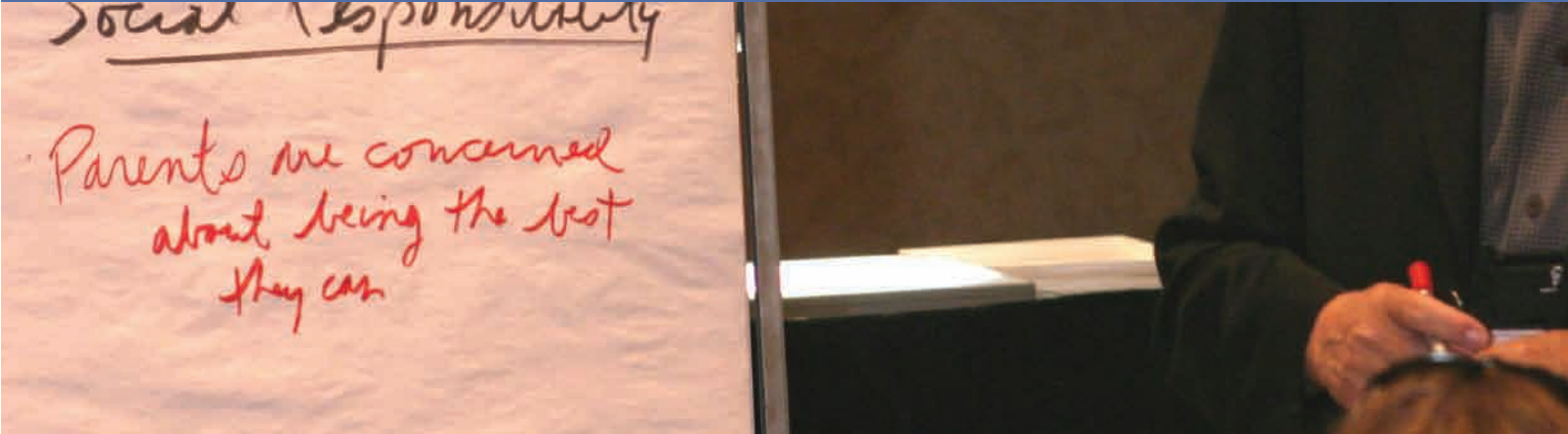


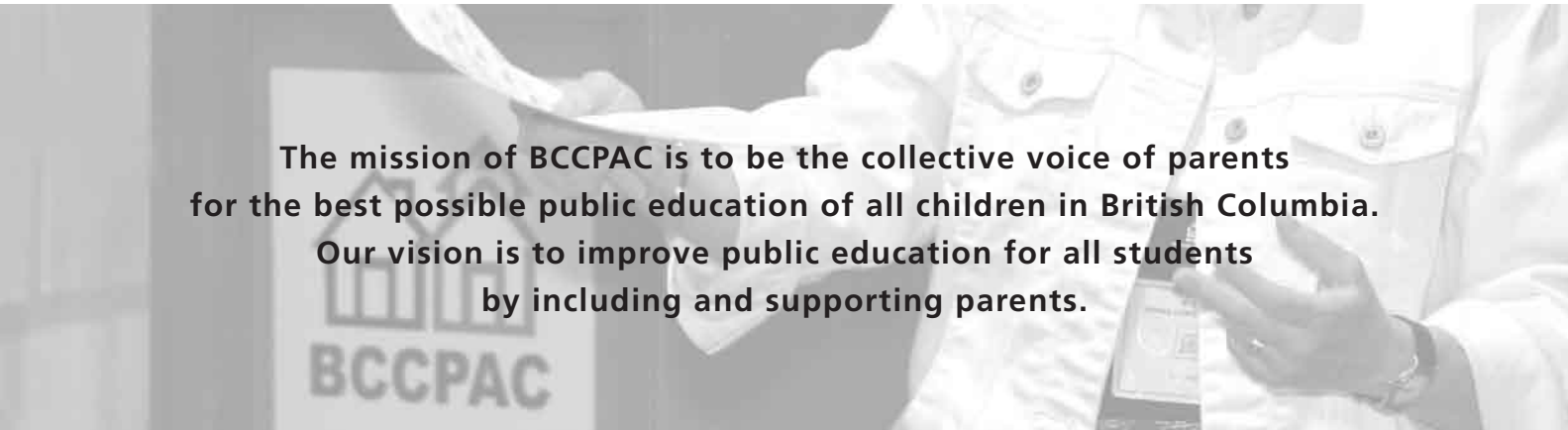
BRITISH COLUMBIA CONFEDERATION OF PARENT ADVISORY COUNCILS

2005 ANNUAL REPORT



Our voice in education





**The mission of BCCPAC is to be the collective voice of parents
for the best possible public education of all children in British Columbia.
Our vision is to improve public education for all students
by including and supporting parents.**



BRITISH COLUMBIA CONFEDERATION OF PARENT ADVISORY COUNCILS

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Letter from the President



Kimberlee Howland

As I complete my first year as President of BCCPAC, I am amazed by the remarkable year that we have seen as an organization: a year of changes, a year of accomplishments, and a year of identifying opportunities for growth. It has been a year of exploring *our voice in education*.

