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Sept. 12th, 2008

Learning Roundtable June 11th, 2008

Members of the Learning Roundtable have met for the second time this school year. At this meeting, the Minister of Education shared a review of the throne speech commitments (BC's vision for public education – Looking Forward). Details and breakdown of the class size analysis, collected this school) year, including a data base available for analysis were also provided by the Ministry of Education.

At the December 10, 2007 meeting, the preliminary report on the class size/class composition data for 2008-2009 was discussed. A request was made for future analysis of the numbers presented to be brought back to the Learning Roundtable members. The Ministry presented a summary of the latest data on class size, gathered for 2008-2009 school year, broken down in more detail as well as a second breakout sheet on further stats related to the students listed under Special Education categories.

The Ministry is presently going even deeper into the data around the numbers that show more than 5 students with Individual Education Plans (IEPs) in a classroom with 20 -28 students in total, 5 or more in classrooms with 29 – 30 students, 4 or more in classrooms with 31 – 33 students and more than one student in classrooms with 33 or more students. The ministry team will be looking at individual classes, looking for the individual stories and education rationale behind these decisions as well as the actual classes this represents. The intent is to ensure that these were educationally sound decisions and to hold education administrators accountable for choices that were made. The ministry group is working to ensure that we have the data to support the conversation as well as the stories; as at times the numbers aren't the whole story and we don't want to jump to false conclusions. The team will be asking questions that dig deeper, while hearing the story that supports the education for the individual student.

The Ministry's hope is to continue to build a deeper foundation of relevant data for policy discussion that will take place around the Learning Roundtable and help to support all kids being successful.

The Minister of Education closed by asking all the education partners to forward to Mr. Davis any further comments of members of the LRT on the data, as well as what we would like to have the Learning Roundtable look at and discuss in future meetings. Class size and composition is being tracked and, therefore, will be made awaren to the public, educators and the world, but we as a group, need to look at ways of using this data in policy setting to assist in closing the gap for all students, and addressing the other items education partners at the table have brought forward.

Topics that BCCPAC has brought to the table to date are: Students with Special Needs, BCCT Teacher Registry, Student Learning Styles, Teacher qualifications (ongoing training and support) and Parent Education (genuine partnerships)

The date of the next meeting of the Learning Roundtable is to be advised.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kim Howland, Past-President