ADM Initial		James Gorman Deputy Minister	Honourable George Abbott Minister
		Date signed: June 20, 2012	Date signed: July 17/12

Appendix One:  
International Education Representative and Sector Organizations

*Provincial-level organizations*

**BCCIE (British Columbia Council for International Education)**

BCCIE is committed to advancing BC's international education interests and leads the successful development, promotion and maturation of international education in British Columbia. Through consultation and liaison with the provincial government, the direction of the Board, and broad engagement with the diversity of sectors representing international education, BCCIE supports four key strategic goals: Leadership, Market Support, Communication and Service for members and Internationalization. The provincial government has representation on BCCIE's board of directors through the Ministries of Education and Advanced Education.

**IPSEA (International Public School Education Association)**

IPSEA is an association of BC public school districts that host international students. IPSEA currently has 42 BC school districts as members. Membership numbers fluctuate slightly annually. IPSEA members meet regularly to discuss best practice. The association's core values are to recognize the value of international students getting a Canadian education in BC, promote collaboration on standard and ethical recruiting and marketing practices, and support member-school districts in their pursuit of excellent programming. IPSEA members are required to provide proof of programming standards, e.g. accepted admission procedures, published rules and expectations for international students, and homestay programs that includes placement and supervision of students.

**IOLA (International Online Learning Association of British Columbia)**

IOLA is a relatively new organization and represents 4 school districts (School districts Numbers 34, 37, 73, and 91), and one independent school (Heritage Christian). Iola's vision is to provide high quality opportunities for early to adult learning in the international market according to principles of 21st Century and Personalized Learning. The group's purposes are to

- ensure online content and services provided to international students meet British Columbia DL Quality Standards through periodic accreditation of courses and instructional services;
- liaise with organizations and agencies involved in international education including, but not limited to, the Ministry of Education, BC Council for International Education, and the International Public School Education Association;
- represent and communicate on behalf of members of the association;
- support recruitment of international students to study in BC secondary and post-secondary institutions;
- take the BC education experience to students in other countries.

### *National-level organizations*

#### *CAPS-I (The Canadian Association of Public Schools International)*

CAPS-I is a national association of 87 Canadian public school districts providing education programs to international students. CAPS-I has 31 BC school districts as members. CAPS-I is based out of Ottawa. CAPS-I advocates for and promotes international education programs in Canadian public schools. CAPS-I's website presents information for international students, parents and partner agencies on opportunities to study in public schools throughout Canada.

#### *CBIE (Canadian Bureau for International Education)*

CBIE is a national organization, made up mostly of post-secondary members. There are 22 BC member organizations. The only school district represented is Maple Ridge (SD #42). Due to CBIE's lack of BC K-12 membership, CBIE has not been recommended for membership in the advisory group.

CBIE was established in 1966 and is based in Ottawa. CBIE promotes Canada's international relations through international education. CBIE's activities comprise scholarship management, civil society and public sector reform, research and information services, advocacy, training programs, professional development for international educators and other services for members and learners. CBIE claims to be the only major national organization covering the spectrum of Canadian education, from K-12 to postgraduate, public and private sectors.

#### *CMEC (Council of Minister of Education, Canada)*

CMEC provides national leadership and a strong voice for education in Canada into the international sphere. CMEC's greatest area of influence on BC K-12 international education comes from acting as the portal for Provinces and education organizations to access Canada's International Education brand, Imagine Education au/In Canada. CMEC also annually coordinates Canada's participation in International Education Week which takes place each November.

**MINISTRY OF EDUCATION  
BRIEFING NOTE**

**PREPARED FOR:** Honourable George Abbott, Minister, for **Decision** at the request of the Assistant Deputy Minister, Governance, Legislation and Regulation

**SUBJECT:** Request for reconsideration of BC offshore school application for New Westminster Canadian Academy in Korea

**BACKGROUND:**

The Deputy Minister of Education and Assistant Deputy Minister, Governance, Legislation and Regulation met with New Westminster School District Business Company (NWSDBC) officials on July 12, 2012 to discuss the application they submitted on April 18th to operate a BC certified offshore school in Korea. The NWSDBC was informed on May 15th that the Ministry's application processes and procedures were under review and that there would be a response to this application within 30 days.

