



## Message From BCCPAC's President

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**TO: BCCPAC Members**  
**FROM: Kim Howland, President**

### **RE: Recent Media Reports**

I wanted to be in touch with each of you directly about mistaken impressions and inaccuracies about BCCPAC you may have seen in recent media articles and on blogs. I also wanted to thank all of you who have been so supportive of BCCPAC, recognizing we all have advocacy for our children and excellence in public education as our primary goals.

BCCPAC is a member driven organization. It is not accurate for publications to characterize us as a 'public' or 'government' organization. As a member organization, incorporated under the Society Act and registered as a charity under the Income Tax Act, BCCPAC is governed according to our Constitution and Bylaws by an elected board of directors and we are accountable to our members. Like many other organizations, we receive grants from government to further the work of the organization, as set out in our Vision Plan and as representatives of the voice of parents through our organization's Statement of Policy and information collected from members. BCCPAC also carefully manages all of our funds – those received from government grants, sponsors and membership fees – and reports clearly and accurately our financial position to our members every year at our annual general meeting and in our audited financial statements.

It is disheartening to see statements that infer that BCCPAC Board members are not fully informed about financial matters. It is a point of pride with us that our Board members, under policy, are trained in their fiduciary and director responsibilities. Every year, at our June meeting, Board members are taken through an orientation. A significant amount of the time is spent on our financial and budgetary reporting, i.e., how to understand it; how to query it; where the information can be found; etc. Some Board members have taken further training through organizations like Volunteer Vancouver to deepen their understanding of their director roles and responsibilities. It is the responsibility of all elected board members to ensure that they are informed on the financial and policy affairs of the organization; to ask questions as needed and to ensure that they have the tools or information to fully comprehend our mandate and our methods of operation. Also, financial statements are reviewed at every Board meeting and all questions are encouraged and answered by our staff and/or consultants with legal background, who also play leading roles in educating Board members about their obligations.

Finally, we do take exception to being painted as an organization seeking favour with government. BCCPAC members have been speaking up for change in the education system for many years, through resolutions that can be found in our Statement of Policy as well as archived resolutions. We have been successful in effectively making the voice of our membership heard



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and have achieved significant influence in public education policy through respectful relationships.

Like our other member-driven partners in provincial education, we must maintain courteous and respectful relationships with each other. We all have a role to play – for parents; for students; for teachers; for trustees; for the provincial education ministry; for principals and vice-principals; for district staff – and we do our best to keep each other informed about our work and our priorities. We don't always agree on every issue, but I think all of our partners in education would agree that the achievement of every student in the BC public education system is our main priority.

In Partnership,

Kimberlee Howland  
President