

***Our Vision:*** *To improve public education for all students by including and supporting parents*

### **Annual General Meeting Elections**

Ron Broda was elected President for 2008-2010 at the BCCPAC Annual General Meeting. Read the full election results in the [Annual General Meeting Bulletin](#).

### **Spring Conference Bulletin**

On May 2, Minister of Education, Hon. Shirley Bond addressed the delegates to the Spring Conference. Read the [Spring conference bulletin](#) for details on the Spring Conference.

### **BCCPAC Governance Audit Survey Deadline May 23**

Members still have an opportunity to participate in the governance survey that was e-mailed to all BCCPAC members on April 17. The Board wants all members to have the opportunity to participate in the BCCPAC governance audit. The survey will close automatically on May 23. It is available on the “Members’ Only” section of the website. You will need your login information and password to access it. The link is below. If you have any problems accessing this survey contact [gabriellemoore@bccpac.bc.ca](mailto:gabriellemoore@bccpac.bc.ca).

[Governance survey](#)

### **Annual Report Available**

Copies of the annual report were mailed to each BCCPAC member. It includes the 2007 financial statements as well as reports on the various activities of the Confederation, including its representation of the parent voice with various government and education partner committees. Members can print additional copies from the BCCPAC website.

[BCCPAC Annual Report 2007](#)

### **BCCPAC Releases Revised Advocacy Guide for Public School Parents**

The BC Confederation of Parent Advisory Councils released its revised edition of *Speaking Up! A parent guide to advocating for students in public schools* at the annual spring conference in Richmond. The 44-page guide, developed by the BCCPAC Advocacy Project, helps parents navigate the public school system and address concerns that may arise with their children. *Speaking Up!* includes tear-out self-help guides: Problem-Solving and Meeting Survival as well as new information on fairness in decision-making, provincial appeals, apologies and dealing with bullying.

[News release](#)

[Speaking Up!](#)

## **Renew Your BCCPAC Membership before July 20**

Your current membership in BCCPAC expires August 31. Renew your membership before July 20 and be eligible for a draw for a free registration for the Fall Conference, October 23 through 26 at the Hilton Hotel in Burnaby (value approximately \$350). This offer is also available for new members. To renew or become a BCCPAC member download the membership form that is found at the top of the page describing the benefits of [BCCPAC membership](#).

## **New Regulations Require Booster Seats for Children up to Nine Years of Age**

Under new provincial regulations that come into effect July 1, 2008 the use of a booster seat will be required in vehicles in BC, until the child reaches their ninth birthday or a height of four feet nine inches. These booster seats are needed when parents take children on field trips.

[http://www.bcaa.com/wps/portal/search/search\\_details?rdePathInfo=xchg/bcaa-com/hs.xsl/HTML/5235.htm](http://www.bcaa.com/wps/portal/search/search_details?rdePathInfo=xchg/bcaa-com/hs.xsl/HTML/5235.htm)

## **Crystal Meth Education**

Among the items in the last member mail-out was an application for a crystal meth parent education grant. This grant offers up to \$1,000 for parent groups, such as DPACs, to bring in experts to teach parents to prevent drug abuse and recognize the warning signs of drug use. The grant can be used to bring in a speaker from the [Crystal Meth Society of BC](#), volunteer parents who have lived through the tragedy of having their children battle addiction to this drug. [Crystal Meth Grant Application](#)

## **Food Skills for Families Offers Free Cooking Lesson**

Food Skills for Families is a new food skills program that provides families with hands-on cooking experience so they can learn to make healthy recipes with a focus on improving healthy food choices. The six session program is intended for Aboriginal, South Asian, new immigrant and low income families. Schools with an interest in improving the number of students who bring healthy snacks and lunches to school may have a particular interest in this program. The presentations are offered by trained community facilitators in both school and community based settings throughout the province. There is no cost to the school or participants. [Click here](#) For information on how to participate.

## **Fines for Smoking on School Property**

As part of the Tobacco-Free Schools initiative, fines for smoking on school property came into effect on March 31, 2008. Individual fines will be \$58 – comparable to the fine for a minor having alcohol in a public place.

## **Provincial Health Officer's Report Available Online**

The Provincial Health Officer's newly released 2006 Annual Report, [An Ounce of Prevention Revisited: A review of health promotion and selected outcomes for children and youth in BC schools](#) can now be viewed online. This report updates and expands the scope of the 2003 *Ounce of Prevention* report by exploring some of the key issues in child and youth health, and the changes that have emerged within the school setting as well as in the health of young people in BC. Key issues include overwhelming recognition that obesity and physical inactivity and their related effects are major health concerns for children and youth and childhood mental health as an area requiring more attention.

*NewsBytes is a regular e-mail communication sent to BCCPAC members to highlight items of interest. Others may also subscribe to NewsBytes. Contact BCCPAC at 604-687-4433, e-mail [info@bccpac.bc.ca](mailto:info@bccpac.bc.ca). Feel free to share this communication with others.*