



BC CONFEDERATION OF PARENT ADVISORY COUNCILS



# Annual Report 2003

To the Annual General Meeting  
May 15 - 16, 2004

Visit our website at [www.bccpac.bc.ca](http://www.bccpac.bc.ca)



## Purposes of BCCPAC

- To advance the public education and well-being of children in the Province of British Columbia
- To carry on activities to promote and enhance meaningful parent participation in an advisory role at the school, school district, and provincial levels

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## Membership Information

To register your PAC or DPAC, download a membership form at:

[www.bccpac.bc.ca/forms/registration.pdf](http://www.bccpac.bc.ca/forms/registration.pdf)

or call the BCCPAC office.

Annual membership fee: \$65.00 (Sept 1 - Aug 31)

Only PACs with a membership in good standing by

December 15th qualify for voting privileges.



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# 2003/2004 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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*Term of Office June 2, 2003 - June 14, 2004*



Top row from left to right ... Marlinna Stringer, Terri-Lynne Huddlestone, Philip Mantler, Elyn Dobbs, Glenda Bilinsky, Suzanne Psota  
Bottom row from left to right ... Terri Watson, Allison Flater, Sharyl Samodien, Reggi Balabanov

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# 2002/2003 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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*Term of Office June 2, 2002 - June 2, 2003*



Top row from left to right ... Ron Limer, Terri-Lynne Huddlestone, Glenda Bilinsky, Sharyl Samodien, Philip Mantler  
Bottom row from left to right ... Cathy Abraham, Allison Flater, Reggi Balabanov, Terri Watson

# A REPORT FROM THE PRESIDENT

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Parents are gaining a stronger voice in our public schools in BC. We are an ever-increasing presence in schools and school districts, not only in classrooms and libraries, but also at school committee meetings and at board tables. Our education partners are talking about the importance of parent involvement as an important indicator of student success. Through BCCPAC, School Parent Advisory Councils, District PACs and School Planning Councils, as well as individually, parents display enormous commitment and desire to work with our partners to enrich educational opportunities for children.

At BCCPAC, we reflect this growth by responding to increasing requests for information and for sharing amongst parents. We have hosted two conferences and 3 regional events; we offer PAC Education & Development workshops throughout the province - from Prince Rupert to Fort St. John to Cranbrook to Victoria. We have focused on improving our communication, including an updated and improved website, featuring expanded information on educational change, events and opportunities. We published numerous Issues Bulletins in order to provide background and explanations on current issues.

We know the importance of building relationships in order to improve communication. This year your Executive took the time to meet with the executives of our partner organizations: BC Teachers Federation and BC School Trustees. We expect to meet with the BC School Superintendents at the Innovations & Improvement Conference in March 2004, and with the BC Principals & Vice-Principals in the near future.

We continue to enhance your collective voice at the provincial level by representation at meetings and discussions on:

- the Accountability framework, including improvements to District Reviews and School Planning Councils;
- notional funding;
- increased funding: responding to the pre-budget consultation committee
- BC College of Teachers
- Safe, Caring and Orderly Schools Guide
- provincial report card format and
- numerous other provincial issues presented at the all-partner Educational Advisory Committee

Every year BCCPAC members ask the organization to take on more projects and activities in our ever-increasing awareness and commitment to being involved in our public education system. This often taxes the resources of our volunteer Board and paid staff, but also serves as proof of a coming of age of parent involvement. BCCPAC continues to seek strategies to overcome these challenges. Our staff has been reorganized to better serve our members. The Advocacy Project operates at near capacity. We continue to advocate for BCCPAC operational funding in order to be able to respond to increased requests for participation in educational projects and activities.

On behalf of our Board, and our staff, I extend our sincere thanks to you for your enthusiasm, and your passion for excellence in education. The diverse skills and knowledge you bring to BCCPAC make our voice stronger.

Respectfully submitted,



*Terri Watson, President*



# A REPORT FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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The calendar year 2003 was once again exciting and challenging for BCCPAC, as the organization grew to fulfill the expectations of its members as well as to meet the demands of a fast-paced world and the changes in the BC public education landscape.

We said good-bye to long-time staff member Judy Nicholson, who retired after many years of involvement with BCCPAC. We also said good-bye to staff member Eleen Prasad.

