

BC Education Coalition - Stop BC Education Cuts!

February 22, 2010

Welcome to all who have joined our Facebook group or contributed to our Website!

With just one week until the 2010-11 BC Budget is presented on March 2, parents and education advocates around the province are busy writing, calling, rallying, petitioning and emailing local MLAs and the BC Premier to stand up for our K-12 students!

The message is simple: Last year, while campaigning for re-election at the height of the 2009 global recession, Premier Campbell promised to protect public education despite the tough economic times.

British Columbians expect him to honour that promise in his upcoming budget, by covering some \$300 million in unfunded new costs and demands that Victoria has imposed on local school boards for 2010-11.

Examples of local advocacy (more at: <http://stopeducationcuts.org>)

- Surrey has started a petition that local MLAs will take to Victoria
- Dunster PAC in the BC Interior asked DPACs around the province to encourage local PACs to join a provincial SOS letter campaign
- Parents in North Vancouver Island launched a major campaign: their district faces \$1 million in cuts from a total budget of \$18 million next year!
- Several Vancouver PACs have launched letter campaigns
- Kamloops teachers, parents and trustees rallied outside their local MLA's office last week.
- Vancouver parents and teachers plan rallies on Feb 28 and March 1.
- Nanaimo trustees are proposing a Royal Commission on public education funding
- Cowichan trustees have proposed cuts to private school funding if the province can't afford to fully fund public education.
- The BC School Trustees Association is calling on the Minister to engage local boards, as co-governors of our public education system, in shaping significant reforms that the Ministry has announced are coming.
- Vancouver Island trustees plan an emergency meeting later this week.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

Please support these efforts by taking action in your own community BEFORE the March 2 Provincial Budget:

1. Visit our website <http://stopeducationcuts.org/> for sample letters, contact info for government officials and links to local groups in your area
2. Share this message with others. Invite them to join our Facebook group - Stop BC Education Cuts! - to show support for public education and/or to join in local advocacy efforts.
3. Send copies of letters and updates on local actions to local media and to bcpubliceducation@gmail.com so that we can share with other parents. Or post a note on our Facebook group.

Thank you for your support!!

Email: bcpubliceducation@gmail.com

• Web: <http://stopeducationcuts.org>

Facebook: **Stop BC Education Cuts**

• Twitter: **stopK12cuts**