

What the heck is a proxy?

If you have never been to a BCCPAC annual general meeting (AGM) before, you don't know what you're missing. It is here, at the meeting, where you see in action what BCCPAC is all about...the best possible public education for all children in BC through the active involvement of parents.

A hundred or more passionate provincial parents in one room discussing resolutions at the AGM and you get the picture. The snap, crackle and pop of pure electricity as ideas zip across the room, the murmur and roar of especially contentious issues and then, after the question is called, voting cards waving wildly in the air.



You look around and see that people are holding up one, two, three or even more numbered cards. The person sitting at the next table holds up two voting 'yes,' and then after these are counted, holds up another card voting 'no.' What kind of funny business is going on here? Are these people out of their minds? Is this even legal? Take a deep breath, it's all good. What you are seeing is called proxy voting.

BCCPAC members in good standing (meaning if dues have been paid by December 15) are entitled to cast votes at the AGM. If the member PAC/DPAC is sending their own representative to the AGM, the rep will carry their vote. A 'proxy' then is the "person who has been selected to vote on behalf of the member PAC/DPAC."

However, not all member PACs and DPACs can send their own individual member representative to the AGM. Wanting their opinion to be heard though, the member PAC or DPAC may choose to assign their member vote to another who is attending the AGM on behalf of their member. Sometimes a representative can be responsible for as many as thirty or more proxies!

Proxy Voting - How does this all work?

To start, in the package each member PAC /DPAC receives prior to the AGM, they'll find a booklet with the resolutions to be voted on, as well as nominations to the board and a proxy form (the online booklet can be found here www.bccpac.bc.ca).

- Each member PAC/DPAC should discuss the resolutions and nominations, deciding on how you wish to vote.
- If your member PAC/DPAC is sending a rep to the AGM, fill out and send in the proxy form with the name of your rep and provide direction to your rep on how the member PAC/DPAC wishes to vote.

If your member PAC/DPAC is **not** sending a representative to the AGM, you can contact other BCCPAC members in your district to find out who is!

- To find out who in your district is a BCCPAC member that you could assign your vote (proxy) to, check the website www.bccpac.bc.ca, contact the office at info@bccpac.bc.ca or call toll free 1-866-529-4397

Once you know which PAC/DPAC is sending a rep, ask the rep if they are willing to carry your vote at the AGM. This is a serious matter. Once the person agrees to be assigned your vote;

- You are entrusting this person to vote as directed by your PAC/DPAC so provide clear direction. Go over the Resolutions and Nominations booklets at your meeting and complete the voting instructions page for your proxy holder.
- Unless indicated, you are also entrusting this person to vote on something that may come up at the AGM (for example, a resolution from the floor).
- The proxy form needs to be filled out and signed by a minimum of two executives.
- Do your proxy a favour; provide them with a copy of the completed form and also (if at all possible) fax, scan and email, or mail in the completed proxy form to the BCCPAC office by **April 24th** please.

What then?

- Confirmation of proxy forms that are submitted in advance will be sent to the executive officers who signed the form within three days of receipt.
- If you do not receive confirmation, please contact the BCCPAC office.

If you are the proxy, what *do* you do at the AGM?

- Processing voting cards takes time (and we have a large membership) which is why you want those members you are representing to send in their proxy form by the deadline!
- If your member has not sent in the proxy form in advance, you will need to submit the form to the Proxy Room when you arrive and wait for the voting card(s) to be processed.
- You pick up all your voting cards at the Proxy Room with proof of identity.
- Each card (and its number) represents one BCCPAC member.

"If you want your children to be intelligent, read them fairy tales. If you want them to be more intelligent, read them more fairy tales." — Albert Einstein