BCCPAC was pleased to welcome Eileen Paget as PAC Services Co-ordinator in August. Eileen brought her years of experience as an active PAC/DPAC member to her position in the office. In November, we welcomed Colleen Huber as Communications and Events Co-ordinator, and are looking forward to her expertise contributing to our conferences and regional events. Carol Edgar, CGA was contracted to review and update our accounting system to meet the evolving needs of BCCPAC. This has resulted in a fairly significant overhaul of our systems and practices, which should enable us to be better able to track and manage our resources in the future.

BCCPAC is a founding member of the Volunteer Organizations Consortium of BC (VOCBC), a collaborative group of organizations with significant volunteer activities. This committee works closely with the federal government and federal organizations to look at issues affecting the volunteer sector. We are pleased to continue to reflect the perspective of parents and public education around this table. BCCPAC was also pleased to be able to support the development of a Youth Gang Video, through the Inter-Ministerial Committee on Youth Gang Violence, and to see that project funded through the federal Department of Justice.

On behalf of the staff members, I wish to express our thanks to you all for your dedicated support for public education, your passionate involvement in educational decision-making, and your unfailing support of your children. We are honoured to have been able to serve this organization for the past year.

Respectfully submitted,



*Elyn Dobbs, Interim Executive Director*

# A REPORT FROM THE TREASURER

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2003 was a very successful year for BCCPAC; from both an operations and a financial perspective. Thanks to continued core funding from the Ministry of Education, as well as an additional grant of \$150,000, we have been able to continue the PACed initiative, sponsor regional events in Fort St John and Naniamo, and continue to offer high quality resources and services to our members. As a result of prudent fiscal management BCCPAC has been able to finish the year with a surplus as well as maintaining the constitutional requirements regarding operating funds reserves.

Funds received as grants and sponsorships have also helped to maintain and expand the education, services and resources BCCPAC is able to offer to members at conferences and through member services contacts. However, the demand for projects and services to be offered by BCCPAC continues to increase which puts pressure on the financial resources of BCCPAC. In order to be able to meet the increased demand, and to reduce reliance on government funding, the Board of BCCPAC has begun work on developing other funding initiatives and is becoming more active in promoting BCCPAC as an organization for individuals to support with charitable donations.

It has been my pleasure to serve as Treasurer for BCCPAC this past year as together we have worked to be the collective voice for parents in British Columbia.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Philip Mantler, Treasurer*

# STRATEGIC PLAN 2002 - 2005 UPDATE

Three key areas are identified in the 2002–2005 BCCPAC Strategic Plan: Member Services, Representation, and Advocacy. In order to carry out the objectives within each goal area, the Board further developed specific initiatives and assigned these to the four internal standing committees. Each internal committee develops an annual plan based both on its mandate as well as on the assigned initiatives. Here are some of the key achievements of BCCPAC in 2003:

## MEMBER SERVICES GOAL

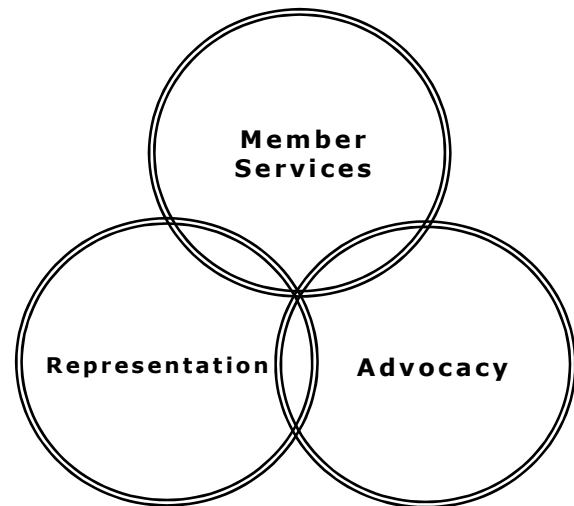
Continue to support and build the effective involvement of PACs and DPACs in public education

- facilitated DA / DPAC networking sessions at conferences
- continued the sharing showcase at the Fall conference
- promoted of the Member Only Forum on the website
- Initiated the first regional event in Fort St. John
- more Board members attended DPAC meetings
- trained all Board members in taking Member Service calls
- all Board members called out to District Associates
- held round-table discussions at conferences and regional event
- improved format and content of website to enable more access to information
- increased office staff to assist members
- began revision of the Leadership Manual
- initiated *SPC Policy Comparative Analysis*
- developed new workshop content for SPC Level 2
- planned conference on diversity theme

## ADVOCACY GOAL

Through the Advocacy Project, empower parents and students to advocate on their own behalf.

