



**ANNUAL REPORT
2004**

**Vision
Statement:**

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

**Mission
Statement:**

The collective voice of parents for the best possible public education of all children in BC



**BRITISH COLUMBIA CONFEDERATION OF
PARENT ADVISORY COUNCILS**

President's Report



This year the Board of BCCPAC was pleased to continue to work alongside parents throughout our province to advance the education and well-being of all our children.

Our members are energetic and involved parents who want the best not only for their own child, but for all students. By continuing to share information and perspectives through

BCCPAC, parents understand more about the public education system, and enriching every child's learning environment.

The Board of Directors and staff worked with enthusiasm and dedication to support parents, and offered our two lively conferences and one regional event, plus many PAC Ed workshops. Our long-awaited Leadership Manual was released in the fall, and renewing and new members received a free edition as part of their membership fee.

We continued to put forward the opinions of our members, speaking at every opportunity on issues including sufficient funding to meet parents' expectations of services, clarifying roles of SPCs, PACs and DPACs as well as ensuring safe, healthy schools. At provincial tables we have representation on Education Advisory Council, Advisory Committee on Provincial Assessment, BC School Sports Council, InterMinistry Committee on Youth Violence and Crime, Safe Caring & Orderly Working Group, Ministry of Education Accountability Forum, WCB Young Worker Safety Advisory Committee, DASH / Breakfast for Learning.

We understand the importance of building relationships in order to improve communication. We continued to meet informally and formally with our education partners and organizations representing superintendents, principals, teachers, and trustees, as well as the B.C. College of Teachers and the School Leadership Centre at UBC.

We represented BCCPAC with our presence at the First Nations Education Steering Council Conference, NITEP/BCTF Aboriginal Education Conference, Volunteer BC Provincial Summit, Principals' Forums, BC College of Teachers meetings, Trustees' Conference, Forum on Promises & Perils of Learning Communities. We continued to support parents with individual issues through the Advocacy Project through district or provincial advocates. When PAC Executive members call with questions and concerns we respond through our Member Support Committee. We produced seven information papers (4 Issues Bulletins and 3 Guidelights) to explain and expand on topics of importance to parents this year. These included School Closures, Parent/Teacher Interviews, school seismic upgrading and Administrative Fairness.

From March to October this year we were supported with the services of two Interim Executive Directors while we searched diligently for our new Executive Director. Thank you to past Board members Elyn Dobbs and Sharyl Samodien for keeping the ship running on an even keel. We welcomed new Executive Director Jule Hopkins late in the year and look forward to smooth sailing from this experienced 'sailor'.

A major undertaking this year was the development of a new

3-year vision plan. Your Board met in mid-June to review past activities and achievements and set a Vision for the future. We surveyed our members and conference delegates in the fall and by December had formulated a succinct set of goals.

Over the years, BCCPAC has worked diligently to bring parents into meaningful roles in our education system. The improvements we have seen are largely a result of parents having increased information, a legislated role in our schools, as well as promoting the understanding and ability of all adults in the system to work together for the benefit of all students.

We closed the year with an increase in members and we look forward to the years ahead as we endeavour to improve public education for all our children. On behalf of our Board, please accept my sincere thanks for your enthusiastic support and commitment to BCCPAC. Working together, we are making a difference!

Terri Watson



2004 / 2005 BOARD OF DIRECTORS
TERM OF OFFICE JUNE 2004 – JUNE 2005

Top row from left to right: Arnie Kidner, Terri-Lynne Huddleston, Suzanne Psota, Lori Tedrick, Kimberly Howland, David Fowler
Bottom row from left to right: Glenda Bilinsky, Terri Watson, Allison Flater



2003 / 2004 BOARD OF DIRECTORS
TERM OF OFFICE JUNE 2003 – JUNE 2004

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

Treasurer's Report

BCCPAC continues to be a financially viable and responsible organization. In 2004, BCCPAC balanced their income and expenses. Income was \$853,361; including \$5,863 earned in interest from investments. Expenses were \$818,405; leaving a slight surplus of \$34,956 (4%) from operations.

