

September 9, 2009

Dear Members:

Late in the day on September 8, 2009, BCCPAC received official word that gaming grants will receive a fifty percent reduction this year to \$10 per student for Parent Advisory Councils (PACs) and \$1,250 for District Parent Advisory Councils (DPACs). If you received a bingo affiliation grant of \$20 per student earlier this year you will not be eligible for any gaming funds. The letter from the Honourable Rich Coleman, Minister of Housing and Social Development, outlining this change can be found at: <http://www.hsd.gov.bc.ca/gaming/news/docs/2009-09-08-minister-message-pac-dpac-funding.pdf>

We urge all our PAC's and DPAC's to:

1. Contact your MLA to express your concerns and share the important things supported at your school by your PAC/DPAC. A complete listing of MLA's, including phone, fax, email and mailing addresses can be found at: <http://www.leg.bc.ca/mla/3-1-1.htm>
Please copy BCCPAC (info@bccpac.bc.ca) on any correspondence you send to your MLA.
2. Complete the BCCPAC survey on the use of gaming funds. Yesterday, over 120 responses were received and we extend our sincere thanks to those who have already completed the survey. If your PAC/DPAC has not yet completed it, we urge you to do so by Friday, September 11, 2009. Only one survey per PAC/DPAC, please. This can be accessed from our website www.bccpac.bc.ca or by clicking on the link below: <http://www.bccpac.bc.ca/login.aspx>

PAC gaming funds are monies that parents can truly control at the school level, to make choices for our own children in our own communities. DPAC gaming funds are used to provide educational opportunities for parents to support students. Time and again, parents have expressed to us their concerns regarding the amount of time spent fundraising to enrich their children's learning experiences and to provide some of the basics at school. More meaningful parent involvement falls to the wayside when fundraising is, by necessity, a major focus. Our board believes that parents want to find ways to increase their meaningful involvement in their child's education.

Thank you very much for sharing your concerns with us, collaborating and supporting one another on this issue. Together we can make a difference.

Sincerely,

BCCPAC Board of Directors