- 40 DPACs are formally committed to participating in the BCCPAC Advocacy Project
- completed a *DPAC Advocacy Manual* and *Advocates Resource*
- added Advocacy pages to the website
- Advocates met with the intake staff of the BCCT on the person complaint process
- Advocates provide regular summaries on current advocacy issues to the Board
- began discussions on how to evaluate the Advocacy Project, in advance of developing a long-term strategic plan



## REPRESENTATION GOAL

Develop integral partnerships in order to participate in, advise and influence decision-making in public education

- developed the systems to be proactive: annual committee plans, Resolution Strategy Teams
- made a submission to the Pre-Budget Consultation Committee, issued press release
- began research and drafts for *Education Tracking Survey*
- issued 14 press releases
- moved Tracking document to the website for easy access; improved format and content of website to enable more access to Statement of Policy
- initiated meetings with partner group Executives: BCTF x 2; BCSTA, BCSSA,
- First Nations Education Steering Committee Executive Director met with the Board
- Deputy Minister met with the Board and spoke at the Fall Conference
- Minister of Education addressed delegates and met with DPAC Chairs at each conference
- attended partner group Conferences: BCTF (Feb & July), BCSTA, UVIC Faculty of Education, BC School Sports, BCPVPA Issues Forums, Aboriginal Education Conference
- presented to classes of Education students at UBC and UVIC

# RESOLUTIONS SUMMARY

Resolutions passed at BCCPAC Annual General Meetings cover a wide variety of topics of interest to parents. Some of these are new and emerging issues at the time, others cover long-standing concerns. Those resolutions voted on and carried form the basis for BCCPAC's *Statement of Policy*. This Statement of Policy should be seen as a living document that will be subject to change. As requested actions are taken and/or the situation that brought about the resolution changes, policies will be revised or deleted as the membership sees fit. The *Statement of Policy*, including an index and notes which track the actions taken to further each resolution, is available on the BCCPAC website at [http://www.bccpac.bc.ca/who\\_are\\_we/organization/resolutions\\_index.tracking.htm](http://www.bccpac.bc.ca/who_are_we/organization/resolutions_index.tracking.htm).

BCCPAC's mandate is to serve as the collective voice of parents, and to carry on activities to promote and enhance meaningful parent participation in our public education system. We are constantly addressing issues and advocating for change to enable parents to participate effectively in their schools and in their school districts. BCCPAC sends representatives to many "external committees", working groups, and Ministry of Education focus groups throughout the year; these volunteers bring valuable parent perspectives to the discussions.

In 2003, BCCPAC initiated and responded to numerous opportunities to develop integral partnerships within the public education system. Through these initiatives, the Board created opportunities to address resolution topics whenever possible. The following are a few examples of these opportunities:

Through our participation on various Special Education committees, initiatives have begun to "demystify" the Individual Education Plan (IEP) for parents of special needs students (2000.11).

Through our active voice on the Safe, Caring and Orderly Schools committee, government has identified our desire for schools to develop codes of conduct (2000.23) as well as our desire for parents to be informed when their child has been harmed, bullied or harassed (2001.7). In addition, the Safe, Caring and Orderly Schools committee has included recommendations on retribution (1998.2), weapons (2000.18), harassment (2002.10), anaphylaxis (2000.2), and emergency preparedness for earthquake response (1998.14) in its "*Safe, Caring and Orderly Schools: A Guide*" that was launched in March 2004.

Through our solicited participation with the BC College of Teachers, BCCPAC has advanced our members' desire 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 (1997.2). Additionally, BCCPAC has apprised the College of Teachers of resolutions addressing evaluation of teaching (1998.8), first aid training for teachers (1994.4 and 1999.16), and council structure (1997.1).