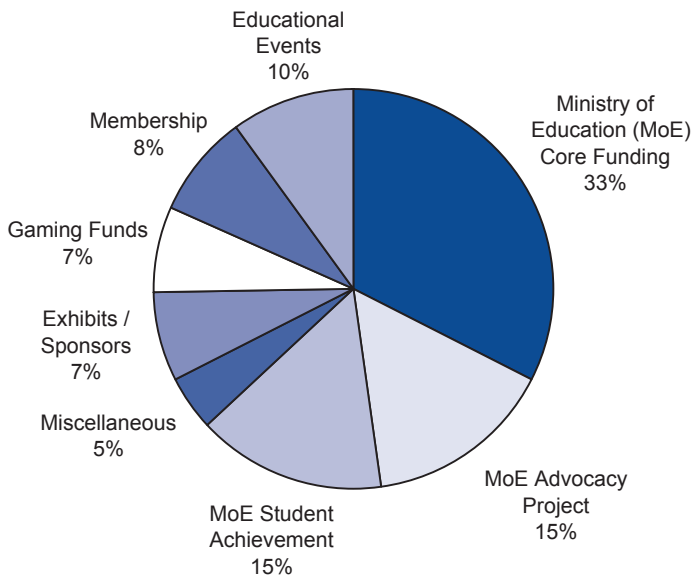


It has been my pleasure to serve with such a hard working and dedicated organization as BCCPAC.

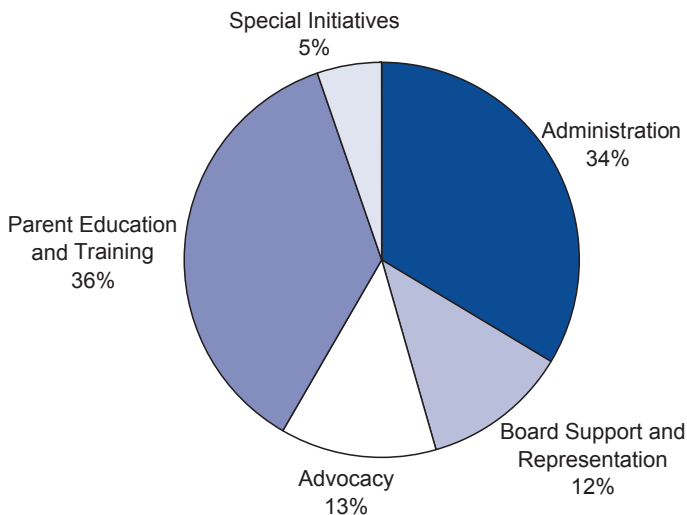
The following two charts show how income was received and spent in 2004.

David Fowler

BCCPAC 2004 Sources of Income \$853,361.00



BCCPAC 2004 Application of Funds \$818,405.00



Executive Director's Report

The year of 2004 has been a year of changes and new initiatives have taken place, some which include; a new Vision Statement was created; increased funding for the Advocacy Project was secured; a \$75,000.00 grant was received from the Ministry of Education to update and revise the Building Partnerships in Schools Handbook.



The Board continued to work on the 2002-2005 Strategic Plan Objectives, while building the 2005-2008 Vision Plan through workshops, surveys, and discussion groups. Considerable work has gone into the new Vision Plan that the Board looks forward to presenting to our members at the AGM.

BCCPAC continued to build and consolidate partner relationships with our education partners by providing responsive, thoughtful feed back and dialogue on issues, concerns, and challenges as well as recognizing positive steps that our education partners took to enhance parent decision making and involvement in the education system. Parent education through our Spring/Fall conferences and Regional events were well received and enhanced parent learning and leadership. BCCPAC staff (Francesca Foschi, Eileen Paget, Colin Porteous, and Sharyl Samodien; contractors Cathy Bedard, Joyce Gram, and Janet Phillips) with the co-ordinating efforts of Colleen Sondermann did a fantastic job of mounting these education events.

This year was also a year of transition for the organization with the change of Executive Directors. The Board worked with two Acting Executive Directors while conducting their search for a new Executive Director. A great deal of credit needs to be extended to the Board President Terri Watson and her Board colleagues, as well as the office staff and contractors, who worked extremely hard to ensure that the work of BCCPAC was well attended to in this period of transition. Their dedication to BCCPAC is commendable.

In mid-October, I was honoured to join BCCPAC and I look forward to making many connections with our members in the up-coming year. I have found this organization's Board members, staff, contractors, and volunteers to be a very caring and supportive team. I am dedicated to ensuring that our parents will continue to be supported and recognized, as a vital voice in the decision making and advisory role in their children's schools and school districts.

In closing I extend a sincere thank you to the Board of Directors, the Office Staff and Contractors for their assistance and support they have so willingly given to me as I "learn the ropes" of our organization and my new job. The Board members have much to be proud of over this past year, as they have faced the changes, challenges, and transitions with dedication, courage, and commitment. They have been successful in bringing to the attention of the Ministry of Education and our other Educations Partners the power of Parent Leadership and the Parent Voice.

