BCCPAC meeting with **Minister** of Education MacDiarmid's

1.4.4

February 2010

9:30 am – 9:55 am Tuesday, February-09-10 BCCPAC meeting with **Minister** of Education MacDiarmid's

Attendance

Minister of Education MacDiarmid
Sherry Mohoruk- Superintendent, Liaison
Michele Harrison- Minister's Assistant
Ann Whiteaker- BCCPAC President
Dana Arthurs – BCCPAC Secretary
Deborah Garrity- BCCPAC Director
Steve Baker- BCCPAC Director

Ann thanked the Minister for her attempt to attend fall conference and Invited Minister to spring AGM

Advocacy presentation;

Ann went over the attached report prepared prior to the meeting with the Minister and staff
Key points include ,

- An emphasis on parents being involved with education and advocacy of students translates into student success
- Ann thanked the Minister for past funding of the advocacy project and explained the need to reinstate this funding
- A review and explanation of resolution 2001.2
- Statement made on the issue of new parents entering the system, changes to the system means advocacy is a continuous need for parents
- BCCPAC is just now starting to make gains in the way of helping ESL and first nations parents advocate for their students

Minister MacDiarmid asked if First Nations parents were involved in PAC's and DPAC's?

Ann- yes however the culture means that it is not just mom or dad it may be Aunts or Uncles etc…

Minister MacDiarmid asked if any other structure was in place in the First Nations communities?

- **Sherry responded** ; Friendship Centers are a resource for First Nations families
- First Nations partners FNESC are striving to move forward with Advocacy with the help of the Ministry

✓ **Steve-** expressed the challenges of bridging relationships with cultures. For BCCPAC to engage discussion with aboriginal communities and parents it would require more dialogue and discussion for all cultures to respect and understand how we can work together. Bridging barriers of the past and

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finding ways to communicate with respective cultures. Without resources to assist in the bridging of community, it would be difficult to succeed with parents in any community.

- ✓ **Deborah** – we need further strategies on incorporating cultures with the Advocacy process' and role

BCCPAC operating grant presentation;

As per the attached pre prepared presentation Ann gave an overview of the past grants for operating the ministry and financial changes which have been made to the business of BCCPAC in order to continue operating an office. Explained that when volunteer board members are doing office tasks they are unable to do the advocating for parents which is needed.

Minister-

- Expressed that the government values the work BCCPAC does. Expressed that she heard our concerns within the advocacy report given
- made statement about commitment to strong start, early learning and all day kindergarten.
- Ministry wants education to be student focused and student centered

Ann- Expressed concerns with challenges of all day kindergarten; where will play based resources come from? Concerns with student to educator ratio and student safety

Minister and Sherry said they would send further information to BCCPAC and suggested someone from the early learning department attend the BCCPAC spring conference.

9:57 meeting ended with goodbye's

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