Following direction provided by the Minister on May 31, 2012, eight applicants (including NWSDBC) were informed that the BC offshore school program would launch new application processes and certification criteria in December 2012 and that no applications would be considered at this time. In a letter to the minister dated June 14, 2012 Brent Atkinson, NWSDBC CEO, requested the Westminster Canadian Academy application be given special consideration given the past track record of the Canadian Secondary Wenzhou No. 22 School, of which NWSDBC is the service provider.


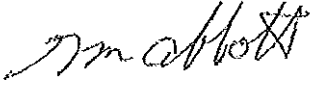
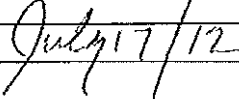
S. 13

S. 14

The short term break in accepting new applications and the development of new processes and certification criteria have been recommended to address a number of concerns. The following work is underway:

- Updating program requirements;
- Putting quality assurance mechanisms in place;
- Developing a complaint resolution process;
- Updating the annual inspection processes; and
- Ensuring teachers working in BC offshore schools are appropriately licensed and regulated.

S. 13

<u>Contact Information</u>		AGREE / Disagree:	Agree / Disagree:
Governance, Legislation and Regulation Div Tel: 250-356-6760 File: 280-20			
	ADM initial	James Gorman Deputy Minister	Honourable George Abbott Minister
		Date signed: July 17, 2012	Date signed: 



## **MINISTRY OF EDUCATION BRIEFING NOTE**

**PREPARED FOR:** Honourable Don McRae, Minister, for **Information** at the request of the Superintendent of Liaison Division, for an upcoming meeting with BC Confederation of Parent Advisory Councils (BCCPAC)

**SUBJECT:** Introductory Meeting with BCCPAC

### **BACKGROUND:**

BCCPAC is a charitable organization registered under the Society Act of BC and its mission is to be the collective voice of parents for the best possible public education of all children in British Columbia. BCCPAC is a key education partner representing parents at various provincial tables. BCCPAC supports parents through provincial representation, advocacy, parent resources and education initiatives.

### **DISCUSSION:**

#### **Internal Organization**

BCCPAC represents a membership of Parent Advisory Councils and District Parent Advisory Councils from every school district in the province. BCCPAC is governed by a volunteer board of up to nine directors elected annually by the membership, supported and assisted by staff and volunteers. The current executive is represented by: Terry Berting, SD41 (President), John Puddifoot, SD39 (First Vice-President), Nicole Mkohoniuk, SD22 (Second Vice-President), Susan Wilson, SD8 (Treasurer), Wendy Harris, SD40 (Secretary), Angie Carlyle, SD69 (Director), Ayesha Haider, SD41 (Director), Bonnie Krisher, SD 71 (Director), Liz Therres, SD23 (Director), Ann Whiteaker, SD61 (Past President).

#### **Funding**

BCCPAC has worked diligently in the past year to reduce costs associated with running the organization. Historically BCCPAC received three annual grants from government – 1) \$317K operating grant 2) \$150K achievement grant and 3) \$150K advocacy project grant. The operating and achievement grants were discontinued in 2008 and the advocacy project grant discontinued in 2009. BCCPAC now receives a \$100K annual operating grant. The BCCPAC Executive has expressed the hope that their infrastructure/operational grant might be restored, in whole or in part, in the future. The BCCPAC Executive remains concerned that their organization must rely on volunteers who receive no compensation for travel, meeting hours, etc. when other partner groups are typically compensated for the participation in similar activities.

