

NewsBytes

Volume 9, issue 6 December 16, 2008

BCCPAC Issues News Release Regarding FSA Tests

On Dec. 12 BCCPAC sent a news release to all major media and community newspapers outlining BCCPAC support for the Foundation Skills Assessment tests and concern regarding the BC Teachers' Federation position on administering these. BC teachers are required by law to administer these tests, but 85% of the BCTF members voting in a survey have indicated they are willing to boycott the test. The release appeared on December 12th in Janet Steffenhagen's *Vancouver Sun* blog, "Report Card" and was printed in a story "Teachers object to Fraser Institute's use of test results to provide school rankings," in the *Vancouver Sun*, December 13. President Ron Broda later wrote another comment to the blog. The BC School Superintendents Association also sent out a news release saying they would administer the FSA in accordance with the law

Read [BCCPAC news release](#)

Follow the story in [Janet Steffenhagen's blog](#)

[More information on the FSA tests](#) is available on the BCCPAC website

New Student Appeals Brochure Available

The Ministry of Education has provided a new brochure: Parent/Student Appeals—What are they and why should you care about them. The brochure is available on the [BCCPAC website](#). Go to Resources and then MoE publications.

Performance Results and Completion Rates for BC Students

The latest data on B.C. student achievement, including results from the 2007/08 provincial exams, show that performance results remain consistent with past years. Final pass rates for courses with required provincial exams ranged from 92 to 99 per cent, which is consistent with the results from previous years. Last year (2006/07) saw a record completion rate of 80 per cent overall and 48 per cent for Aboriginal students. Completion rates declined slightly this year to 79 per cent and 47 per cent, respectively. Prior to last year's increase, overall rates had been holding steady at 79 per cent for four consecutive years.

http://www2.news.gov.bc.ca/news_releases_2005-2009/2008EDUC0160-001865.htm

Video Contest Promotes Positive Attitudes towards Beauty and Body Shape

The Jessie's Hope Society, which seeks to promote positive body image by fostering resiliency in youth within communities and across cultures throughout British Columbia, is holding a video contest via YouTube. There are two age groups: 13 – 17 and 18 – 25. First place prize in each category is \$750; second prize is \$200. Prizes are also given for the top entry in the under 15 age group and for the video that receives the most online views. For details see the YouTube

site below or go to the [Jessie's Hope website](#) and click on the video contest graphic. The deadline for submissions is January 20, 2009.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ow-vTH1a9Gg>

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.