During the first three months of 2005, your BCCPAC Board of Directors drafted a Vision Plan that was accepted by the membership at the Annual General Meeting in May. In June of 2005, your newly elected Board of Directors embarked on an important journey to implement the 2005-2008 Vision Plan.

The Vision Plan was a significant achievement for BCCPAC as it defined and focused the work of the organization over the next three years. Within the framework of *Support and Partnership*, the Vision Plan focused on two primary initiatives: to develop and enhance strategies to support parents, PACs, DPACs and BCCPAC through Education, Diversity, Advocacy, Sustainability and Communication; and to expand our ability to affect change through diverse internal partnerships.

It has been tremendously exciting and rewarding to see the work of the organization evolve through the framework of the Vision Plan. This work can be seen in numerous initiatives from both board and non-board members. Among these initiatives are: ensuring that the parent voice is heard and understood at the Provincial Learning Roundtable; research, recommendations and implementation of a new, streamlined process for processing resolutions that our members support at our Annual General Meeting; raising BCCPAC's profile through communication avenues including the media; and building stronger relationships with our provincial educational partners—the principals, teachers, superintendents, trustees and the Ministry of Education. A considerable commitment has been made to work closely with our educational partners as we know that through these relationships, there is an important opportunity to create systematic and positive change for students in British Columbia.

As we grow as an organization and we set our sights on new achievements for the future, we must always be reminded that the long-standing relationship between parent involvement and student achievement cannot be ignored or discounted. Parents' involvement and dedication to the education system extends far beyond their individual child, it enhances entire school communities. I want to take this opportunity to thank all parent volunteers for the time that they have dedicated, their commitment and their determination to accept nothing less than the best for every child in this province.

Eleanor Roosevelt once wrote, "It is today we must create the world for the future." Nothing could be closer to the truth as we, as parent leaders, recognize the power of our leadership within public education and the monumental impact that it has on our future, our children.

2005-2006 BCCPAC Board of Directors

Kimberlee Howland
President

Allison Flater
First Vice-President

Lori Tedrick
Second Vice-President

Debbie Desroches-Fulton
Secretary

David Fowler
Treasurer

Ron Broda
Director

Margaret Lipke
Director

Arnie Kidner
Director

Terri-Lynne Huddleston
Director

Terri Watson
Past President

2004-2005 BCCPAC Board of Directors

Terri Watson
President

Glenda Bilinsky
First Vice-President

Allison Flater
Second Vice-President

Kimberlee Howland
Secretary

Lori Tedrick
Director

Arnie Kidner
Director

Suzanne Psota
Director

Terri-Lynne Huddleston
Director

BCCPAC Staff

Sharyl Samodien
General Manager

Daniel Lau
Accountant

Colleen Sondermann
Media Relations, Communications & Events Coordinator

Colin Porteous
Coordinator, Information Systems & Technology

Francesca Foschi Mitchell
Office Administrator

Financial Report

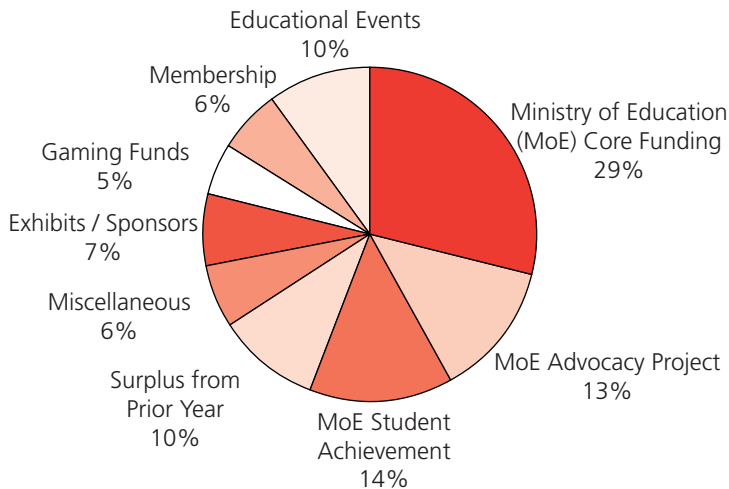
BCCPAC continues to be a financially viable and responsible organization. In 2005, BCCPAC balanced their income and expenses. Income was \$1,011,927; including surplus from the prior year of \$98,144. Expenses totaled \$974,366; leaving a slight surplus of \$34,956 from operations.

