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NEWS RELEASE

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Ministry of Housing and Social Development

\$11 MILLION IN GAMING GRANTS BENEFIT PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

VICTORIA - More than 1,400 B.C. parent advisory councils (PACs) will share \$11 million in community gaming grants this school year to support activities for children, said Rich Coleman, Housing and Social Development Minister and Margaret MacDiarmid, Minister of Education.

"To recognize the value of parents' involvement in their children's education, this year we have doubled the grant to \$20 for every student enrolled in B.C.," Coleman said.

"Parents are key partners in the education system, and do great work in support of students and educators," MacDiarmid said. "I know they will make excellent use of the resources that are available to them."

Activities that gaming grants support include school drama and chess clubs, writing, debating and music competitions, and student societies, as well as student travel in B.C. Newsletters, yearbooks, playground and sports equipment, awards, trophies, scholarships and bursaries are also funded through these grants.

Funding is also provided to district parent advisory councils (DPACs) to build relationships and promote effective communication among schools, parents, students and the community. Eligible uses for this funding are educational and promotional materials, as well as administration and travel to DPAC meetings. DPACs are composed of members from each PAC in a district. DPACs receive grants of \$2,500 every year, while PAC grants are based on the respective schools' student enrolment and are paid annually at \$20 per student.

Funding for PACs is part of \$120 million budgeted for gaming grants this year - \$7.4 million more than last year.

For a complete list of PACs and DPACs receiving community grants, and other information on the gaming industry, please visit:

www.hsd.gov.bc.ca/gaming/reports/docs/grants-cgg-pac-dpac-2010-11.pdf

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