Jule Hopkins

Communications Committee Report

The Communications Committee is responsible to oversee the internal and external communication processes of BCCPAC. We are dedicated to providing accurate, timely communications to our members. By focusing our resources, we have been able to provide timely information through our website, News Bytes, ImpACT Newsletter, printed resources and networking sessions for DPAC Chairs and District Associates at our bi-annual conferences. Additionally, we are dedicated to receiving and relaying valuable communications from our members through the online forums, Questions of the Month, Emerging Issues, and District Associate Callouts.

In June the Communication Committee reviewed the Communication Terms of Reference. Changes were made to better reflect the role of the Communication Committee. At this time, the Board of Directors approved the appointment of a non-board member to sit on the Committee.

The Communications Committee Annual Plan includes reviewing and making recommendations for change to internal policies on issues related to communications. In consultation with other committees and office staff we have worked to identify the overall communication needs and to determine and improve the technology capacity of BCCPAC; with the intent to enhance our ability to better communicate with our members, education partners and general public. This includes, but is not limited to website, e-technology and network systems.

In 2004, the Board of Directors approved funding for a Communication Audit. The Communications Committee began developing the terms of reference that will guide the work of the audit. The audit, which will include a review of all BCCPAC resource materials, media opportunities, communication methods and processes will be completed by June 2005.

We gratefully acknowledge the continued contributions of Fiona Delcourt and Lily Mertler as parent volunteer moderators of the PAC and Members Forum and Marlinna Stringer who joined us as a non-board committee member.

During 2004, Members of the committee were:

(January - June 2004) Marlinna Stringer (Chair), Philip Mantler, Sharyl Samodien, Suzanne Psota

(June - December 2004) Lori Tedrick (Co-Chair), Arnie Kidner (Co-Chair), Marlinna Stringer

Lori Tedrick



*Arnie Kidner and
Lori Tedrick*



*Marlinna Stringer (Communications Committee)
and Margaret Lipke (Member Support Committee)*



*Suzanne Psota, Glenda Bilinsky and
Kim Howland*

Member Support Committee Report

In 2004, Member Services committee changed their name to Member Support to better reflect the work of the committee. The committee's responsibility is to provide strategic direction and to recommend actions on both advocacy and member support initiatives and issues. The Member Support Committee continued to assist our member PAC/DPACs in their requests for assistance on various issues through our Member Support calls and e-mail system.

Member support requests in 2004 included such areas as:

- PAC autonomy
- PAC rights under the School Act
- Issues surrounding Constitution and Bylaws
- Internal/external conflicts
- PAC finances issues including those related to gaming revenues

A major initiative for 2004 was securing funding for a revision and updating of the Building Partnerships in Schools document. Work is currently underway, and we are pleased to be collaborating with our education partner groups, on this task that will serve as a reference for parents and educators working together to establish effective partnerships in schools.

The Member Support Committee also liaises with the BCCPAC Advocacy Project Consultants to support their efforts and make recommendations to the Board. This year a review of the BCCPAC Advocacy Project was completed. It is clear that Advocacy continues to be a viable and integral part of our organization and this is well reflected in the organization's Vision Plan for 2005-2008.

In September of 2004 the committee was charged with the responsibility of overseeing and supporting District Associates. It was identified that the District Associate role needed clarification, training provided and support materials needed to be updated. That process began in November 2004 and is still a work in progress.

We would like to acknowledge and thank Margaret Lipke for participating as a non-board member.

Board members on the committee included:

(January-June 2004) Glenda Bilinsky, Terri-Lynne Huddleston, Allison Flater, Elyn Dobbs

(June-December 2004) Glenda Bilinsky, Kim Howland, Suzanne Psota, Margaret Lipke

Glenda Bilinsky

Operations Committee Report

The Operations Committee is involved with making recommendations to the board on matters related to the organizational operations of BCCPAC; to ensure that BCCPAC's Constitution and Bylaws and Internal Policies are reviewed and recommendations for changes are made on a timely basis.

The purposes of the Operations Committee are:

- To make recommendations to the Board on matters relating to the organizational operation and processes of the society, including, but not limited to:
- the society's constitution, bylaws, and internal policies
- the nomination, election, AGM, and resolution procedures and the Resolution Strategy Team process
- human and financial resources and legal requirements of the society.
- To oversee the BCCPAC Educational Award, George Matthews Award for Excellence in Parent Leadership, and Bev Hosker Motivation award.