#### **Parent Engagement**

BCCPAC is seeking increased opportunities for parent engagement, especially concerning public policy development. Ministry staff meet regularly with BCCPAC and are working closely with the Board to facilitate opportunities to get parent perspectives on policy initiatives.

#### **Foundation Skills Assessment (FSA)**

At its May 2012 AGM, BCCPAC reaffirmed two past resolutions regarding FSA data. BCCPAC is seeking customized item-level FSA reports for all categories of students and cohort data for School Planning Councils (SPCs). The rationale for this request is that SPC members require this data to evaluate trends in teaching excellence, challenges within the system and best practices so they can ensure areas requiring supports may be sustained and best practices can be identified and shared.


FSA school results are available on the Ministry's web site and the Ministry recently entered into an agreement with Edudata Canada to provide a suite of item-level response reports to schools and school districts, free of charge. Edudata Canada is an independent research organization in the Faculty of Education at the University of British Columbia. For the most recent three years, the item-level reports include the following student categories: All students, Male, Female, All Non-Aboriginal, Male Non-Aboriginal, Female Non-Aboriginal, All Aboriginal, Male Aboriginal, and Female Aboriginal. Other item-level reports are also available dated from 2001 on Edudata's website.

### **Changes to Section 177 of the School Act**

BCCPAC passed a resolution at its May 2012 AGM that Section 177 of the School Act be amended *to include a process which requires reporting of any such offence to police or other authority, confirmation from that authority that the maintenance order is appropriate, and include an expiration of maintenance orders as well as an appeal process for any maintenance orders issued.*

Section 177 of the School Act permits authorizes principals and other school administrators to direct individuals to leave school property and to call for assistance from a peace officer if necessary. Persons directed to leave school property may not return without the prior approval of the principal or other administrator. Section 177 does not make any reference to maintenance orders. This provision is included in the Act for the protection of students and staff, and to support the maintenance of order on school premises. A parent who is concerned that he or she has been inappropriately excluded from school premises may wish to contact the district superintendent or board of education. In addition, a parent who feels that a decision under this section significantly affects the education, health or safety of his/her child, may initiate an appeal of the decision under section 11 of the School Act.

It would be a matter of serious concern to the Ministry if section 177 was being systematically misused, or if normal chains of accountability and appeal in districts were ineffective in addressing any issues that did arise. However, to date the ministry has no evidence that this is the case. As such, no legislative change is contemplated at this time.

<u>Contact Information</u>  Department Name Department Phone # Department File		<b>Approved by:</b>  
	<b>ADM initial</b>	<b>James Gorman Deputy Minister</b>
		<b>Date signed: Sept. 11, 2012</b>

**MINISTRY OF EDUCATION  
BRIEFING NOTE**

**PREPARED FOR:** Honourable George Abbott, Minister, for **Decision**, at the request of the **Business, Technology and Online Services Division** for approval of publication

**SUBJECT:** 2012-2013 Handbook of Procedures for the Graduation Program

**BACKGROUND:**

The Graduation Program Order – [www.bced.gov.bc.ca/legislation/schoollaw/e/m302-04.pdf](http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/legislation/schoollaw/e/m302-04.pdf) – states that the Minister approves the *Handbook of Procedures for the Graduation Program* (the Handbook).

The Handbook is created and maintained by the Ministry of Education for the use of public and independent secondary school administrators and educators working with students enrolled in the provincial graduation program. It sets out procedures for the graduation requirements, guides the reader in administering the graduation program and provincial examinations, and provides instructions on sharing student data between schools and the Ministry of Education.

The Handbook is updated annually and must be published by late August to help schools with the start of the new school year.

**DISCUSSION:**

Upon approval, the Handbook will be distributed to secondary schools throughout the province and made available through the Ministry of Education's website prior to the start of the 2012/13 school year.

The current updates to the Handbook include minor administrative edits to clarify language regarding policy and procedures.

Other than changes to the Provincial Awards Program, there are no significant procedural changes to communicate. The revisions to the Provincial Awards Program are articulated in the Handbook in the Important Notes section at the beginning of the Handbook and Chapter Six: Provincial Awards Program.

