

NewsBytes

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Reviewing and Reconfirming BCCPAC Purposes

One of the recommendations of the BCCPAC Governance Audit was that members provide input into a review of the BCCPAC purposes as outlined in the BCCPAC Constitution. This will be done via a series of meetings in different parts of the province. Members are encouraged to attend the meeting nearest their community. Please let BCCPAC staff know if you plan to attend so that they can plan for a large enough venue and refreshments.

To register for one of the meetings see the [registration form](#) on the website.

Saturday, January 24: Qualicum (Parksville)

This will be held from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Beach Club Resort, 181 Beachside Drive, Parksville www.beachclubbc.com phone 1-888-760-2008. Lunch will be served

Saturday, February 7: Fraser Valley, Chilliwack (Abbotsford)

Saturday, February 28: Okanagan

Saturday, March 28: Prince George

Saturday, April 18: Cranbrook

Thursday, April 30: Richmond (AGM)

For a better understanding of the issues regarding the purposes see page six of the [Annotated Constitution and Bylaws](#) and the [Governance Audit](#) (members only section)

President Interviewed on Christy Clark Show

BCCPAC President Ron Broda was interviewed on January 14 at 12.35 p.m. on CKNW by Christy Clark, a former minister of education. The subject was the value of the Foundation Skills Assessment tests. You can listen to the interview by going to the CKNW audio vault and entering the date and time provided in the form. See link below.

<http://www.cknw.com/StationShared/AudioVault.aspx>

January 31 Deadline for AGM Member Resolutions

If your PAC or DPAC is planning to make a resolution at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) that involves a change to BCCPAC's Constitution or Bylaws, or advocates a change to the BC public education system, you must complete the resolution form (below) and send the completed form to the BCCPAC office so it is received by 11:59 on January 31, 2009. You are encouraged to get the resolution in as soon as possible so the AGM Resolutions Acceptance Committee has time to consider it carefully. For more information see the Member Resolutions Policy below. For more information on the AGM see the events page of the website: http://www.bccpac.bc.ca/index/event_calendar.aspx?cid=11

[Member Resolutions form](#)

[Member Resolutions Policy Interim January 21, 2008](#)

Volunteers Needed for AGM

The BCCPAC Annual General Meeting is the opportunity for members to hear from the BCCPAC Board of Directors about all the work that has been done on their behalf during the past year. It is also an opportunity for members to provide their advice to the Board on initiatives that they would like the Board to undertake to fulfill BCCPAC's vision. For the AGM to run smoothly, volunteers are needed for the Nominations Committee, AGM Resolutions Acceptance Committee, AGM Resolutions Appeals Committee and the 2009 AGM Minutes Approval Committee. This is a wonderful opportunity to learn more about the democratic workings of a registered society and to support the parent voice in BC. For more information see the descriptions below. If you wish to volunteer please fill out the volunteer form and [fax or mail it to the BCCPAC office](#)

[Volunteer role descriptions](#)

[Volunteer Form](#)

BCSTA Informs Trustees of FSA Obligations

In response to the media stories regarding the BC Teachers' Federation boycott of the Foundation Skills Assessment tests (FSAs), the BC School Trustees Association issued a letter and backgrounder to its members outlining the requirements for school administrators to implement the FSAs. The BC Public School Employers Association (BCPSEA) also issued a statement and fact sheet. Both of these documents are below.

[BCSTA FSA Backgrounder](#)

[BC Public School Employers Assn. statement](#)

Ministry Outlines Grants to School Districts

In a news release sent out Dec. 18, the Ministry of Education states, "no district will receive less funding in the 2008-09 operating grant allocation than they did last year, despite continuing declining enrollment. Fifty-five of the 60 school districts are receiving increases to their operating grants and five remain at last year's levels." The release goes on to say that boards of education will receive \$4.467 billion in operating grants for this school year and that the operating grants include \$12.8 million in funding for summer learning programs that occurred during the summer of 2008. As a result of a court challenge, an amendment to the School Act last year, requires school districts not charge for any learning leading to graduation, including summer learning. The boards of education were caught short as they had not budgeted for this extra expense. The government is also providing \$3.5 million annually to help attract and retain teachers in remote communities.

http://www2.news.gov.bc.ca/news_releases_2005-2009/2008EDUC0167-001919.htm

Guidelines for Promoting Health in Schools

The second version of *Guidelines for Promoting Health in Schools* is now available for downloading from the Directorate of Agencies for School Health (DASH) website. The *Guidelines* were produced through a process of discussion and consultation with health and educational professionals from around the world.

http://www.dashbc.org/upload/HPS_Guidelines_2008.pdf

Manual of School Law

The most recent release of the Manual of School Law has been distributed to school districts and educational partners. The electronic version of the manual is available at the hyperlink below.

<http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/legislation/schoollaw/>

Child and Youth Suicide Review

The Child Death Review Unit of the BC Coroners Service has released a report on child and youth suicide. The report looks at the deaths of the 81 children and youth who died by suicide in B.C. between January 1, 2003, and December 31, 2007. The full report is accompanied by a companion document that summarizes the findings. [*Child and Youth Suicide in B.C.: A Summary of a Five-Year Retrospective Review.*](#)

[*"Looking for Something to Look Forward To...": A Five-Year Retrospective Review of Child and Youth Suicide in B.C.*](#)

Provincial Eating Disorders Awareness Week February 1-7

Provincial Eating Disorder Awareness Week is a province-wide collective effort of volunteers, eating disorder professionals, health care providers, counselors, educators, social workers, and individuals committed to raising awareness. Their goal is the prevention, early intervention and treatment of eating disorders. They hope to build resiliency, healthy body image and self-esteem. Learn about the community events you can learn from by visiting the PEDAW page below. You may want to print out the poster to display at your school.

<http://www.jessieshope.org/26.html>

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