BCCPAC has worked hard in the past year to enhance the involvement of parents of Aboriginal Students (2001.2). BCCPAC is building its relationship with the First Nations Education Steering Committee (FNESC). Initiatives with FNESC included a keynote presentation by Christa Williams, Executive Director of FNESC at the November 2002 Fall Leadership Conference where several aboriginal parents attended to participate in roundtable discussions on aboriginal needs. In May 2003, Martin Brokenleg, addressed our members on Aboriginal Youth at Risk. In October, four board members attended FNESC's conference in Whistler. In November aboriginal parents were subsequently sponsored to attend our Fall Leadership Conference. Also in November, the BCCPAC Board met with Christa Williams of FNESC.

Through our participation on the WCB Young Worker Safety Certificate committee, the Ministry of Education is adopting mandatory inclusion of young worker safety in its Planning 10 curriculum in September 2004 (2001.14C).

## BCCPAC REPRESENTATION ON EXTERNAL COMMITTEES

Action Schools BC!  
Advisory Committee

Advisory Committee on  
Provincial Assessment

BC School Sports

Canadian Home and  
School Federation

Citizenship and Social  
Responsibility Working  
Group

Coalition on Special  
Education

CommunityLINK Implementation  
Partners Working Group

DASH/Breakfast for  
Learning Advisory Council

Education Advisory Council (EAC)

Education Partners

Graduation Portfolio  
Assessment Committee

Innovation & Improvement  
Conference Working Group

Interministerial Committee  
on Youth Violence and  
Gang Activity (IMC)

Notional Funding Committee

Prime Minister's Awards for  
Teaching Excellence

Rick Hansen School Program  
Advisory Board

School-Based Program  
Evaluation Steering Committee

School-Based Program  
Review Working Group

Special Education  
Partners' Group

Student Financial Assistance  
Standing Committee

Transition Advisory Committee

WCB Parent Resource Kit  
Focus Groups

WCB Young Worker Safety  
Certificate Steering Committee



# COMMITTEE REPORT: STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT

The Strategic Development Committee is an internal standing committee whose mandate is to make recommendations on the strategic direction of BCCPAC. It has the responsibility of overseeing the actions in the Strategic Plan 2002 - 2005, in concert with actions that implement approved resolutions. The Committee also takes the lead in reviewing and addressing any emergent issues in the education system that impact our organization and members.

The ongoing tasks of the Committee include:

- coordinating actions on resolutions
- summarizing and posting actions to the Resolutions Tracking Document
- striking and overseeing the Resolutions Committee. This year this Sub-Committee revised the Resolutions Policy, and worked with members bringing forward 30 resolutions to the 2004 AGM
- reporting on the Strategic Plan: verbal to the Board, written to the membership via Annual Report and a presentation at the 2004 Annual General Meeting

When BCCPAC received a grant of \$150,000 from the Ministry of Education in March 2002, the Strategic Development Committee oversaw a contract to develop and implement the PAC Ed Workshop series. In February of 2003, with the receipt of a subsequent grant, the Committee moved the management of the PAC Ed Workshop series to in-house staff and continued to oversee the PAC Ed Workshop Series including development of a new workshop - *School Planning Councils: Level 2*. Other expenditures from this grant included the recently published *SPC Policy in BC: A Comparative Analysis of District Policy* - a report comparing District School Planning Council Policies around the province. In addition, three regional events were successfully initiated: 2003 October 17, Fort St. John; 2004 February 7, Nanaimo; and 2004 April 17, New Westminster/Burnaby.

The task of implementing all of the resolutions that members approve each year as well as in previous years is a daunting one. There are currently 156 resolutions in BCCPAC's Statement of Policy. In an effort to spread the workload, The Strategic Development Committee developed the concept of Resolution Strategy Teams. The Board approved the idea and teams of 3 to 4 were formed for each 2003 approved resolution (or small groups of similar resolutions). The teams, led by a Board Member, began meeting by telephone in mid August to strategize actions. By the end of September, a number of the teams had submitted reports for Board review and approval. The Strategic Development Committee with the Board coordinates the strategies and strives to implement them in concert with BCCPAC's many other vital activities. Some teams including non-Board team members continue to meet and carry out the planned actions, while Board members carried out other actions.