Finally, the Ministry is continuing to reduce the number of Handbook copies that are printed and transported to secondary schools. One to two complimentary printed copies will be sent to each school this fall. This reduction will result in a print run of approximately 1,000 copies compared to 2,750 copies printed in 2011. The Handbook is currently available online as a searchable PDF document.

## RECOMMENDATION:

Approve the 2012/13 *Handbook of Procedures for the Graduation Program* in accordance with the following timeline.

### Publications' Timeline

The publication is needed in secondary schools' administration offices by late August 2012. To reach this goal, the timeline is as follows:

- Final draft will be completed and ready for the printers by August 10, 2012.
- Printing will be completed by August 17, 2012.

Attachment (1) *Handbook of Procedures for the Graduation Program, 2012-2013*

<u>Contact Information</u>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agree / Disagree: Keith Miller for	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agree / Disagree:
Business, Technology & Online Services Division Student Certification Branch Phone: 886-4844	ADM initial	James Gorman Deputy Minister	Honourable George Abbott Minister
		Date signed: August 1, 2012	Date signed: August 7, 2012

## Minister of Education Approval

### Handbook of Procedures for the Graduation Program

I hereby approve the course materials in the attached *Handbook of Procedures for the Graduation Program* for the 2012/2013 school year that sets out the graduation requirements for the British Columbia school system.



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Date

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Minister of Education

*[Faint, illegible handwritten text]*

## MINISTRY OF EDUCATION BRIEFING NOTE

**PREPARED FOR:** Honourable George Abbott, Minister, for **Decision**, at the request of Assistant Deputy Minister, Business, Technology & Online Services for Provincial Awards Program Revision

**SUBJECT:** Provincial Awards Program Revision

### BACKGROUND:

The BC Provincial Awards Program was established in 1987/88 and includes Passport to Education, the Dogwood District/Authority Award and the Provincial Exam Scholarship. The Program's goal is to award student achievement, motivate high school students to graduate and encourage them to pursue further education through post-secondary and job-training programs.

The chart below shows the three awards components and their relative dollar value currently administered by the Ministry of Education (MEd). \$17.6 million in total is allocated annually by the Ministry of Advanced Education (AVED) for the Provincial Awards Program. Approximately 27,000 students receive one or more of the three awards annually. The value of these awards varies between \$250 and \$1000. Redemption rates for Passport are at about 80 percent while District and Exam Scholarships are between 90 and 95 percent. Historically, this fund has been underspent.

Program	#Awards	\$Amount	Total \$
Provincial Examinations Scholarships	5000	\$1000	\$5,000,000
Provincial Examinations Scholarships Top 20 winners	20	\$2500	\$50,000
Dogwood District/Authority Awards	3000	\$1000	\$3,000,000
Passport to Education Program - Grade 10 stamps	9025	\$250	\$2,256,250
Passport to Education Program - Grade 11 stamps	9025	\$250	\$2,256,250
Passport to Education Program - Grade 12 stamps	9025	\$500	\$4,512,500
<b>Total Projection</b>			<b>\$17,075,000</b>

The greatest variability is with the Provincial Exam Scholarship, which is based on achievement of specific criteria as opposed to the other two awards components, which are allocated to school districts based on FTE student count. Prior to the introduction of optional exams in 2004, generally about 5,000 students qualified for the Provincial Exam Scholarship; over the years, fewer students wrote optional exams. This eventually resulted in only about 2,500 exam scholarships being awarded in June 2011. As a result, the Provincial Awards Program budget was consistently underspent.

In August, 2011, optional exams were cancelled. At the time, the Provincial Exam Scholarship Program criteria were based on students' performance on optional exams. As a result of the cancellation of optional exams, the Provincial Exam Scholarship Program underwent revision. It was decided to base the criteria on results of the required provincial exams (Grade 10 Science, Math, and English Language Arts; Grade 11 Social Studies and Grade 12 English Language Arts).

