



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

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### **BC College of Teachers' Dialogue on Standards for the Education, Competence and Professional Conduct of Educators in BC April 7 - 8, 2006 Summary**

Parent leaders were invited to a two-day session on the BC College of Teachers' *Standards for the Education, Competence and Professional Conduct of Educators in BC*, along with 110 other members of our education community. There was representation from:

- BCCPAC (BC Confederation of Parent Advisory Councils)
- BCPVPA (BC Principals' and Vice-Principals' Association)
- BCTF (BC Teachers' Federation)
- BCSTA (BC School Trustees' Association)
- BCSSA (BC School Superintendents' Association)
- FNSA (First Nations Schools Association)
- Ministry of Education
- Independent Schools
- ABCDE (Association of BC Deans of Education)

On the first day, each parent representative attended four sessions, discussing four different standards. These discussions were very educational; we had the opportunity to represent parents and let the College know that the standards should be retained with some clarification and amendment.

The theme for the sessions from the BCTF was that the standards were created through a flawed process and therefore the procedure planned for the two days should be scrapped and we should start over from scratch. The BCTF also wanted many of the standards and most of the criteria deleted as they felt the criteria would be used as a checklist for discipline.

There were many conversations about changing the word *Standards* to *Guiding Principles*. Parents came away with the knowledge that a set of criteria for each standard is important for accountability and clarity. The criteria bring the standards to life and articulate to the public the knowledge and skill that professional educators require. On the whole, most education partners were open and shared honestly their thoughts, concerns, and ideas.

The second day was quite an experience as it took place at the Morris J. Wosk Centre for Dialogue, a setup similar to the United Nations. We were assigned our seats, and all education partners were mixed up throughout the room. We had an opportunity to look at each of the standards, hear comments recorded from the previous day's sessions, and then discuss additional comments that we wanted to see added. All education partners were given the opportunity to add comments before others could share additional comments. This ensured that all groups had a chance to speak. At the beginning of this session, we were shown the difference between debate and dialogue. Although difficult at times to stay on course, this allowed for a more comfortable exchange of ideas.

Some of the comments that gave us concern and were repeatedly stated were:

- a) The belief that the Teaching Profession Act covers everything and there is no need to have standards that restate the items in the Act.
- b) The belief that the BCTF has created a Code of Ethics which governs them as professionals so that standards are not necessary.
- c) The number of times it was implied or stated that parents had no right to participate in this type of conversation regarding the development and approval of standards.

Some statements that were confirmed for parents:

- a) Standards are necessary to keep educators accountable to both parents and the public.
- b) Standards must remain student-focused.
- c) The word *Educators* means more than teachers.

We hope this will be the first of many opportunities to discuss the BC College of Teachers and the standards. Parent representatives came to this session prepared and informed. There were many comments from partner groups on how well parents were speaking about the standards. BCCPAC has many knowledgeable parents to use as a resource for the next session like this. These resource people should make sure future participants are knowledgeable about BCCPAC's submissions and resolutions as well as comments from this session. Parents will be able to continue reminding all education partners that we are here for the children, and parents will always be involved to make sure our children are safe and kept at the centre of all decisions.

Representatives:

Kim Howland  
Allison Flater  
Cheryl McCann  
Claude Hrycaiko  
Linda Reimer  
Dana Arthurs  
Brian Joe  
Janet Phillips  
Cathy Abraham  
Franci Stratton