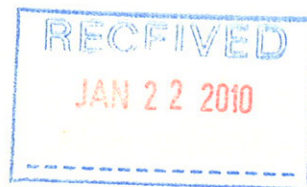




The Best Place on Earth



JAN 20 2010

Ref: 157474

Ann Whiteaker, President and CEO  
BC Confederation of Parent Advisory Councils  
350 – 5172 Kingsway  
Burnaby BC V5H 2E8

Dear Ms. Whiteaker:

Thank you for your November 2, 2009, letter regarding the resolution passed by member delegates at your 2009 Annual General Meeting.

Your organization's resolution recommends that Parent Advisory Council (PAC) funding from gaming grants be increased to \$40 per student. While the use of these monies is commendable, the provincial government is not able to implement an increase in funding during these difficult economic times.

Community gaming grants contribute to the well being of our province and no government has proven immune to the unprecedented economic challenges. As a result, difficult decisions had to be made in order to continue to fund core services and priorities.

For 2009/10, priorities for community gaming grants include programs that provide assistance to individuals most in need, such as food, shelter and supports to low income, disabled, and at risk individuals, programs that support community health initiatives, a limited number of arts and culture organizations, services for youth, and organizations with three year grant commitments.

Your resolution also requested that parent education and membership dues be added as an eligible use of gaming grant funds. The provincial government established PAC grants to assist with students' non-curricular activities. However, the annual grant provided to each District PAC (DPAC) can be used to foster parent involvement and communication, British Columbia Confederation of Parent Advisory Council membership fees, travel to DPAC meetings and so forth.

Budget planning for the next fiscal year is currently underway and I assure you that PAC funding levels will be discussed as part of that process.

Again, thank you writing.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Rich Coleman', with a horizontal line drawn through the middle of the signature.

Rich Coleman  
Minister