Since the Provincial Awards Program has been in place for 25 years, there is an opportunity to review the program and better align it with personalized learning.

## **DISCUSSION:**

After communicating the new criteria to the field, a review determined that a mistake had occurred. The new criteria will result in the number of Provincial Exam Scholarship winners being as high as or higher than 10,500, which in turn, will lead to approximately \$1.4 million dollar pressure in the 2012/13 fiscal year.

Feedback from the change in criteria has been varied. Some teachers have expressed concern regarding inclusion of grade 10 exam results and the implications it might have for young students, particularly boys. Teachers, parents and students have also indicated that the new criteria lowers the standard. Many have also found the new criteria confusing.

Going forward, the Provincial Awards Program needs to be modified to ensure that the award allocation does not exceed the \$17.6 million envelope for the 2013/14 fiscal. Decisions regarding and implementation of these changes must occur this summer and be communicated to the field by September 1, 2012 as modifications to the criteria impact students entering grade 12 this fall. Students who qualify will receive their awards after graduation in June 2013.

In January 2012, ministry staff consulted with senior staff in five school districts. It was unanimously agreed that the student awards program should be revised to better align with personalized learning. They also agreed that this could be achieved by diverting more or all of the scholarship funding envelope to the Dogwood District/Authority Award component of the Provincial Awards Program. There is a sense that there is a disproportionate emphasis on awarding excellence on provincial exams to the exclusion of recognizing other forms of excellence.

There was also a desire to further personalize the award by adding additional categories such as Trades and Training to the already existing ones (Fine Arts, Applied Skills, Physical Activity, Second Languages).

This fall there is an opportunity to consult more broadly as stakeholder conversations regarding the new Graduation Program is occurring. It is an opportune time to align the scholarship conversation with this process to verify results from the focus group. The shift to a more personalized district award could take place gradually over three years and reflect the conversations occurring through the engagement process for the graduation program this fall.



Assuming that the recommendations of the focus group are supported through this broader consultation, a likely direction will be to divert most (if not all) of the funding envelope to the districts to disperse based on a set of guiding principles outlined by MEd. These principles might include (1) excellence in such categories as Science & Math, Humanities, Trades, and Fine Arts, (2) Community Service and (3) Equity and Need.

The benefits of such a district-based model include local decision making based on demographics of the school district and FTE based funding allotments.

Below are two options to manage the budget pressure for 2013/14 and stay aligned with the phasing in of a new Provincial Awards Program.

### OPTIONS:

Both options are viewed as a starting point towards eventual redefining of the Provincial Awards Program. Both of these options position MEd to further develop the Provincial Awards Program to best fit within a personalized learning model. These revised criteria are considered interim policy.

#### Option 1:

As an interim policy, place a cap of 7,500 on the Provincial Exam Awards component. The Dogwood District/Authority Awards and Passport to Education would remain unchanged. Provincial Exam Scholarships would be awarded based on overall performance on the provincial exams.

Current Year			2012/13 School Year; 2013/14 Fiscal Year		
Policy Implemented 2011/12	2012-2013 # awards	2012-2013 spend*	Policy Implemented 2012/13	2013-2014 # awards	2013-2014 spend**
Provincial Exam Scholarships	10,500	\$8,925,000	Provincial Exam Scholarships	7,500	\$6,750,000
Provincial Exam Scholarships - Top 20	20	50,000	Provincial Exam Scholarships - Top 20	20	50,000
District/Authority Awards	3,000	2,850,000	District/Authority Awards	3,000	2,850,000
Grade 10 Passport	9,025	1,805,000	Grade 10 Passport	9,025	1,805,000
Grade 11 Passport	9,025	1,805,000	Grade 11 Passport	9,025	1,805,000
Grade 12 Passport	9,025	3,610,000	Grade 12 Passport	9,025	3,610,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>40,595</b>	<b>\$19,045,000</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>37,595</b>	<b>\$16,870,000</b>