The committee oversaw the development of a Resolution Sub-Committee that worked diligently compiling the 2005 Resolutions. We wish to recognize the following people who joined the Operations Committee members in this task: Philip Mantler (chair), Cheryl Andrews, Glenda Bilinsky, and Kim Howland. The Operation Committee had the responsibility of new Board members, developing the process for the annual evaluation of the Executive Director, bringing forward the Public Information Privacy Act Policy to the Board. The Operation Committee also reviewed and developed new Terms of Reference; initiated a process for a review of the current Constitution and By-laws; worked with the Resolution Sub-Committee to develop new criteria for competencies for the Treasurer position; and prepared an annual work plan.

Communicating clear and effective processes are what this committee is all about, and by continually exploring areas of improvement as BCCPAC evolves as an organization. The Operations Committee works closely with staff and other Board members to continue to enhance the support that we can give to parents and students of BC by having strong organizational structures for our Society.

Board Members on the committee include:

(January 2004-June 2004) Allison Flater (chair), Philip Mantler, Terri-Lynne Huddleston, Suzanne Psota, Elyn Dobbs

(June 2004-December 2004) Allison Flater (chair), David Fowler, Terri-Lynne Huddleston

Allison Flater



Terri-Lynne Huddleston, David Fowler, Allison Flater

Strategic Development Committee Report

The Strategic Development Committee's purpose 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. Its task is also to review and address any emergent issues in the education system that impacts our organization and members. In June of this year the Board changed the composition of the committee so that instead of having only 4 members, the committee includes all the members of the Board.

The ongoing tasks of the Committee include:

- coordinate actions on resolutions
- summarize and post actions to the Resolutions Tracking Document
- strike and oversee the Resolutions Committee. This year this Sub-Committee worked with members bringing forward 30 resolutions to the 2004 AGM
- report on the Strategic Plan: verbal to the Board, written to the membership via Annual Report and a presentation at the 2004 Annual General Meeting

In addition in 2004 the committee's duty was to produce a long-term strategic plan for approval by the membership at the 2005 AGM. The Board met in mid-June to review past activities and achievements and set a Vision for the future. We surveyed our members and conference delegates in the fall and by December had formulated a succinct set of goals. 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 185 resolutions in BCCPAC's Statement of Policy. In an effort to spread the workload, The Strategic Development Committee carried on with the concept of forming Resolution Strategy Teams (RSTs). The RSTs include a Board member, a member from the submitting PAC plus one other PAC representative. The teams continue to work on strategies to implement the resolutions and the Board coordinates the strategies and strives to implement them in concert with BCCPAC's many other vital activities. Some teams including non-Board Member team members continue to meet and carry out the planned actions, while Board Members carried out other actions. The committee also developed new Terms of Reference this year, and expanded its members to include the entire Board and chaired by the President.

The committee continued to prepare Issues Bulletins that assist parents in understanding the background behind the headlines. Each topic is researched by Board members and written in plain language. In 2004, 6 Issues Bulletins and 7 Press releases were prepared and issued and are available to read on our website bccpac.bc.ca. Each of these items clearly indicates the commitment of BCCPAC to initiate and respond to emerging educational issues.

Terri Watson

Board members on the Committee include:

(January to June 2004): Terri Watson, Glenda Bilinsky, Marlinna Stringer, Sharyl Samodien, Reggi Balabanov

Committee Members after June include all members of the Board.

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 developed an annual plan based both on its mandate as well as on the assigned initiatives. Some of the key achievements in 2004 were:

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
- promoted the Member Only Forum on the website
- Board members attended DPAC meetings
- trained Board members in taking Member Service calls
- all Board members called out to District Associates / DPACs
- completed revision of the Leadership Manual and distributed it to members
- developed contents for a new Finance workshop in the PAC Ed series

REPRESENTATION GOAL

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

- made a submission to the Pre-Budget Consultation Committee, issued press release
- piloted the Education Tracking Survey
- initiated meetings with partner group Executives: BCTF, BCSSA, BCPVP, BCCT, BCPSEA
- attended numerous external and education partner meetings, forums, workshops and conferences outlined in the President's Report
- liaised with Ministry of Education staff on SPC resources and training
- Deputy Minister met with the Board
- Minister of Education addressed delegates at the Spring and Fall conferences and met with DPAC Chairs at Spring conference

ADVOCACY GOAL

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

- 41 DPACs have formally committed to participating in the BCCPAC Advocacy Project
- Advocates met with the intake staff of the BCCT on the person complaint process
- Advocates provided regular summaries on current advocacy issues to the Board
- received Review Report on the Advocacy Project, in advance of developing a long-term strategic plan.

