BCCPAC Representation Report

Submitted by: **Ron Broda, President**
Name of Event: Learning Round Table
Date of Event: January 27, 2009 8:30-10:00 AM
Location of Event: 555 W. Hastings St., Vancouver

Present: The Honourable Shirley Bond, Minister of Education,
James Gorman, Deputy Minister of Education,
Rick Davis, Ministry of Education, Superintendent of Achievement,
Lisa Dominato, Ministerial Assistant,
Irene Lanzinger, President BCTF,
Susan Lambert, 1st Vice-President BCTF,
Jim Iker, 2nd Vice President, BCTF,
Jill, McCaffery, BCTF,
Larry Keen, BCTF,
Connie Denesiuk, President BCSTA,
Stephen Hansen, Executive Director BCSTA,
Geoff Jopson, Past President BCSSA,
Steve Cardwell, Vice-President, BCSSA,
Marilyn Merler, President BCPVPA,
Les Dukowski, Past-President BCPVPA,
Ron Broda, President BCCPAC
Fiona Delcourt, BCCPAC,
Carla Giles, Chief Operating Officer BCCPAC.

The Minister called the meeting to order made a few opening remarks and advised those gathered that the Premier was not in attendance at this meeting as he was in Ottawa on government business.

Rick Davis, Superintendent of Achievement then provided a summary of the 2008-2009 class size report. The report has an error rate of 0.5%. It shows that over 95% of the 69,301 classes in the province have 30 or fewer students. There has been a growth in the presence of Education Assistants by the equivalent of approximately 200 FTE positions in approximately 900 classes. In examining the number of students entitled to an Individual Education Plan (IEP) per class room, the largest category is the number of classrooms that have zero (0) students entitled to an IEP.

There was some discussion about the way class sizes are reported such as the case of a Graduation Transitions "class" reported with a size of 90. This "class" is in fact an administrative unit that a group of students are reported in. They do not meet as a group in what would normally be

considered a class. Other examples of how the reporting needs minor adjustments to improve its accuracy were provided.

There was also a description provided of additional study that had been done on classes that contained more than 6 students entitled to an IEP in classes containing 30 or more students. The Minister stated that based on these reports all boards appear to be in compliance with class size legislation.

A BCTF representative gave an example of 1 teachers struggle with class's composition. There was additional discussion about what the BCTF considers as other examples of non-compliance and suggested that the Minister's assertion that most Boards are in compliance is an issue "that will be legally determined" in the arbitrations currently under way around the province.

The BCTF suggested setting aside an emergency fund for Principals, District Administration and Boards to draw upon for staffing and resources.

The Minister stated that due to the current global economic conditions that this year's budget would be particularly difficult and that she is actively fighting to hold on to funding the Ministry of Education has.

The Minister reported that there is now an unprecedented level of oversight and accountability. She specifically referred to the special study of classes containing more than 6 IEP students with a size of 30 and greater and indicated that the Superintendent of Achievement will be talking to principals and superintendents about individual classes and specific decisions made related to them.

The Minister summarized the meeting by stating that much had been accomplished and acknowledging a need for continued and timelier review and analysis of extended subsets. The Minister indicated a willingness to at least explore option of emergency fund.

The full class size and composition report is available at http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/reporting/ and contains provincial, district and individual school data.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ron Broda, President