\*spend is based on forecasted redemption rates (80% for passport; 85% for exams; 95% for district)

\*\*spend is based on forecasted redemption rates (80% for passport; 90% for exams; 95% for district)

## Implications:

- Many awards programs are capped so this is not unusual;
- Will eliminate the variable spend that occurs as a result of basing the number of awards on specific criteria;
- Ensures stability of numbers from year to year;
- Will spend close to the budget envelope;
- 3,000 overall fewer awards;
- Will eliminate the complexity introduced with the 2011/12 changes; and,
- Will address concerns regarding an erosion of standards.

## Option 2:

As an interim policy, place a cap of 5,000 on the provincial exams component and divert \$2.5 million dollars of the exam scholarship funds to the District Awards Program. This provides for a more balanced emphasis between the Exam Scholarship Program and the District Scholarship Program. In addition, by capping the number of provincial exam winners at 5,000, the two programs would be more balanced with 5,500 awards for the district award component.

In addition, to provide more inclusive recognition of academic excellence on all facets of BC's education programs, add a Technical and Trades Training and a Community Service category to the existing components – Fine Arts, Applied Skills, Physical Activity, and Second Languages.

Current Year			2012/13 School Year; 2013/14 Fiscal Year		
Policy implemented 2011/12	2012-2013 # awards	2012-2013 spend*	Policy implemented 2012/13	2013-2014 # awards	2013-2014 spend**
Provincial Exam Scholarships	10,500	\$8,925,000	Provincial Exam Scholarships	5,000	\$4,500,000
Provincial Exam Scholarships - Top 20	20	50,000	Provincial Exam Scholarships - Top 20	20	50,000
District/Authority Awards	3,000	2,850,000	District/Authority Awards	5,500	5,225,000
Grade 10 Passport	9,025	1,805,000	Grade 10 Passport	9,025	1,805,000
Grade 11 Passport	9,025	1,805,000	Grade 11 Passport	9,025	1,805,000
Grade 12 Passport	9,025	3,610,000	Grade 12 Passport	9,025	3,610,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>40,595</b>	<b>\$19,045,000</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>37,595</b>	<b>\$16,995,000</b>

\*spend is based on forecasted redemption rates (80% for passport; 85% for exams; 95% for district)

\*\*spend is based on forecasted redemption rates (80% for passport; 90% for exams; 95% for district)

***Dogwood District/Authority Awards (revised 2012/13)***

The Dogwood District/Authority Awards Program rewards graduating BC students for excellence in their chosen non-academic field(s). To be eligible, students must meet the criteria determined by the local District Scholarship Committee, which requires a student to demonstrate superior achievement in any of the following areas:

- **Community Service (Volunteer Activities)**
- **Technical and Trades Training (e.g. Carpentry, Automotive Mechanics, Cook Training)**
- Fine Arts (Visual Arts, Dance, Drama, Music)
- Applied Skills (Business Ed, Technology Ed, Home Economics)
- Physical Activity (not limited to Physical Education)
- Second Languages (including Aboriginal Languages) with IRPs or External Assessments, including AP and IB courses

**Implications:**

- Is a first step towards a new provincial awards program to better support personalized learning.
- Provides for a more balanced emphasis between the Exam Scholarship Program and the District Scholarship Program.
- Provides more inclusive recognition of academic excellence on all facets of education programs by adding a Technical and Trades Training and a Community Service category to the existing components – Fine Arts, Applied Skills, Physical Activity, and Second Languages.
- By capping the number of provincial exam winners at 5,000 (plus the top 20 \$2500 winners), the two programs would be more balanced with 5,500 awards for the district award component many awards programs are capped so this is typical.
- Ensures stability of numbers from year to year.
- Will spend close to the budget envelope.
- 3,000 overall fewer awards.
- Will eliminate the complexity introduced with the 2011/12 changes.