Terri Watson

BCCPAC Advocacy Project

The BCCPAC Advocacy Project has been working with and for DPACs, PACs, and individual parents for ten years – working to make things better for students in BC Public Schools. The BCCPAC Advocacy Project focuses on helping parents, both individually and collectively, with the barriers to school success faced by students.



Cathy Bedard



Janet Phillips

We all hear about students, who are not successful in school, students who give up, loose interest, or drop out. We worry about young people who leave school early, or complete school without good skills in reading, writing and mathematics. While there is a growing acceptance of advocacy for children and youth, many parents still face strong resistance when bringing concerns forward to our public schools. After a decade of work on the part of the BCCPAC Advocacy Project, the BCCPAC Board of Directors, BCCPAC member PACs / DPACs, and individual parents, there is still much work to be done!

Parents are still struggling to have schools focus on the needs and interests of children. Casework demonstrates that parent and student concerns are often not heard, even when school district processes are carefully followed. Yet, there is hope. We are pleased that a number of school and school district administrators listening and working to meet the needs of the students in their schools. There is a growing awareness of the challenges faced by students and, in some cases, a growing awareness of the importance of school staff and parents working together.

The work of this year could best be described as “courageous persistence”. The project has 41 DPACs committed to participating in the Advocacy Project. The project responded to 3265 requests and participated in 34 presentations/workshops/meetings.

The final copy of the 2004 Advocacy Project Review was received in late fall and it was reviewed by the Board of Directors and the Provincial Advocates in December. The review was very useful in helping the Board appreciate and understand the value and role of the Advocacy Project, to parents, BCCPAC members and our education partners.

No significant changes to the Advocacy Project will be made at this time, as a result of the review. The BCCPAC Board remains very interested in continuing to seek information on the work of the project, and the Board has asked the Provincial Advocates, Janet Phillips and Cathy Bedard, to assist in gathering information on an on-going basis, to ensure that we are kept abreast of the challenges and positive outcomes of the Advocacy Project.

Cathy Bedard and Janet Phillips
BCCPAC Advocates

PAC Ed Education & Development Workshop Series Report

The PAC Ed Workshop Series assists PAC and DPAC volunteers to develop the skills, knowledge, and confidence they need to become more effective leaders in our school communities. The PAC Ed Workshop series has been available to our PACs/DPACs since 2002 and is comprised of 8 workshops which are coordinated by Eileen Paget from the BCCPAC office. We currently have 3 trained workshop Facilitators who present workshops throughout BC. We launched a new Workshop "Unfolding the Mystery: PAC/DPAC Finances" at the 2004 fall conference.

PAC Ed 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;
- inform our members of the activities of the project.

PAC Ed Statistics for 2004:

- Presented 29 workshops in 23 school districts
- 675 individual participants benefited from our workshops
- School Planning Council workshops were the most popular, with 9 workshop presentations
- Creating Safer Schools workshops were the second most requested at 5 workshops
- SPC workshops average 38 participants while the other workshops average 17 participants per workshop.
- 12 workshops arranged for early 2005

Eileen Paget

BCCPAC Education Events: CONFERENCES REGIONAL EVENTS PAC ED WORKSHOPS

Here's what parents have said:

"Best parent Pro-D! You leave with an unbelievable amount of knowledge on current issues"

"Opportunity to connect and share with parents from around the province is invaluable"

What did you learn at the conferences?

"The great support and resource we have in BCCPAC."

"Ideas to implement the advocacy project, and much more!"

"Parent involvement is both necessary and important."

"Every event I attended had at least one new thing I can take back to help my PAC and our kids."

Volunteers, Sponsors, and Exhibitors Recognized

BCCPAC extends our sincere thanks to our sponsors; Workers' Compensation Board of BC, Insurance Corporation of BC and the BC Dairy Foundation for their continued support of our conferences. It is due in part to their generous donations, that we are able to keep the conference registration fee at a reasonable rate. We also recognize the many various exhibitors that participate and add to the culture and education value of these events. Our sponsors and exhibitors help support parents in their quest to become and stay informed on issues involving public education.

We also extend our thanks to the many parent volunteers who offered their time to participate on external committees, focus groups and who have assisted us at our conferences and regional events. It is through our parent volunteers that we are able to better support and connect with our members and parents.

We also gratefully acknowledge the financial support of the Province of British Columbia through the Ministry of Education.

Parent education at work ...



BC CONFEDERATION OF PARENT ADVISORY COUNCILS

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