The Issues Bulletins prepared each year assist parents in understanding the background behind the headlines. Each topic is researched by Strategic Development Committee members and written in plain language.

February 2003	Overview of Provincial Funding of School Districts with charts
February 2003	Representing Parents A Tall Order
March 2003	CommunityLINK formerly School Based Funding
May 2003	Proposed Changes to the BC College of Teachers
May 2003	School Amendment Act Bill 50
June 2003	Satisfaction Surveys
November 2003	Overview of District Allocation of Funding to BC Public Schools
December 2003	Update on BC College of Teachers including Frequently Asked Questions

Membership on this Committee includes the President, Past President, First and Second Vice-Presidents as well as one other Director:

(January-June 2003)	Reggi Balabanov, Terri Watson, Glenda Bilinsky, Cathy Abraham
(June-December 2003)	Terri Watson, Reggi Balabanov, Glenda Bilinsky, Marlinna Stringer, Sharyl Samodien



## STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

(standing from left to right)

Reggi Balabanov  
Marlinna Stringer  
Terri Watson

(sitting from left to right)

Sharyl Samodien  
Glenda Bilinsky

Respectfully submitted,  
Terri Watson, Chair



# COMMITTEE REPORT: ORGANIZATIONAL OPERATIONS

The Organizational Operations Committee is charged with making recommendations to the board on matters relating to the organizational operations of BCCPAC; to ensure that BCCPAC's Constitution and Bylaws and Internal Policy are reviewed and recommendations for changes are made on a timely basis and to oversee the operation of the BCCPAC Education Award, the George Mathews Award Committees and the Nomination and Elections Sub-Committees. Responsibilities added to the Committee this year were administration of the Bev Hosker Motivational Award, and overseeing the planning of the BCCPAC conferences. The Organizational Operations Committee also updated the "Board Binder" and is responsible each year for orienting new board members.

During the past year the Organizational Operations Committee has been working on goals identified in the Strategic Plan and has made changes to the nomination packages for the BCCPAC Board, George Mathews Award, and BCCPAC Education Award, as well as updating the Member Resolution Package and Policy. The committee also developed processes for the Board regarding internal communication, tracking board actions, the BCCPAC website and staffing, and overseeing the Executive Director's Evaluation. Communication and clear effective processes are what this committee is all about and the need for improvement is constant as BCCPAC continues to evolve as an organization.

Organizational Operations works closely with staff to continue to improve the support that we can give to the parents and students of BC by having a strong organizational structure.

Board members on the committee included:

*(January-June 2003)* Philip Mantler, Allison Flater, Ron Limer, Sharyl Samodien, Terri-Lynne Huddlestone  
*(June-December 2003)* Allison Flater, Philip Mantler, Terri-Lynne Huddlestone, Suzanne Psota, Elyn Dobbs

Respectfully submitted,  
Allison Flater, Chair



**ORGANIZATIONAL OPERATIONS COMMITTEE**

*(from left to right)*  
Terri-Lynne Huddlestone  
Allison Flater  
Suzanne Psota  
Philip Mantler

## BEV HOSKER MOTIVATIONAL AWARD

In January 2000, Bev joined the BCCPAC Board of Directors and held the position of First Vice-President for two years. She championed many issues, including the secondary school math program which she believed should be overhauled so that all students could succeed at math. She participated on the Ministry of Education's Advisory Committee on Provincial Assessment and Advisory Committee on Student Transportation, and contributed to the Graduation Requirements Review. In December 2000, she was instrumental in rewriting BCCPAC's Leadership Manual. She also served for a time as the BC Representative on the Board of the Canadian Home and School Federation.



Bev died in a motor vehicle accident near Quesnel on Sunday, August 17, 2003. She is survived by her husband and two daughters.

Bev contributed amazing amounts of time and energy as a tireless advocate for parents and students in the BC public education system. In the fall of 2003, BCCPAC established the Bev Hosker Motivational Award to honour a parent or guardian who:

- is a member of a BCCPAC member parent advisory council (PAC) or district parent advisory council (DPAC);
- is a new or newly involved parent taking on a leadership role in their PAC or DPAC.

