

*April 12, 2010: Message to all members of Stop BC Education Cuts!*

**URGENT: BC Boards warn of deep cuts.**

**Please ACT NOW to support SOS campaigns!**

***Welcome to all our new Facebook members! Please forward this important update to other parents and public education supporters!***

**1. URGENT NOTICE (VANCOUVER):** Parent meeting tonight (Apr 12) to plan campaign against \$18 million cuts:

Where: Vancouver Board of Education – 1580 West Broadway, Room 120

When: Monday, April 12th, 7:00 to 9:00 pm

More details: <http://stopeducationcuts.org/events/>

=====  
**2. URGENT UPDATE: Provincial campaign against provincial underfunding**  
=====

BC's students are the clear losers as local Boards around BC are finalizing dire budget plans for 2010-11. This is NOT a Vancouver problem, despite the recent media focus. It's happening right across BC, including many districts like Surrey with growing enrolment. Impacts include school closures (well beyond any reasonable response to enrolment shifts), deep cuts to core staffing and vital supports (Special Ed, ESL, libraries, principals & VPs, counselors, multicultural workers, Aboriginal programs, French Immersion, fine arts, school sports, etc). North Van, Richmond, Prince George and Victoria are among those warning of cuts to core programs like Special Ed, larger class sizes and shorter calendars. Vancouver plans to cut its entire Band program. While vulnerable kids will be most critically impacted, these cuts will hurt ALL BC's students across the board.

Many districts have been trimming "fat" for a decade, so while pockets of waste no doubt remain, it's impossible to cut so much without leaving many more students behind. In many cases, it's futile to lobby local boards to cut elsewhere to save the school or program that our children count on because that just means robbing Peter to pay Paul. The only way to ensure that all students get the education they need is for the Province to act urgently to address these shortfalls.

Many PACs and DPACs are already leading parent campaigns, urging the province to fully fund all provincially-mandated costs such as full-day K, provincially-negotiated staff salaries and benefits, carbon taxes, higher MSP premiums, HST, etc.

**The message is clear and urgent: There is \$\$ in the provincial treasury for other priorities - we should spend those dollars first on saving essential public education services. With BC's economy already turning around, our students can't wait years for the education they need today.**

**WHAT YOU CAN DO:**

=====

**1. GET INFORMED:** Visit our WEBSITE at <http://stopeducationcuts.org> for sample letters, advocacy info, links to local & provincial initiatives & news on how the provincial funding shortfall is hurting your district and others around BC, or specific services like Special Ed or Fine Arts (& please post or send us YOUR local links and news to share with others!)

**2. JOIN US:** Invite others to join our growing Facebook group: **Stop BC education cuts!** <http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=152591712845> or follow us on Twitter:

<http://twitter.com/stopK12cuts>

**3. VOTE!** If your PAC is a BCCPAC member, attend their AGM this weekend or sign a voting proxy to allow your DPAC or another PAC to vote for you. <http://www.bccpac.bc.ca/>

**4. WRITE:** Start or join a letter campaign. Act now – time is running out but we know MLAs will respond if enough parents show they care! Shaughnessy PAC's postcard campaign is just one of many examples underway: <http://shaughnessy.vsb.bc.ca/HTMLfiles/1breakingnews.html>

Thanks to all the tireless, dedicated & caring parents fighting for our K-12 students and for a strong public education system for all of BC!!

Dawn Steele

**BC EDUCATION COALITION**

<http://stopeducationcuts.org>