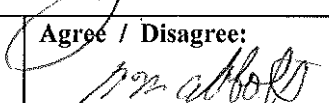
**LINKS TO OTHER MINISTRIES:**

Ministry of Advanced Education

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Option 2

Attachment 1 – Provincial Awards and Scholarship Criteria

<u>Contact Information</u>  Brenda Neufeld Director, Student Certification Branch Cell: 250-216-7168	Renate Butterfield	Agree / Disagree: Keith Miller for	Agree / Disagree: 
	ADM initial	James Gorman Deputy Minister	Honourable George Abbott Minister
		Date signed: July 26	Date signed: Aug. 2/12

Date: July 26, 2012

5

CLIFF No: 160971 [Final]

## **Attachment 1: Provincial Awards and Scholarship Criteria**

To qualify for an award, students:

- must be a Canadian citizen or permanent resident (landed immigrant) at the time of writing the provincial exams;
- must be a BC resident; and,
- must be or must have been enrolled in, or registered as a home schooled student in:
  - a BC public school (including Distributed Learning schools), or
  - a Group 1, 2, or 4 BC Independent School
  - a Continuing Education Centre

### **Graduation Program Examinations Scholarships**

A student who meets the basic criteria will qualify if he or she:

- fulfills the BC graduation requirements of either the 2004 Grad Program or the Adult Graduation Program; and,
- meets the following requirements:
  - a. writes and passes one exam in each of the five (5) provincial exam categories from grades 10 – 12.
  - b. achieves at least a “B” (73% or above) final mark (provincial exam and school mark combined) in one of the Language Arts 12 (Communications 12, English 12, Français langue première 12, or English 12 First Peoples).
  - c. must have a final course mark (course and exam combined) for the exam to be counted towards scholarship.
  - d. ranks among the top 5000 scholarship students in BC (based on their percentage score).

### **Passport to Education Program**

MEd sets guidelines and criteria for Passport to Education stamps. Schools set their own specific criteria on the non-academic component following the general guidelines.

- for Grades 10 and 11, criteria are based on two-thirds academic achievement and one-third non-academic achievement such as work habits, citizenship and community involvement. A student does not have to have graduated to receive a stamp for Grade 10 or 11;
- for Grade 12, criteria are based on two thirds academic achievement and one-third Graduation Transition standards, recognizing effort, work habits, etc. To receive a Grade 12 stamp a student should have graduated.

### **Dogwood District/Authority Awards**

The Dogwood District/Authority Awards Program rewards graduating BC students for excellence in their chosen non-academic field(s).

To be eligible, students must meet the criteria determined by the local District Scholarship Committee, which requires a student to demonstrate superior achievement in any of the following areas:

- Fine Arts (Visual Arts, Dance, Drama, Music).
- Applied Skills (Business Ed, Technology Ed, Home Economics).
- Physical Activity (not limited to Physical Education).
- Second Languages (including Aboriginal Languages) with IRPs or External Assessments, including AP and IB courses.
- Community Service (Volunteer Activities).
- Technical and Trades Training (Carpentry, Automotive Mechanics, Cook Training).

**MINISTRY OF EDUCATION  
BRIEFING NOTE**

**PREPARED FOR:** Honourable George Abbott, Minister, for **Decision**, at the request of Assistant Deputy Minister, Business, Technology & Online Services Division

**SUBJECT:** Pathway to Teacher Training Scholarship

**BACKGROUND:**

The BC Provincial Awards Program was established in 1987/88 and includes Passport to Education, the Dogwood District/Authority Award and the Provincial Exam Scholarship. The Program's goals are to award student achievement, motivate high school students to graduate and encourage them to pursue further education through post-secondary and job-training programs.

\$17.6 million is allocated annually by the Ministry of Advanced Education for the Provincial Awards Program. Approximately 27,000 students receive one or more of the three awards annually. The value of these awards varies between \$250 and \$1000.