The award recipient will be announced in May of each year. The award will consist of a plaque, along with a voucher to waive the registration fee to the BCCPAC Fall Leadership Conference or the Spring Conference and Annual General Meeting (AGM) in the following school year. The plaque and voucher will be presented to the individual in their school district.

# COMMITTEE REPORT: MEMBER SERVICES

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The Member Services Committee is an internal standing committee and a sub-committee of the Board of Directors of BCCPAC. The purpose of the committee is to provide strategic direction and to recommend actions on both Advocacy Project and member service initiatives and issues. The primary work of the committee this year has been our Member Service calls: responding to member PAC/DPACs' requests for assistance in assuming their rights and responsibilities. These are our Member Service calls. We have increased our staff capacity to respond to calls by including them in an advocacy training session in Fall 2003. The PAC Services Coordinator assisted in developing a Member Services Resource binder of information which has consistently proven useful and necessary in answering questions. During this past year we have seen an increase in calls dealing with administrative fairness and PAC autonomy. Other issues that come up frequently are:

- Internal/external PAC conflicts
- Constitution and bylaw amendments
- PAC finances including issues relating to gaming revenues
- PAC rights under the School Act

A major initiative this year has been to begin the reviewing and updating of the Leadership Manual, with anticipation of a Fall 2004 release. Plans to revive and update the *Building Partnerships in Schools* document are underway. We anticipate the issues of PAC autonomy, administrative fairness and School Planning Councils will be addressed in collaboration with our partner groups as we revise the document together.

The Diversity Sub-Committee, chaired by Sharyl Samodien, continues to ensure that BCCPAC materials will have a diversity component as we continue to create an inclusive environment to support all parents in participating in their children's education. This newly-formed committee will promote activities that will assist our organization to become more sensitive to parents in our communities. For example: our Leadership Manual and Inclusive PACs and DPAC Series will be reviewed and revised for language and content. The committee strives to heighten awareness of diversity by including articles in the monthly NewsByte and incorporating questions into the DA call outs.

Through committee encouragement, a wider selection of diverse speakers and topics are now being incorporated into our conferences. By modeling, we hope to inspire PACs and DPACs to also reach out into their communities to develop a broader base of parental involvement. PACs can show leadership by extending a personal invite to another parent; you never know who the next school volunteer might be.

The Member Services Committee also oversees the BCCPAC Advocacy Project. To ensure that Advocacy continues to be a viable and integral part of our organization we have continued the process of developing a comprehensive evaluation of the BCCPAC Advocacy Project.

Board members on the committee included:

*(January-June 2003)* Glenda Bilinsky, Terri-Lynne Huddlestone, Sharyl Samodien, Ron Limer

*(June-December 2003)* Glenda Bilinsky, Terri-Lynne Huddlestone, Allison Flater, Elyn Dobbs

Respectfully submitted,  
*Glenda Bilinsky, Chair*



## MEMBER SERVICES COMMITTEE

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*(from left to right)*  
Terri-Lynne Huddlestone  
Glenda Bilinsky  
Allison Flater  
Elyn Dobbs

# COMMITTEE REPORT: COMMUNICATIONS

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## COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

(from left to right)  
Sharyl Samodien  
Marlinna Stringer  
Suzanne Psota  
Philip Mantler

The Communications Committee is an internal standing committee of the Board of Directors of BCCPAC. Its purpose is to oversee the internal and external communication processes of BCCPAC and to liaise with District Associates.

The Communications Committee is dedicated to *providing* accurate and timely communications to its members through its website, NewsBytes, ImPACT Newsletter, printed materials and networking sessions for District Associates and DPAC chairs at our bi-annual conferences.

Additionally, the Communications committee is dedicated to *receiving* valuable communications from its members through the online forums, Questions of the Month, District Associate Callouts, and networking sessions at conferences.

In 2003, the Communications Committee focused its resources on upgrading and expanding the BCCPAC website, maintaining the delivery of NewsBytes (10), launching the Question of the Month (6), contributing to the ImPACT Newsletter (4), moderating the online forums (2) and conducting District Associate Callouts (3).

