

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

New Rules Make It Easier to Get Voting Cards at AGM

The new rules for submitting proxies by mail or fax will mean PAC/DPAC delegates spend less time lining up at the Credentials Desk at the AGM. Members must still pick up their voting cards at the Credentials Desk, but those PACs or DPACs who have already submitted their proxies by mail or fax to the BCCPAC office, will find their voting cards waiting for them when they arrive. Proxy forms only are to be sent to the BCCPAC office **no later than Friday, April 17, 2009 at 4:30 p.m.** Do not send voting instructions to the BCCPAC office. That information is for your delegate. In order to vote in the election each PAC or DPAC must send a delegate to the AGM. For details refer to page 20 of the 2009 Resolutions Booklet:

http://www.bccpac.bc.ca/UserFiles/file/2009_AGM_Spring_Conference/2009ResolutionBooklet-FINA-Revised.pdf The proxy form is on page 23 of this booklet.

Prince George Governance Audit Member Input Session

The Governance Audit Member Input Session for Prince George will be held March 28 at the Van Bien Training and Development Centre, 311 Wilson Crescent, Prince George, BC. Lunch will be served free of charge. This is the chance for BCCPAC members in the north to have their input into the Constitutional purposes of the organization. The input given will inform the future of BCCPAC. For details:

http://www.bccpac.bc.ca/index/governance_audit/purposeschedule.aspx

Candidates for 2009 - 2011 Board of Directors

Four positions on the Board of Directors will be filled at the upcoming Annual General Meeting, May 2nd and 3rd. These are 1st Vice President, Treasurer and two Directors positions.

Candidates for 1st Vice President are:

- Steve Baker (SD #39 Vancouver),
- Deborah Garrity (SD# 41 Burnaby),
- Stephanie Hotchkiss (SD #36 Surrey)
- Stephanie Longstaff (SD# 62 Sooke) and
- Ann Whiteaker (SD #61 Victoria).

Steve Baker, Stephanie Longstaff and Ann Whiteaker, all of whom are currently on the Board, are also running for the positions of Treasurer and Director. Ida Middleton (SD #52 Prince Rupert), who is also a member of the current board, is running for the positions of Treasurer and Director. Deborah Garrity is running for the positions of Treasurer and Director. Trudy Court (SD #62 Sooke) and Kathy Matak (SD#41 Burnaby) are running for Director. The Nominees Booklet will be sent to members in a mailing at the end of March.

Measuring Success, Achievement Contracts

Judy Arnold, Director Systems Performance for the Ministry of Education, will make a plenary presentation on the topic of *Measuring Success, Achievement Contracts* at the BCCPAC Spring Conference April 30th through May 1st. She will be leading the audience through a process to examine what has been done to improve student success and what could be done in the future to enhance it. She will also be examining what happens to those who fall through the cracks and what can be done to address this. The audience will have a lot of opportunities for input. Don't miss this very informative presentation.

For more information on the Spring Conference http://www.bccpac.bc.ca/index/event_calendar.aspx?cid=85

Our Voice Spring Issue

The spring issue of *Our Voice* will be mailed to members very shortly, but it is already available on the BCCPAC web site. Read about how reducing the drop-out rate for high school by only one per cent could save the economy billions. Find out what parents think about individual education planning. Learn the number one killer of teens and what you can do about it. All this and much more can be found online at:

<http://www.bccpac.bc.ca/index/whatsnew/ourvoice.aspx>.

Education Partners Seek BCCPAC Member Input

BCCPAC members have been asked to provide input on a draft Statement of Principle regarding the Criminal Records check legislation that requires all persons who work with children to have a criminal record check every five years. The Statement of Principle, a letter from BCCPAC President Ron Broda as well as background documents can be found on the members' communications page of the members' only site. A survey to obtain your input is on the survey page (see About Us>Surveys).

Documents: <http://www.bccpac.bc.ca/login.aspx>

Survey: <http://www.bccpac.bc.ca/login.aspx?ReturnUrl=http://www.bccpac.bc.ca/aboutus/surveys.aspx>

February Board Meeting

The minutes for the February Board Meeting and the meeting that preceded it can now be found on the Members' Only section of the website. <http://www.bccpac.bc.ca/login.aspx>

Full-day Kindergarten Delayed

In a letter to school superintendents, James Gorman, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Education confirmed what the Premier had announced in the Throne Speech, "that while it had hoped to be in a position to implement full-day kindergarten in September 2009, three factors will delay its introduction—current economic circumstances, the need to develop appropriate space, and the time to recruit qualified educators. Government remains committed to that vision, however, and will commence creating space, building teacher capacity and making program preparations."