Revisions to the Provincial Awards Program for the 2012/13 school year include increasing the number of District/Authority awards from 3,000 to 5,500, and capping the Provincial Examination Scholarship at 5,000 (\$1000) winners.

These changes signal a move toward more district-based personalized learning awards and are based on conversations that have taken place in Spring, 2012 regarding awarding student excellence and personalized learning. This fall, the Ministry of Education (MEd) will consult more broadly on the Provincial Awards Program as stakeholder conversations occur regarding the new Graduation Program.

In addition to the BC Provincial Awards Program, MEd also partners with the Industry Training Authority to administer the Secondary School Apprenticeship Scholarship. In the 2011/12 school year, 325 (\$1000) awards were received by students.

**DISCUSSION:**

An additional scholarship is being proposed that recognizes exceptional grade 12 students who are planning to enter the field of teaching. This \$5000 Pathway to Teacher Training Scholarship would be awarded to the top 20 outstanding graduating students intending to enter a BC Faculty of Education Program.

This scholarship supports MEd's Education Plan and furthers the goal of quality teaching and learning by identifying and rewarding exceptional future teachers helping to ensure they obtain the necessary knowledge and skills to support student learning.

A committee comprising representatives from the BC Teachers' Federation, BC School Superintendents Association, and BC Principals' and Vice Principals' Association would be formed to establish criteria for this annual award.

An application process would be established and winners of the scholarship would be awarded a \$5000 voucher to redeem upon entrance to one of BC's nine Faculty of Education Programs.

The first cohort of students to receive this scholarship will graduate in the 2012/13 school year. This scholarship would be funded as part of the \$17.6 million Provincial Awards Program.

## **OPTIONS:**

### **Option 1:**

Implement a Pathway to Teacher Training Scholarship

#### **Implications:**

- \$100,000 financial impact to the Provincial Awards Program fund.
- Supports the Education Plan goal of quality teaching and learning.
- Most students do not enter a teacher training program until after they have earned a first degree – there could be as much as a four-year lapse before redemption of the voucher.
- Students will self-identify their intent to become teachers, which leads to the possibility that students who are awarded the voucher may choose not to enter a teacher training program.
- High-achieving students not intending to enter a teacher-training program may feel disenfranchised by not receiving an award designated for their intended field of study.
- Could be seen as limiting opportunities for education partners to participate in a full consultation regarding the future of the Provincial Awards Program (planned for this fall).

### **Option 2:**

Do not implement a Pathway to Teacher Training Scholarship

#### **Implications:**

- Leaves scholarship funds unspent.
- Would represent a lost opportunity for government to signal its intent to invest in the future of BC's teachers and students.
- Provides education partners with more opportunity to shape the future of the Provincial Awards Program.

**Option 3:**

Postpone implementation of a Pathway to Teacher Training Scholarship until broader conversations on the Provincial Awards Program occur this fall.

**Implications:**

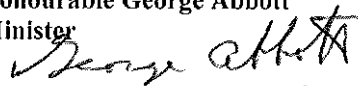
- Would not be able to establish the scholarship for the 2012/13 cohort of graduates.
- Would miss the opportunity to publicly commit to quality teaching and learning through a scholarship.
- Could seek input and expertise from the field regarding good practices for implementing a teacher training award.
- Would avoid the risk of sending mixed signals about how much consultation the Ministry is seeking prior to decision-making.
- The Minister could still announce government's intent to consult about the award

**LINKS TO OTHER MINISTRIES:**

Ministry of Advanced Education

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Option 1

<u>Contact Information</u>  Brenda Neufeld, Director, Student Certification Branch 250-216-7168	RButterfield	<u>Agree</u> / Disagree: Keith Miller for	<u>Agree</u> / Disagree:
	ADM initial	James Gorman Deputy Minister	Honourable George Abbott Minister 
		Date signed: July 31, 2012	Date signed: Aug 2 / 12 