



BC CONFEDERATION OF PARENT ADVISORY COUNCILS

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Proposed Changes to the BC College of Teachers **Bill 51**

The Teaching Profession Act establishes and governs the BC College of Teachers. Section 4 of the Act states:

It is the object of the college to establish, having regard to the public interest, standards for the education, professional responsibility and competence of its members, persons who hold certificates of qualification and applicants for membership and, consistent with that object, to encourage the professional interest of its members in those matters.

Members of the College include all persons holding a valid BC teaching certificate (including all teachers, principals and superintendents).

Bill 51, the Teaching Profession Amendment Act, 2003, was introduced in the Legislature on May 12, 2003. Following are some of the proposed revisions affecting the operations of the College:

- Changes to the College council to include 11 persons appointed by the Lieutenant Governor in Council on the recommendation of the Minister, eight members elected to serve as representatives of regional BC zones, and one member nominated jointly by the Deans of the Faculties of Education and appointed by the Minister. (Currently, the council of 20 members includes 15 members elected by the membership, one person appointed by the Deans, two persons appointed by the Minister of Education, and two persons appointed by the Lieutenant Governor in Council.)
- Before recommending council appointees, the Minister must consult with representatives of principals, superintendents, parents and others. (In the current Act, this requirement does not exist.) In the past, BCCPAC has provided the Minister with recommendations of parents for consideration. Past BCCPAC Board members Jim Holland and Brenda Turner have served on the BCCT Council.
- Any person (including a parent) may file a written complaint about the conduct of a member of the College. The College may, after considering the complaint, investigate the conduct of the member. (Currently, the Act only allows for complaints about conduct to be received from school boards, complaints in writing signed by five members, or reports from the registrar.)
- A member who has reason to believe that another member is guilty of professional misconduct must promptly provide to the Registrar a written and signed report on the matter. (There is no such requirement in the current Teaching Profession Act.)
- The College will no longer be responsible for approving teacher education programs. At this time it is uncertain how teacher education programs will be approved to ensure that

they lead to certification. This could now be the responsibility of the schools (universities or colleges) providing these programs. (In the past, this has been a contentious issue, including legal action between universities and the College.)

- Requirements for the College to file an annual report to the Minister, including a statement on member performance and competence in the report. This report must be made public within 45 days. (The amendments propose broadening the scope of the annual report by including member competence.)

BCCPAC has had resolutions on the BC College of Teachers in its Statement of Policy since 1997. These include:

1997.1 College of Teachers

That the makeup of the College of Teachers Council be changed to include a number of non-teaching parents; and, **that** BCCPAC select the parents who sit on the Council from nominations received from BCCPAC member Parent Advisory Councils and/or member District Parent Advisory Councils.

1997.2 College of Teachers Accountability

That the College of Teachers be held accountable for the professionalism of the teachers it certifies, and that it take responsibility for responding to all complaints and determining appropriate disciplinary measures.

For further information on these and other resolutions, see the Resolutions Index and Tracking at

www.bccpac.bc.ca/who_are_we/organization/resolutions_index.tracking.htm

References:

Teaching Profession Amendment Act (Bill 51) at

www.legis.gov.bc.ca/37th4th/1st_read/gov51-1.htm

Teaching Profession Act

www.bced.gov.bc.ca/legislation/schoollaw/teaching_profession_act_contents.pdf

Ministry's News Release

http://www2.news.gov.bc.ca/nrm_news_releases/2003BCED0037-000474.htm

Ministry's Backgrounder

http://www2.news.gov.bc.ca/nrm_news_releases/2003BCED0037-000474-Attachment1.htm