It has been my pleasure to once again serve with the hard working and dedicated BCCPAC organization.

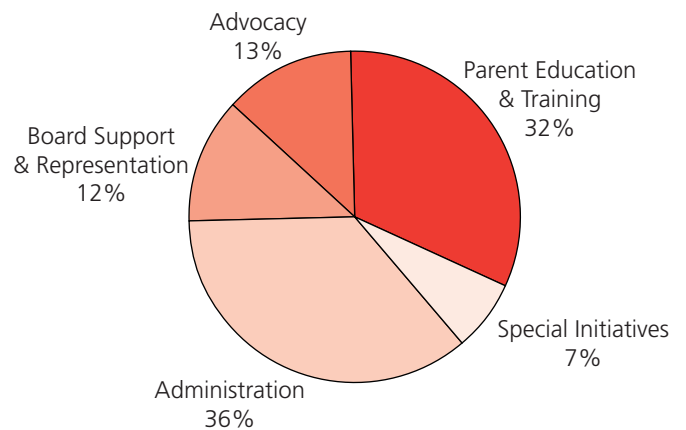
The following two charts show how income was received and spent in 2005.

David Fowler
Treasurer

BCCPAC 2005 Sources of Income
\$1,011,927



BCCPAC 2005 Application of Funds
\$974,366



Our Thanks

BCCPAC extends our sincere thanks to our sponsors; WorkSafeBC, Insurance Corporation of BC and the BC Dairy Foundation for their continued support of our conferences. It is due in part to their generous donations, that we are able to keep the conference registration fee at a reasonable rate. We also recognize the many exhibitors that participate and add to the culture and educational value of these events.

Thank you to the many parent volunteers who offered their time to participate on external committees and focus groups and who have assisted us at our conferences and regional events.

We also gratefully acknowledge the financial support of the Province of British Columbia through the Ministry of Education.

A Year of Growth: A Year of Progress

Reflecting on the work of BCCPAC's Internal Committees

BCCPAC's Internal Committees pursued multiple initiatives to meet the needs of the membership and the overall objectives identified in the 2005–2008 Vision Plan.

The Strategic Development Committee is comprised of all members of the BCCPAC Board of Directors. The committee is responsible for overseeing the fruition of the 2005–2008 Vision Plan, in addition to promoting and advocating for the completion of member resolutions. The committee's role is to lead in reviewing and addressing emergent issues that may arise in the education system that could affect BCCPAC and the members.

Recognizing the importance of connecting directly with members, BCCPAC's Strategic Development Committee developed resources such as a board presentation to deliver to members and they established goals of visiting PACs and DPACs throughout the province. It was recommended by the committee that two Adhoc Committees be established and that they be comprised largely of non-board members. In October of 2005, an Adhoc Leadership School Committee was formed to examine specific training for DPAC Chairs in order to help support them as parent leaders and to promote and enhance genuine parent involvement in their individual districts. Their report led to BCCPAC submitting a funding proposal for a Parent Leadership School for District Parent Leaders. The school will be designed to provide parent education and stimulate leadership within the districts, thus stemming to all district school PACs.

In addition to the Leadership School Committee, the Adhoc Resolution Committee was created to address the concerns of members that have experienced challenges with the resolution process. Both committees presented information and recommendations to explore options in supporting our members, identifying ways to refine our resolution processes, and improving the overall educational opportunities for parents within the organization.

Other initiatives and consequent achievements of the internal committees included the creation of a new Member Support system, allowing members to access direct support from experienced BCCPAC staff. Acting on the recommendations of an internal communications audit, monthly conference calls between DPAC Chairs and education partner groups were implemented and a member list serve was created. In order to better educate and connect with our members, BCCPAC's communication resources were reviewed. Both the BCCPAC newsletter ImpACT and electronic newsletter NewsBytes were updated to better meet the needs and interests of the membership. The importance of building BCCPAC's media profile was identified and pursued, resulting in a significant increase in media interviews and a provincial press conference.

Your Board of Directors have worked diligently to carry out the established purposes of the internal committees and to ensure the effective operation of organization.

