

NewsBytes

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New Secretary and Director Elected

The results of the BCCPAC by-election, held Friday November 14 are now in. Fiona Delcourt was elected Secretary and Ida Middleton received enough votes to be acclaimed as Director. None of the candidates for First Vice-President received the 50% +1 votes required to be elected, so the Board of Directors will appoint a First Vice-President, from among the candidates, at the next Board meeting. For the complete election results see below.

 [By-election results](#)

BCCPAC Fall Conference a Major Success

The BCCPAC Fall Conference attracted many delegates from all parts of BC, ranging from rural school districts, such as Nechako Lakes and Gold Trail, to Victoria and Langley. Minister of Education Shirley Bond addressed the Conference on Saturday morning and outlined the importance of parent involvement in education to government. She illustrated how parent involvement has a positive effect on students at many levels.

The keynote speaker, Neil Smith's, presentation on team building was developed especially for PACs and DPACs. James Gorman, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Education provided clear insight into the government budgeting process. Steve Dotto was engaging and entertaining while warning parents about how technology was "a double-edged" sword. He took questions throughout his presentation.

Susan Kennedy outlined how the best time for children to be exposed to certain skills, such as music, is before they begin kindergarten. She also sought the input of delegates regarding the government's potential early childhood learning initiatives.

Delegates sent BCCPAC many congratulatory e-mails and 98% of those surveyed said they would recommend a conference to another parent.

The Virtual School Society, that sponsored Steve Dotto's presentation, provided a free CyberSafe DVD to each delegate to assist them in keeping their children safe when using the internet. The videos can also be downloaded from the internet at the Virtual School Society web site below.

www.learnnowbc.ca/lncresources/cybersafe/default.aspx

School Trustee Election Results

The BC School Trustee Association began listing the school trustees who were elected in each school district on the afternoon of Monday November 17. See the hyperlink below to search by school district or candidate name. The website will be updated regularly so keep checking back if the results you seek are not immediately available.

www.bcsta.org/electionsHome/candidateProfiles

Make a Nomination for the Premier's Awards for Teaching Excellence

The Premier's Awards for Teaching Excellence recognize outstanding B.C. teachers who have made exceptional contributions to benefit their school and improve student achievement. Nominations are welcome from all B.C. citizens including students, parents, teachers, administrators, trustees and community organizations. See hyperlink below. Nominations close November 21st www.bced.gov.bc.ca/teacherawards/

Let's Play Grants Make Play Space Accessible

Let's Play, a joint initiative of the Rick Hansen Foundation and the Province of British Columbia, has just launched a second round of funding for groups interested in creating or enhancing an accessible play space in their community. The project is offering grants for projects that improve accessibility for children and caregivers with mobility-related disabilities. This grant focuses on accommodating children up to the age of six. The deadline for applications is Friday, January 23, 2009. Successful applicants will be announced in March 2009 and the grants will be distributed in May 2009. For complete details see hyperlink below.

http://www.rickhansen.com/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=186&Itemid=1000039&media=brochure&program=letsplay

School Community Connections Grants Fund Local Projects

The School Community Connections (SCC) program has announced a second intake for its strengthening the connection grants. The program funds smaller-scale, local projects that address shared school/community priorities supported by both a board of education and local government. Projects may include early learning, physical activity, and healthy eating initiatives, or other projects that strengthen community connections. This program is an entirely new School Community Connections program. Unlike past SCC funding, boards will not be required to find matching funds for projects. The deadline for the second intake will be the end of **February, 2009**. Visit the SCC website for information; more details will be available in December.

<http://www.schoolconnections.ca/>

New Grants Available for Grade 12 Students and Schools

The BC Innovation Council is granting scholarships to grade 12 students considering a career in B.C.'s advanced technology industries. Called the Young Innovator Scholarship, it offers a minimum of \$2,000 to each student and up to \$750 support for participating secondary schools. More information is available at the website below.

<http://www.bctic.ca/students/schools-k-12/scholarships-awards/bcic-young-innovator>

New Education Guidelines for Children in Care

On October 23 the ministries of Children and Family Development and Education launched *Joint Education Planning and Support for Children and Youth in Care: Cross-Ministry Guidelines*. These are intended to provide assistance to educators, child welfare workers, families and caregivers in responding to significant transitions or periods of stress for children and youth in care, to help the child or youth experience greater success in school.

http://www2.news.gov.bc.ca/news_releases_2005-2009/2008CFD0049-001608.htm

BC Green Games Providing Prizes for Schools

The Ministry of Education and Science World British Columbia have launched the BC Green Games. Students who take part in the BC Green Games have a chance to win prize money for their school (\$50,000 will be awarded in total). Students from kindergarten to Grade 12 are invited to start or continue environmental action projects. Solar BC will also be awarding solar power systems to three of the winning schools. Projects can be done by a class, club or the whole school. The registration deadline is the end of November.

www.bcgreengames.ca/

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