



## **BC CONFEDERATION OF PARENT ADVISORY COUNCILS**

Suite 202, 1545 West 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Vancouver, BC V6J 1T5  
Tel: 604-687-4433 Fax: 604-687-4488 Email: [info@bccpac.bc.ca](mailto:info@bccpac.bc.ca)

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### **Parent Leaders Work for Positive Change at BCCPAC's Spring Conference and Annual General Meeting**

Parents attending BCCPAC's Spring Conference and Annual General Meeting this weekend endorsed strong parent leadership as key to positive change in BC's public education system.

Parent delegates representing school and district parent advisory councils from all parts of the province met in Burnaby to learn from experts about creating and sustaining learning communities in which parents play an essential role.

"Parents are keenly aware that quick-fix solutions driven by personal or group agendas will not lead to an improved education system," said BCCPAC President Kim Howland. "Only through thoughtful dialogue and positive action will we achieve the best for all students. We have strong parent leaders among us who are more than capable of meeting the challenge, and do on a daily basis."

Minister of Education Shirley Bond spoke to delegates about proposed changes to the School Act prompted by the work of the Learning Roundtable on issues including class size and composition and services to students with special needs. She spoke of challenging the tyranny of the status quo while at the same time recognizing the excellent education our students receive in the vast majority of classrooms.

Delegates elected a new volunteer board of nine directors and approved resolutions to improve safety in schools, services for students, and education funding. Resolutions included:

- Avoiding language in legislation or contracts that would limit the number of students in classrooms based on designations or labels.
- Expanding the definition of "school district employee" to avoid conflict of interest in trustee elections.
- Designating Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder as a recognized, funded special education category.
- Requiring comprehensive criminal record checks of everyone employed in a public school every three years and upon transferring between school districts.
- Avoiding any reduction in local autonomy of school boards.
- Replacing all toxic products used in schools with safe products.
- Changing gaming regulations to allow PACs to apply for capital grants to replace playgrounds.
- Granting voting rights to District Parents Advisory Councils in BCCPAC proceedings.

**For more information, please contact  
Kim Howland, President  
BC Confederation of Parent Advisory Councils  
Tel. 604-687-4433 Fax 604-687-4488  
Email: [info@bccpac.bc.ca](mailto:info@bccpac.bc.ca)**