The committee also reviewed BCCPAC's brochures in July and developed a newer, more professional look. During this review process, the committee recognized the capabilities of current office staff to design and produce printed resources such as brochures and event programs 'in-house' and, subsequently, took action to ensure staff has the appropriate software to provide this service on an ongoing basis.

The committee recognized a need for DPAC chairs to have an opportunity to meet and network outside regularly scheduled conferences; to share two-way communications and to receive timely information that can benefit their districts. A DPAC Networking event was adopted in the committee's annual plan in September with Sharyl Samodien taking the lead in organizing the event for April 3, 2004 in Coquitlam. The event is a pilot project this year, and will be evaluated for inclusion as an ongoing project.

In cooperation with the Organizational Operations committee, the Communications Committee has drafted an internal website policy for Board consideration. The purpose of this policy is to define the goals and purpose of the website, to clarify and streamline the internal processes for posting and maintaining the site, and to establish a process for communicating with our members and the world at large.

The website is constantly undergoing expansion, and plans include a password-protected "Members Only" section for the benefit of member PACs and DPACs. Current plans for this section include items such as resources, topic pages on educational issues and resolutions updates.

The committee acknowledges the contributions of Fiona Delcourt and Lily Mertler as parent volunteer moderators of the PAC and Members Forum.

The committee chair works closely with Joyce Gram, Website and Newsletter Editor, to bring vital information to member PACs and DPACs in a timely manner. Joyce is a skilled writer and the committee acknowledges her contribution to BCCPAC as both a contractor and parent volunteer.

During 2003, Members of the committee were:

(January - June 2003) Terri Watson (chair), Cathy Abraham, Philip Mantler, Allison Flater

(June - December 2003) Marlinna Stringer (chair), Philip Mantler, Sharyl Samodien, Suzanne Psota

Respectfully submitted,  
Marlinna Stringer, Chair

# PROJECT UPDATE: ADVOCACY PROJECT

The BCCPAC Advocacy Project is the heart of a province-wide, grass-roots advocacy movement that provides information and support to parents and students in BC's public schools. The BCCPAC Advocacy Project is all about students and focuses on improving advocacy for students and parents in our public school system.

The BCCPAC Advocacy Project is entering its tenth year of service to parents and students in BC. Begun as a local district parent advisory council project in Qualicum in 1993, the provincial Project is now established in 40 school districts around BC and serves as a model for advocacy projects in Manitoba and Quebec. Project coordinators Janet Phillips and Cathy Bedard undertake many activities to support parents, District Advocacy Projects, and to provide evidence behind the direction BCCPAC has taken on many issues in education.

The vision of the BCCPAC Advocacy Project is:

- to have all parents and students in public education respected, with parent and student needs and opinions reflected in school district and provincial decision-making
- to have parent advisory councils, district parent advisory councils, and BCCPAC working together effectively, in the best interests of BC's students and parents, with recognition and support from the Ministry of Education and school districts
- to have school districts provide the information and support parents and students need to resolve their issues effectively within school district processes.



Janet Phillips and Cathy Bedard  
BCCPAC Advocacy Project

The project provides monthly reports to the BCCPAC Board including information on the services provided to DPACs and on issues faced by parents. Individual casework assists DPACs and BCCPAC as systems advocates by providing information on what 'doesn't work' in BC's education system. Treatment of students by school staff and fellow students (bullying), special needs (including Individual Education Plans), as well as student discipline continue to be areas of major concern. The number of parents seeking assistance to resolve conflict with their PAC/DPAC has increased. Casework has expanded to include complaints to the BC College of Teachers (BCCT).

Activities:

- In 2003 the project responded to 3149 contacts and participated in 40 presentations/workshops/meetings.
- A review of the project is reflected in BCCPAC's Strategic Planning document (2002-2005). A facilitated discussion held at the September 2003 board meeting assisted in clarifying a number of review objectives.
- The Advocacy Project reviewed its data collection and maintenance procedures to ensure compliance with the Personal Information Protection Act.
- Work on the BCCPAC Advocacy Project website continued; a major expansion that will include an advocate forum is underway.
- The Advocacy Project worked with the BCCPAC Board of Directors to bring forward parent concerns regarding the BCCT Person Complaint Process.