ESL Policy and Guidelines

The Ministry of Education has just published a newly-consolidated version of its policy and guidelines on English as a second language. While the policy is not new, the document replaces a framework, policy and guidelines that were ten years old. Among the "Principles That Underpin ESL Services" listed in the publication is the following: "Parents play a vital role in the education of their children by working in partnership with educators. Parental support is an important component of an English language learner's education. Parents should be encouraged to actively participate in the learning process."

<http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/esl/policy/guidelines.pdf>

Climate Action Revenue Incentive (CARI) Charter

In response to many concerns and questions regarding the Climate Action Revenue Incentive Charter (CARI), the Ministry of Education has produced a questions and answers sheet that is now available on the BCCPAC web site. If you want to know more about the carbon tax, carbon offset, what happens if a School Board does not sign the charter, and more, refer to the document.

<http://www.bccpac.bc.ca/UserFiles/file/Climate%20Action%20and%20Carbon%20Neutral%20QAs.pdf>

Premier's Awards for Teaching Excellence

Twenty teachers from across the province were honored with the Premier's award for Teaching Excellence. A selection committee (which included BCCPAC President Ron Broda) chose the winners for the following categories:

- Aboriginal Learning

- Beginning Teacher (0-5 years)
- Community Engagement
- Distributed Learning
- Environmental Awareness
- Healthy Living and/or Physical Education and Coaching
- Lifetime Achievement (20+ years)
- Literacy
- School Leadership
- Skills Training and Career Preparation

To see if a teacher you know received an award visit the following web page.

http://www2.news.gov.bc.ca/news_releases_2005-2009/2009OTP0040-000263.htm

Students Learn Survival Skills in BC Injury Prevention Presentations

The BC Injury Prevention Centre's lifesaving injury prevention school program provides the opportunity for students to learn key survival skills from highly qualified professional athletes. These skills can be applied to all of their outdoor activities, including travel to and from school. The presentation for elementary students is called the *Spirit to Survive*, while the secondary school program is called *Injury Free Karma*. The presenters for the programs include: Dave Norona, a world-class adventure racer and elite multi-sport athlete; NESTA Chapman, a sky diving instructor and film stunt performer; and Kevin Vallely, an explorer and adventure racer.

For details see: <http://www.injuryfreezone.com/schoolprograms.php>

Budding Writers May Participate in Lieutenant Governor's Literacy Program

If you have a budding writer in your home, be they a child or an adult, she or he can participate in the Lieutenant Governor's *Write Me a Story* Literacy Program. The writer visits a web site where a series of pictures illustrate a story, but the story is missing. The would-be writer submits a story, using the entry form. Every story is read by the Lieutenant Governor and each participant will receive a letter of acknowledgement.

For more information: http://www.ltgov.bc.ca/events/media-releases/literacy_program.htm

Voices of Wisdom Project Provides Insight on Diversity

Parents and students who want to understand the diversity of the peoples who make up this nation can hear it on the Voices of Wisdom oral history project, provided by the 411 Seniors Centre Society. The interviews provided come from 13 community leaders with diverse backgrounds and include an interview with Dr. Chief Robert Joseph, hereditary chief of the Gwa wa enuk First Nation and Special Advisor to the Indian Residential Schools Survivors Society.

<http://www.411seniors.bc.ca/Vow/>

Law Week Offers Opportunities to Learn About Justice

The 2009 theme for Law Week is *Access to Justice: Public Confidence in the Justice System*. Law Week (April 16 -25) is sponsored by the Canadian Bar Association, BC Branch. There are many events for parents and students to participate in, from Dial-a Lawyer, where you can consult a lawyer for 15 minutes at no charge, to mock trials. For example, at the Victoria Courthouse on April 18 there will be a mock trial of Goldilocks and the three bears. Similar mock trials are being held in communities across the province. There will be a special student outreach event in the Lower Mainland that matches lawyers with groups of students. To find out more about Law Week events see: <http://www.cba.org/lawweek/home/main/default.aspx>

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.