



BCCPAC NEWSBYTES

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

Education...

Manual of School Law

The Ministry has updated the Manual of School Law. Amendments reflect on distributed learning, made by [Bill 33](#). Links to the revised [Individual Education Plan Order](#), [Educational Standards Order](#), are under the Independent School Act, [Manual of School Law – K-12](#), [More Info](#).

Aboriginal Students Making Progress

Minister Bond speaks about the performance improvements from Aboriginal students that are taking and passing more academic courses. "Aboriginal students are improving in many areas but more work needs to be done", said Bond, [More Info](#).

Learning in Action Showcase

Minister Bond education report on BC school boards demonstrates effective communication, "We want school boards to share their innovative projects, teaching methods and best practices so students around BC can benefit from them...", said Bond, [More info](#).

Early Learning Initiatives – StrongStart Centres

Government introduces [StrongStart Centres](#) to various elementary schools in BC. ECE facilitate free early learning programs for preschool children, their families and caregivers. Schools in Mission and Courtenay are among the first to receive StrongStart Centres [More Info](#).

\$9M For Faculty of Management Building at Malaspina

Minister Murray Coell plans to work with BC's post-secondary institutions to build a high-tech roof to simulate a modern business setting. Their goal is to **give our students the best possible learning experience**. By investing in our students -- we are investing in the future of our province, [More Info](#).

Grant Program Helps Solve Skill Shortage

Minister Bond speaks on the increasing demand for trades people. The government plans to invest in a \$3-million grant to help schools purchase new trades-training equipment, [More info](#).

Education Reports

The 2005-06 education report test results indicate that BC students are among the best in the world, [More Info](#).

Health...

Childhood Obesity and Physical Inactivity

It's been reported that a quarter of our children are overweight or obese. MLA Ralph Sultan speaks on this critical issue of obesity, suggests that bold measures are necessary for change – such as more investments in public health, more health facilities, removing PST for snack foods and pop, sugar, fat, and salt reductions, [More info](#).

Tobacco Control Program

It is estimated that tobacco causes up to 6,000 preventable deaths annually in BC -- killing more people than all other drugs. The Ministry of Health Tobacco Control Program goal is "**prevention**", to stop youths and young adults from using tobacco, as well as to encourage users to quit or reduce their use, [More Info](#).

Home Canning - How to Avoid Botulism

Botulism can be fatal; which is why home canning must be done with extreme care. The Ministry website suggests contributing factors to avoid botulism include cleanliness, heat and acid levels, [More info](#).

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Share NewsBytes with Other Parents...

Please feel free to share a copy of our NewsBytes electronic newsletter -- send it out to your parents via your PAC/DPAC email list.

Important Dates to Remember...

Jan 12, 2007 – Deadline for CANARIE Inc.'s Graphic Design Contest. Theme is Connecting, Communicating for K-12, university, college and CEGEP students, [More Info](#).

Jan 15, 2007 – Deadline to **submit resolutions** for BCCPAC's 2007 Annual General Meeting, [More Info](#)

Jan 15, 2007 - Early bird registration is available! Contact: [Surrey Conference Centre](#); Learning Through the Arts BC Mini-Conference -- Success for every child.

Jan 16, 2007 – Deadline for next year's Racism, Stop It national video. The competition is for students aged 12-18, [More Info](#).

Jan 30, 2007 – Deadline for nomination for BCCPAC Board of Directors – Secretary position, [More Info](#).

Jan 31, 2007 - Deadline for **CanSpell 2007 Registration** is now open for schools who can commit to hosting a spelling bee, [More Info](#).

Feb 11-17, 2007 - CHSF's National Teacher/Staff Appreciation Week - suggestions for celebrating this event are on their website, [More Info](#).

Feb 15, 2007 – Deadline for application for the Explore and Accent Official-Languages program, [More Info](#).

Feb 28, 2007 – Deadline for nomination to BCCPAC Board of Directors - AGM, [More Info](#).

Mar 1, 2007 – Deadline for Healthy Kids Contest, win up to \$400 of sports gear, send in a favourite healthy recipe, or a picture doing a favourite activity, [More info](#).

Bytes...

Edudata

Goal is to increase data and share knowledge to help facilitate successful research and policy collaborations on BC's K-12 school system for parents and educators, [More info](#).

Education and Literacy Topics

Comprehensive list of online education resources available at; [More Info](#).

Approaches to Supporting Vulnerable Students

School districts and local communities offer a guide of programs and services to help **support vulnerable students** in our schools, [More info](#).

Learning Disorders: ADD, ADHD, ODD, LD, & ASD

Harvard Psychologist, Dr. Paul Swingle speaks about alternative therapy to medicating our children and the risks of using labels for those diagnosed with learning or behavioural difficulties, [More Info](#).