BCCPAC Representation Report

Submitted by: **Cathy Jewett, Director**
Ann Whiteaker, President

Name of Event: FNESC Meeting
Date of Event: August 31, 2011
Location of Event: Vancouver (BCCT Board Room)

The meeting was initially scheduled to allow the Education Partners to report on what each committee had come up with on the four goals as far as Key Priorities and Actions. Each of the four groups summarized their work and were asked to present the findings of the four committees to their organisations to gain approval. The next meeting will be to assign Actions and Lead Agencies to the goals. The Goals are attached.

We had two other presentations. The first was Personalized Learning by Superintendent of Achievement, Rod Allen. Here we go again, or so we thought. What followed was a presentation on the timeline that the MOE will follow through with a complete revamping of Graduation Standards, Curriculum/Assessment and Special Needs using the principles of Personalized Learning. The biggest surprise, all this will happen in three years. The Power Point slide outlining the timeline is attached.

The goal is to find a more organic method of Curriculum reform. Currently curriculum is reformed approximately every 12 years and is out of date well before the next cycle is started. One of the first areas to be addressed is Special Needs. Policy and procedure revision will take about 4 months and will be facilitated by Bendina Miller (ret. Superintendent). Recommendations are to be received by the MOE by December 2011. There are no assumptions; the instructions are to start from scratch. Comments were that SN students would be better served if there was a more collaborative approach with supporting agencies that are from outside education. BCCPAC pointed out that the Deans of Education need to revamp the Teacher training to include SN.

This full re-design of the K – 12 Education program is slated to be complete by May 2014. Kindergarten Reporting is slated to be ready by December 2011. A new languages curriculum is to be rolled out at the beginning of this school year. The MOE has already announced that Optional Secondary Exams are to be eliminated. One of the areas of effect is the Scholarship program. In the past much of the Provincial Scholarship money was not getting used as students voted with their feet and did not write the exams. In the future scholarships will be

based on the required exams. As well the MOE would like to include scholarships for trades and sports – to support a student's passion, even if it does not fit into post secondary academics. The MOE will have to adjust data collection methods and redefine the measures for the 2011/12 school year.
One of the most refreshing conversations was surrounding teacher training. Teachers' training standards need to change. The transition to the classroom needs to be better supported. The least experienced teachers are getting the toughest assignments.

Next on the agenda was Mike Harcourt. He is heading up the "Dogwood 21 Initiative". The organization's goal is to increase the Aboriginal Graduation Rate to equal that of Non-aboriginal students by 2021 (or 2031 at the latest!). The proviso is that it will be done by excluding mandatory exams (i.e. English 12). They want Dogwoods in the hands of these students, not General Graduation Diplomas.

Most of you may know that Mike was the former Premier of B.C. and Mayor of Vancouver. He also suffered an injury that could easily have resulted in death and should have put him in a wheel chair. He persevered and worked at becoming self sufficient and mobile. He brings the same determination to his goals. It was refreshing to see someone that is able to take a concept and in his words – create an action plan, implement and execute. It was just the inspiration this meeting needed! His group has started a pilot project at Southlands School in Vancouver with the Musqueam band that will put all students through an IB program.

Recommendations:

- Ensure that parents are represented in the MOE Personalized Learning committees.
- FNESC is doing a Regional Conference type tour. We should offer to train an Aboriginal Facilitator and help supply them with materials. Perhaps we could do this before the Ab Ed Conference and assist the facilitator with a presentation.
- Board members should read the attached documents and comment on the four FNESC Goals.
- Get the BCCPAC Aboriginal Parent Handbook to Sara Cousins from AANDC

Dates:

Goal One – Terry – September 12 / 9:00 – 12:00. Contact Mike Gagel
Aboriginal Education Conference – November 24 – 26 (September 9th Presentation Deadline!)