



BRITISH COLUMBIA CONFEDERATION OF PARENT ADVISORY COUNCILS

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BCCPAC BULLETIN

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In an effort to communicate more frequently with our members, BCCPAC will be sending out bulletins on items of interest. This is the first. The Newsletter will also continue to be published on a regular basis.

Moyra Baxter, President

The B. C. Confederation of Parent Advisory Councils believes in the importance of building good working relationships with the other "partners in education". These relationships should be built on mutual trust and respect.

It is now over three years since the "new" School Act was proclaimed, and there continues to be many questions asked about parents' rights and responsibilities under the Act. While the responsibilities seem to be accepted by all, the rights are still being interpreted in many different ways.

The statements on the following pages attempt to answer some of the questions most commonly asked by parents in relation to the rights of Parent Advisory Councils. One burning question is still not answered and that is "what does 'advise' really mean, and does anyone have to take that advice? " BCCPAC is still working on that one! "

A meeting took place in September 1992, with representatives of BCCPAC, BC Principals' and Vice-Principals' Association, BC School Superintendents' Association, BC School Trustees' Association, BC School Secretary-Treasurers' Association, and the Ministry of Education, to discuss the matter of PAC bank accounts, PAC Constitution & Bylaws, etc.

It was agreed that the School Act clearly states that a PAC *shall make bylaws governing its meetings and the business and conduct of its affairs*. This, of course, would include the management of funds which a PAC raises.

It was also agreed that Parent Advisory Councils are autonomous bodies, and are not under the jurisdiction of school boards or school board employees.