# PROJECT UPDATE: PAC ED EDUCATION & DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP SERIES

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A significant part of enhancing parent participation in our public school system is to build the skills and knowledge of our parent communities. In addition to twice-yearly conferences and the regional events begun in 2003, BCCPAC is proud of being able to support PACs and DPACs through individualized educational workshops. The PAC Ed Education and Development Workshop Series is designed to develop individual and collective leadership skills by offering parents and parent councils the opportunities to acquire the knowledge and skills to participate effectively in their school communities and in the public education system in BC. The PAC Ed Workshop Series is currently operating as an “on-demand” program. Individual PACs and DPACs contact the BCCPAC office to schedule a workshop or series of workshops that best meets their local schedules and interests.

BCCPAC has for many years offered a variety of workshops, in the beginning facilitated by the Board of Directors themselves, and later under the name *Roadshow*. Then in 2002, the workshop offerings evolved into PAC Ed, coordinated and managed by a contracted service. A major initiative of 2003 was to bring the management of this project in-house. Eileen Paget coordinates the project from the BCCPAC office, and has worked to update and develop course materials, particularly for the new *SPC Level 2* workshop.

The project's goals are to:

- Assist PAC/DPAC parent volunteers to develop the skills, knowledge and confidence to become effective leaders;
- Deliver workshops in the various regions of the province;
- Charge the same fee regardless of host location;
- Provide consistent and accurate content;
- Provide professional standards in workshop facilitation;
- Identify emerging topics of interest and develop materials to address these topics;
- Inform our members of the activities of the project; and
- Maintain a communication network for PAC Ed facilitators.

We currently have 10 trained workshop facilitators, two of whom are members of the BCCPAC Board of Directors. We have booked 41 PAC Ed workshops in 19 districts to date; 32 are complete and 9 more have been booked into April 2004. Approximately 540 parents have participated in these workshops. The most popular workshops have been *Creating Safer Schools* (7) and *Effective Planning* (7) followed by *Leading The Way* (5). This year, we have developed a new workshop, *School Planning Council Level 2*, and work has been completed on compiling a Data Supplement to meet the maturing needs of parents involved on their School Planning Councils. This section of the workshop incorporates information extrapolated from various sources and to date the responses have been positive. Over the next year, we will hope to contract and train an additional Lower Mainland facilitator and hope to facilitate training/sharing sessions once or twice per year.

# PROJECT UPDATE: COMMUNITYLINK

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BCCPAC received a grant from the Ministry of Children and Family Development for the purposes of supporting and improving parental involvement in the CommunityLINK programs. CommunityLINK programs provide a variety of supports (meals, counseling, community programs) to serve the needs of those students and communities in BC most at risk. BCCPAC provides information to PACs and DPACs with CommunityLINK programs; at the same time, we collect feedback and information about effective practices and share them throughout the province. All of the information will be used to provide advice to government.

BCCPAC is an active member of the CommunityLINK Implementation Partners Group which is comprised of representatives from the MCFD, Directorate of Agencies for School Health (DASH), BCSTA, and the Association of Community Educators (ACE). The purpose of the group is to share information, promote awareness of CommunityLINK programs and assist members of our respective groups in the transition from the individual applications for “School-Based Services” programs, such as Community Schools and Inner City Schools, to the district level administration and accountability of the CommunityLINK programs. We also encourage members to establish effective programs in their own schools to support our most vulnerable students, thereby assisting them in improving their academic achievement. We encourage schools to promote community partnerships that can support the implementation of these programs. Most of all, we support the active involvement of volunteers and parents in these programs and in their schools.

BCCPAC has been involved in a number of strategies such as writing and posting an issues bulletin explaining the objectives of the CommunityLINK program. We have requested parent input on best practices utilizing a number of different formats, such as an online input form. BCCPAC hosted a joint workshop with MCFD and DASH on CommunityLINK at our Fall Leadership Conference, as well as a round table discussion with parents and trustees. An article featuring CommunityLINK has been written in our February IMPACT newsletter and we are presently developing a web page to be devoted to the information-sharing on CommunityLINK initiatives around the province.





































**BC CONFEDERATION OF PARENT ADVISORY COUNCILS**

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