2005–2006 Internal Committees

- Strategic Development Committee
- Communications Committee
- Member Support Committee
- Organizational Operations Committee
- Viability & Marketing Committee

BCCPAC's Advocacy Project



Janet Phillips



Cathy Bedard

From its earliest days, the goal of BCCPAC's Advocacy Project has been to promote fair, impartial, consistent, and effective resolution to the problems of students in our public schools. With that aim in mind, BCCPAC advocates Janet Phillips and Cathy Bedard responded to 3317 requests for assistance in 2005 from individual parents and district parent advisory council (DPAC) groups province-wide. They also participated in 22 advocacy-related workshops, meetings and presentations.

Phillips and Bedard are the voices on the other end of BCCPAC's toll-free advocacy help line. When a parent looks for help with issues such as inappropriate treatment of their child by staff, concerns with their child's education program, or bullying, the pair provides information, analysis, encouragement and, most importantly, the opportunity for parents to tell their story in a safe, confidential environment.

"Parents need help to organize and state their case in a way that enables the system to hear them," say Phillips and Bedard.

The Advocacy Project grew out of a local DPAC project in Qualicum and was funded provincially 12 years ago. In 2005, the project had 44 participating DPACs. The project's work last year showed a growing number of staff within the school system recognize the value of the BCCPAC Advocacy Project.

Issues such as ineffective classroom management, school safety and special education services continue to frustrate parents. Parents who face issues express ongoing concern about the lack of accountability at the school, district and provincial levels.

BCCPAC has updated the *Speaking Up!* handbook which has proven to be a well-received, user friendly resource for parents. The Advocacy Project is one more way that BCCPAC demonstrates its commitment to speak up on behalf of parents and keep students at the focus of our education system.

BCCPAC is committed to promoting effective resolution of parent/student issues by providing support to their PAC and DPAC members as well as to individual students and parents in need. The BCCPAC Advocacy Project works to equip parents, PACs and DPACs with the skills that they need to help resolve issues and stand up for themselves.

For their part, Phillips and Bedard say their ongoing advocacy work for BCCPAC is a rewarding and inspiring experience. "It is an honour to be here for parents."

PAC Ed: Education & Development Workshop Series Highlighting a valuable resource for PACs/DPACs



When Fiona Delcourt, Fraser Cascade DPAC Chair, was identifying ways to engage PACs and educational leaders within her school community, she considered BCCPAC's PAC Ed Workshop Series as both an effective and affordable option. The workshop that Delcourt's DPAC selected was: *We've Got to Start Meeting Like This*. The session focused on making meetings effective—from purpose, participants, chairing, and agenda development to getting the work done while respecting the needs and diversity of the PAC/DPAC membership.

In addition to engaging parents, the workshop also provided an excellent forum to host trustees, teachers, principals, a district principal and assistant-superintendent to engage in dialogue with parent leaders and learn about parent-led initiatives.

"When our PAC Ed. facilitator asked participants to record their PAC's projects on chart paper in a breakout exercise and post them up for everyone to read, it was amazing to see what other parents were doing in their schools," said Delcourt. "I think that it was good for our partner groups to see and understand this."

Margaret Morris, Past-Chair of Sunshine Coast DPAC, also took advantage of the PAC Ed. workshop, *Building the Ideal PAC/DPAC* as a valuable resource for her DPAC and PACs in her community.

"Our facilitator was excellent and brought a wealth of experience" said Morris. "She offered practical suggestions, not just theory-based information."

The Sunshine Coast DPAC hosted the workshop exclusively for PAC Executives to learn more about representation and inclusion, serving your members, Constitution and Bylaws and accountability.

"The facilitator engaged us in many concepts including the idea that parent involvement is not just about who shows up to meetings, a challenge for most PACs, but who is involved in the overall functions of the school community."

PAC Ed. workshops are offered to PACs and DPACs throughout BC. Workshop sessions are 2 – 2 ½ hours long and cover topics ranging from School Planning Councils to Creating Safer Schools to PAC & DPAC finances. To learn more about the PAC Ed. Workshop Series contact the BCCPAC office or visit www.bccpac.bc.ca/events/pac_ed.htm.



2005 BCCPAC AWARDS & RECIPIENTS

GEORGE MATTHEWS AWARD

Carla Peace

CITY: Fort Nelson SCHOOL DISTRICT: SD#81, Fort Nelson

BEV HOSKER MOTIVATIONAL AWARD

Paula Neglia

CITY: Slocan SCHOOL DISTRICT: SD#08, Kootenay Lake

BCCPAC EDUCATIONAL AWARD

Madison Connor

CITY: Powell River SCHOOL: Brooks Secondary SCHOOL DISTRICT: SD#47, Powell River



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