

From: [REDACTED]
To: blair.lekstrom.mla@leg.bc.ca;
cc: margaret.macdiarmid.mla@leg.bc.ca;
Subject: Parent Advisory Councils funding
Date: September 12, 2009 2:32:29 PM

Dear Mr. Lekstrom,

I am writing on behalf of the District Parent Advisory Council.

We have just been informed that our funding from the gaming money has been cut in half. For a number of years now, the Ministry of Education has been encouraging and urging parents to take a more in depth role in their children's education. We were told that parents were to be more than fundraisers for their schools, they should take on more advisory roles and be involved in the planning and decision making in their schools. In order to make the time available for parents to take on these roles, the gaming money was given to Pac's to lessen the load on parents for fundraising.

By taking away half the money that the Pac's have come to rely on, the government has set back the role of parents to that of days gone by.

Pac's will once again have to step up to the fundraising plate in order to make sure their children get the education that we want them to have.

If Pac's are not able to raise the amount of funding that has been taken away, the effects will be felt throughout the school. Pac gaming funds at South Peace have contributed to many things like the graduation ceremonies, Unchaga Hall events and much needed sports equipment and uniforms. The schools do not have the budget to cover these sorts of items and so the students will do without.

As far as DPAC's are concerned, our role is to help parents with leadership education so that parents can develop the skills necessary to fulfill the advisory role that government has been asking them to play. I cannot imagine that we can put on so much as one workshop this year on a budget of \$1250!

Please pass on our objection to this loss of funding to your colleagues as strongly as possible. Thank you for helping us voice our opinions and making sure this message gets where it needs to go.

Kim Strasky
DPAC Chair, SD 50 Peace River South

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