

Our Vision: *To improve public education for all students by including and supporting parents*

Important Information on Changes to the Member Resolutions Policy

Changes have been made to the Member Resolutions Policy that may affect a resolution your PAC or DPAC is planning to submit at the 2008 BCCPAC Annual General Meeting. Please check the document Important Information on Changes to BCCPAC Member Resolutions Policy and the Member Resolutions Policy (Interim) on the Resolutions page. The Resolutions Form has also been changed to reflect these changes.

<http://www.bccpac.bc.ca/resolutions.aspx>

Member Resolutions Deadline Extended to January 31, 2008

The deadline for submission of Resolutions for the 2008 AGM has been extended from the previously published date of January 15, 2008 to January 31st, 2008. The reason for this extension is to provide members with the time needed to review the amended policy regarding their Resolutions.

New BCCPAC Website Launched

The new, redesigned BCCPAC website has been launched. The new website includes a comprehensive search engine, an events calendar and a members' only section. By the end of the week BCCPAC will be sending out an email to each of our members with a username and password so they can use the members' only section.

www.bccpac.bc.ca

Ministry of Education Announces Playground Grant Recipients

The Ministry of Education has announced those PACs that will be receiving money for BCCPAC playground grants. The recipients were drawn by lottery. Out of a total 633 grant applications received by BCCPAC – requesting more than \$11 million in grant monies – 66 schools will receive grants of up to \$20,000.

To see if your PAC was successful click this link:

http://www2.news.gov.bc.ca/news_releases_2005-2009/2008EDU0010-000054-Attachment1.htm or

To see the news release “\$1 Million for Playgrounds Helps Keep Children Active” click this link:

http://www2.news.gov.bc.ca/news_releases_2005-2009/2008EDU0010-000054.htm

President Interviewed by Global National TV News

BCCPAC President Kim Howland was interviewed by Global National TV News for a story on the dangers of 15 passenger vans being used for school transportation. She reiterated the position of BCCPAC policy 2001.4, that school boards in BC make safety their priority when implementing school transportation policies. The news story aired Tuesday, January 15, 2008. You can view the story by visiting the Global website. <http://www.canada.com/globaltv/national/video/index.html>

New Criminal Record Review Process for Educators

In December, the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General informed the Ministry of Education of changes to the criminal record review process for educators and those who work with children in British Columbia. In a letter, from Deputy Solicitor General David Morhart to Deputy Minister of Education Emery Dosdall, the changes were outlined. These include the fact that as of January 1, 2008 education institutions will be required to ensure every registered student who will work with children undergoes a criminal record check. All individuals will be required to undergo a re-check of their criminal record every 5 years.

http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/edinfo/topics/memorandum_criminal_records07.pdf

For further information contact the Criminal Record Review Program

<http://www.pssg.gov.bc.ca/criminal-records-review/program-information/contact.htm>

Sustainable Resources 11 and 12 Drafts Require Public Input

The Ministry of Education is seeking input on a draft version of the new Sustainable Resources 11 and 12 IRP. Input should be submitted prior to February 12, 2008. Use the response form provided.

<http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/irp/drafts/>

BC Fruit and Vegetable Snack Program Applications Available

Applications for those PACs who would like their schools to participate in the BC Fruit and Vegetable Snack Program (starting September, 2008) are now posted on the BC Agriculture in the Classroom Foundation website. Participating schools receive fresh BC fruit and vegetables every two weeks throughout the school year. The application form explains the role of the volunteers.

http://www.aitec.ca/bc/snacks/media/Final%20application%20form%202008_oct.pdf

New Television Program to Address Education Issues

The Faculty of Education at Simon Fraser University is launching a new television program, *Your Education Matters*. The new program, which will go to air on January 21, 2008 at 6:30 p.m. on Shaw TV Channel 4, is produced by the Faculty of Education and, according to the news release: "will be the only television program in BC dedicated to addressing education issues beyond the headlines." For more information visit the Your Education Matters website.

www.youreducationmatters.ca

Explorations Summer Camp Program Funding Available

2010 Legacies Now and the Ministry of Education have announced that the Explorations summer camp program will be available in 2008 to fund summer camps in all school districts across the province. Explorations camps focus on children who may not otherwise have the chance to participate in summer arts and sports programs. The deadline for application is February 15, 2008. New guidelines and the application form are available on the 2010 Legacies Now website.

www.2010legaciesnow.com/explorations/.

Museum Seeks Videos from Students and Parents

The Royal BC Museum is seeking videos and written pieces from parents and/or students, about an interesting person in their community, for the People's History section of the Royal BC Museum's new exhibit: *Free Spirit: Stories of You, Me and BC*. Certain entries will be selected to be part of the official

physical exhibit opening on March 19th, 2008. All entries will be part of the virtual online exhibit.
www.freespiritbc.com.

NewsBytes is a regular e-mail communication sent to BCCPAC members to highlight items of interest. Others may also subscribe to NewsBytes. Contact BCCPAC at 604-687-4433, e-mail info@bccpac.bc.ca. Feel free to share this communication with others.