



District Parent Advisory Council

Representing 110 PACs with over 40,000 Parents

Vancouver DPAC - 1580 West Broadway - Vancouver, BC, V6J 5K8 – 604 215-8621 or 604 657-0154

Education Minister George Abbott
Room 310-Parliament Buildings, Victoria, BC
V8V 1X4
(Electronic Mail)

Re: Bill C22

Dear Minister Abbott,
DPAC have reviewed Bill 22 (http://www.leg.bc.ca/39th4th/1st_read/gov22-1.htm), and consulted with our parents to understand various perspectives about the current issues in education in BC.

DPAC consulted our Parent's through the Vancouver Parent Advisory Councils (PACs) representatives and from our 110 PACs in Vancouver we had a response from 134 PAC representatives. An overwhelming majority indicated they do not agree with legislation being imposed to end this dispute. Indeed Minister Abbott our parents have informed us that they do not support Bill 22 as an improvement to education and want the bill removed.

Our parents do not want pay to teachers based on class size. Our parents do not want to see teachers legislated back to work; their charter rights impaired or removed and a penalty for exercising these rights.

Our parents know our teachers and we unanimously value our teachers. Our parents know they deliver a service to our children every day with skill and passion with increasingly fewer resources and support. Our parents are speaking of capital infrastructure, operational expenses and classroom consumables, and not salaries Minister Abbott.

Our parents are investing increasingly more time, energy and their household budgets to supporting our public education system. Our parents are not satisfied with yearly cuts to education services in our schools. Our parents recognize that Government funding has been increased over the years; nevertheless the increases do not keep pace with the cost of living nor reflect the needs of schools, teachers and students. Families are being asked to make up the difference and now purchase playgrounds, books, classroom essentials and even paper for the students.

Our parents work very hard to model behaviours for our children and we expect that your government will model the behaviours we expect from our elected officials. Our parents expect your government to have the wisdom and experience to separate salary issues from professional issues in the bargaining process. Lastly our parents expect that your government conduct professional and respectful negotiations with the teachers to arrive at a fair settlement that supports a fully funded education system and builds much needed trust in the education system.

Invest in OUR children NOW - They are the future!



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“Invest in our Children NOW. They are the Future” banners are appearing all across Vancouver. This slogan represents the view of parents and families that a fully funded education system is the right of every child. Minister Abbott, you are hearing from our families in Vancouver. Please listen to us.

Sincerely,

Gwen Giesbrecht,

Vancouver DPAC Executive on behalf of concerned Vancouver public school families.

CC: Patti Bacchus, VSB Chair, Steve Cardwell, VSB Superintendent, Ann Whiteaker, BCCPAC, Susan Lambert, BCTF,

VSB Partner Groups, Media.

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