

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

BCCPAC Parent Representatives Contribute to Anaphylaxis Child Health and Safety Framework

The Ministry of Education has announced that BC school districts will be required to develop and implement anaphylaxis policies that meet new, more rigorous guidelines. This announcement reflects advocacy BCCPAC has been pursuing since Resolution 2000.2, that called for schools and districts to protect students with anaphylaxis by developing policies to protect them. BCCPAC recently wrote a letter in support of Bill M 210 – the *Anaphylactic Student Protection Act, 2007*. When this bill came up for debate the Provincial Government decided to develop the Anaphylaxis Advisory Committee. Parent representatives from BCCPAC sat on this Committee that provided recommendations for the *Anaphylaxis Child Health and Safety Framework*. The framework will direct districts as they develop school-based policies for managing anaphylaxis. http://www2.news.gov.bc.ca/news_releases_2005-2009/2007EDU0118-001100.htm

BCCPAC to Undertake Governance Audit

The Board of Directors of BCCPAC is currently tendering a contract for a consultant to undertake a governance audit. This is an analysis of an organization's structure and processes. It is designed to gauge an organization's level of effectiveness related to its governance, identifying its strengths and weaknesses. The audit will be presented to the membership at the annual general meeting in the spring. The terms of reference are available on the BCCPAC web site. <http://www.bccpac.bc.ca/>

Social Justice 12 Course Needs Your Input

The draft Social Justice 12 course is currently being piloted in seven BC classrooms. Educators, parents, and the general public are encouraged to review and respond to the Response Draft, as feedback will be extremely valuable for the completion of the document. Implementation of this elective Grade 12 course is scheduled to commence in September, 2008. The due date for receipt of responses is December 10, 2007. The Social Justice 12 response draft and response form can be accessed at <http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/irp/drafts/>

Barbara Coloroso Headlines Fall Conference November 15 through 18

Barbara Coloroso, author of four international bestsellers on parenting and a renowned conference speaker, will provide the keynote presentation: "Just Because It's Not Wrong Doesn't Make It Right," on Thursday, November 15. The keynote will be about teaching

ethics to children. “We live in a world where children so often are given the message that the ends justify the means; where children's ethical education can come from a T-shirt slogan or bumper sticker, an Internet site, or the evening news; where rigid moral absolutism or moral relativism has replaced true ethical thinking,” said Barbara. She will also present a workshop on bullying on Friday afternoon. For more information on the Fall Conference go to http://www.bccpac.bc.ca/events/Fall_Leadership_Conference.htm.

Linda Reimer Appointed to BC College of Teachers Council

Linda Reimer was recently appointed to the Council of the BC College of Teachers by the Lieutenant Governor in Council on the recommendation of the Minister of Education. Ms. Reimer has demonstrated her commitment to the community by running for public office and through her continuing involvement at the Board level in voluntary organizations like the Community Justice Society. She has an extensive background in education issues, having served as President of a District Parent Advisory Council and on two Parent Advisory Councils. Her commitment to the Task Force on Youth Mental Health and Addiction, as well as the Learning Disabilities Association, shows she has a high regard for the public interest.

Numbers Spell Declining Enrolment, Increasing Achievement

The Ministry of Education released statistics indicating across the board declines in enrolment. There are an estimated 547,840 FTE public school students for 2007-08—7,574 fewer than in 2006-07 and over 50,000 fewer than in 2000-01. On the bright side, 79 per cent of students graduated in 2005-06, a figure that has held steady for four years. And 5,055 students received scholarships in 2005-06 for scoring high marks on Grade 12 provincial exams—a five per cent increase from 2004-05. In an interview on CKNW Radio, August 19th, Minister of Education Shirley Bond said that the education budget has topped 5.4 billion dollars—the largest ever.

http://www2.news.gov.bc.ca/news_releases_2005-2009/2007EDU0109-001024.htm

New President for Canadian Home and School Federation

Beverly Mullin is the new president of the CHSF, replacing Georgina Allen. Ms. Mullin has been involved in her child Matthew's education since he entered kindergarten. She very quickly became secretary of her local Home & School Association, then president and finally president of the Nova Scotia Federation of Home and School Associations (NSFHSA). Prior to becoming president she was secretary/treasurer of CHSF.

Road Safety Now Part of Curriculum

Did you know road safety is now included in the K-10 curricula? ICBC has free resources to assist teachers. Curriculum links are clearly outlined. For more information visit the [For Educators](#) page in the Geared 2 Youth section of www.icbc.com

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. Feel free to share this communication with others.