

CPEN NEWSLETTER

CHARTER for PUBLIC EDUCATION

August 2007



WHO SETS THE PUBLIC EDUCATION AGENDA? WHO SHOULD, HOW AND WHY?

Public education is crucial to building a flourishing democratic society. It is a vital expression of our common vision for our province, our nation and our world, not just a commodity delivered to students.

CPEN is pleased to announce the first in a series of forums on issues in public education for parents, students, educators, trustees and interested members of the public. You're invited to participate in discussing impact of current developments in education and strategies for maintaining a strong, democratic, inclusive public education system.

Start the new education year by joining with others in a dynamic dialogue on public education

Date: Thursday, September 6, 2007

Time: 7:00-9:00 p.m.

Location: Segal room, SFU Downtown Harbourside, 515 West Hastings

Format: Panel presentation followed by group participation

Admission: The forum is free to CPEN members and by donation for all others.

Refreshments available.

For further information, go to www.charter.publiced.ca or contact CPEN president, Mike Zlotnik, at Michael.Zlotnik@telus.net or 604-988-8631.

Thanks for helping us promote this forum by passing this invitation on to others.

How can you participate in the forum on September 6?

There are just over 100 seats available. As long as seats are available, anyone seeking admission will be allowed to participate. There is no pre-registration. However, if you want to ensure that you have a seat, you may rsvp to: info@publiced.ca.

info@publiced.ca | www.charter.publiced.ca

We are a non-profit, non-partisan organization promoting the importance of universal, free, accessible public education.



NEW MEMBERS WELCOME ON THE CPEN BOARD

CPEN elects a new board at each AGM. This year's AGM will held on Sept 6, immediately following the forum. If you are interested in serving on the board or have questions please contact Mike Zlotnik, President of CPEN, at Michael.Zlotnik@telus.net.



TIMELY ANALYSIS OF EDUCATION ISSUES

Many policy directions that undermine public education are being imported into BC. It's helpful to learn about the experience in other jurisdictions and examine the impact of government decisions.

- The [Education Policy Research Unit](#) (EPRU), connected with Arizona State University, is a good source of reliable research and analysis of education issues
- EPRU partners with [Education and Public Interest Center at the School of Education](#), University of Colorado at Boulder, to produce studies and policy briefs (email list to notify subscribers)



WHO WILL BENEFIT FROM FUTURE DIRECTIONS IN POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION?

In 2006 the BC government appointed Geoff Plant, former cabinet minister to conduct a review of post-secondary education. The ensuing report, [Access and Excellence: The Campus 2020 Plan for British Columbia's Post-Secondary Education System](#), was submitted to government in April, 2007.

The [Federation of Post Secondary Educators](#) (FPSE) [responded](#) to the report, acknowledging problems identified by the report *but* pointing out that the critical issue of post-secondary affordability has *not* been addressed. In addition, the increased role for private institutions raises concerns, especially in light of recent reports on the number of problems with the business practices at private colleges. FPSE made a [submission](#) to the Campus 2020 that concluded *"BC's public post-secondary education system can continue to play an integral role in BC's economic and social development but only if we take steps now to reverse policy and funding choices that are undermining access and affordability."*



MORE LEGISLATION AIMED AT K-12

The Spring Sitting of the Legislature saw passage of three new pieces of legislation aimed at the public education system. The [BC Teachers' Federation](#) describes the [impact of Bills 20, 21 and 22](#) as increasing centralization, accelerating privatization and creating further inequity in the school system.

The [Charter for Public Education](#), developed after extensive community involvement province-wide, called on the government to commit to strong, local democratic governance of public education, support for all students and equitable access for all learners regardless of geographic location or socio-economic status. Many provisions in these bills move the school system further from these goals and further from the principles underpinning a public education.



MAKING YOUR VIEWS KNOWN!

Speaking out conveys a message. Not speaking out conveys a message, too. Make sure that local and provincial politicians know that your views on public education.

Lobby:

- Your school trustees and MLAs, who should be accountable to their local communities,
- Minister of Education, Hon. Shirley Bond, at shirley.bond.mla@leg.bc.ca
- Minister of Advanced Education, Hon. Murray Coell, at murray.coell.mla@leg.bc.ca
- Opposition Critic for Education, David Cubberley, at david.cubberley.mla@leg.bc.ca

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