

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [margaret.macdiarmid.mla@leg.bc.ca](mailto:margaret.macdiarmid.mla@leg.bc.ca);  
**cc:** [rich.coleman.mla@leg.bc.ca](mailto:rich.coleman.mla@leg.bc.ca); [info@bccpac.bc.ca](mailto:info@bccpac.bc.ca); Sheryl Proskiw;  
[REDACTED]  
**Subject:** PAC/DPAC Gaming Grant Cuts  
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Dear Minister MacDiarmid and Hon. Rich  
Coleman ,  
2009

September 14,

My name is Ida Middleton, I am the Treasurer for the Prince Rupert District Parents Advisory Council and Treasurer for Charles Hays Secondary School Parents Advisory Council.

The recent cuts that the current Government has made to the Gaming Grants will have a huge impact on the schools in this district. The quality of education will suffer greatly in this largely "have not" district. Prince Rupert has for years struggled financially since the closing of its largest employer, Skeena Cellulose. Currently, the largest employer is the School District, and with the short falls in the budget from the Ministry of Education, layoffs are inevitable with a trickledown effect that will be felt throughout this community.

PAC's have managed, with the help of Gaming Funds, to be able to provide uniforms, sports equipment, field trips, graduation mementos, school t-shirts, hoodies, playgrounds, audio and visual equipment, travel for classes, sports teams

*(of which there are many in each school, from volleyball, basketball, hockey, wrestling,*

*golf, soccer, track and field, physics club, drama club, photography club, outdoors club,*

*student councils, to name a few)*, to attend regional competitions, provincials, band

competitions and sessions, club outings, drama and arts club equipment and supplies, the

breakfast club, sewing machines for the Sewing Club, playground equipment and more...

And now that we will need to be using our General Funds to also subsidize these Extracurricular activities, we will no longer be able to provide Graphing

Calculators,  
Dado Blades, computers, furniture, in class library books and school library books, white boards,  
teaching aids, TV's, exercise equipment, mats, and the list goes on of items that we have  
provided to our schools to compensate for budgetary short falls.

The DPAC has for years used Gaming Funds to encourage Parent Involvement at all levels in our district, to promote advocacy for their children, to provide leadership training and Parent information opportunities, to facilitate and encourage networking events in our community and with other schools, and to assist in the creation and implementation of a successful education program in our District in collaboration with all of our partner groups as is our legislated right.

These services and items that the PAC and DPAC has been supplying for this district and many throughout the province, will be drastically reduced if the Gaming Grants are not reinstated to the previous amounts . The cuts to the Arts and Sports organizations does not encourage any participation in these fields,  
which could lead to a huge gap in our future athletes and Olympic hopefuls, and considering the major event that is coming in February 2010, I am disheartened at this  
government's obvious perception of the importance of these sectors or lack thereof.

Cutting the gaming grants to the PACs and DPACs will have drastic effects in the schools throughout the province. The Minister stated that Parents have voiced that they would prefer the funding to go to the classrooms, but the gaming grants are being used in the schools. Also these cut funds are not going into the School District's budgets. It has been stated that these funds will be going into the Community LINK program. Is the amount for Prince Rupert going to increase? And will it increase dollar for dollar for that which was reduced from the PAC's and DPAC in our district? What guarantee do we have for that? It has been revealed that the Community LINK program will only see an increase of \$500,000 provincially. How inadequate is that? and unfair in light of the reasoning given for the slash in funding.

The Gaming Grants were not targeted funds other than not for curricular activities and were used where needed, which is in many places as you can well see. The Ministry has now off loaded an increased financial burden onto the Parents

and  
Guardians whose pockets are already empty with the struggling economy here  
and  
throughout the province of British Columbia.

The PACs of the district are hopeful that you will advocate to  
reinstate the Gaming Grants to their previous levels in order to maintain  
these valuable opportunities for our students.

Ida Middleton, Treasurer  
Prince Rupert DPAC  
Charles Hays PAC  
245 7th Ave East  
Prince Rupert, BC  
V8J 2H7