

# DRAFT - Possible Resolutions for BCCPAC

---

## **Proposed Resolution:**

Radon testing: That BCCPAC call upon the Ministry of Education to supply funding to districts to test schools for radon, and for districts to test schools for radon and take remedial action if the long term average radon testing concentration during school hours is above 200 BQ/m<sup>3</sup>.

## **Reasons:**

Radon is a radioactive gas that is formed naturally by the breakdown of uranium in soil, rock and water. As a gas, radon is slowly released from the ground, water, and some building materials that contain very small amounts of uranium, such as concrete, bricks, tiles and gyproc. Radon gas breaks down further to form additional radioactive particles called radon daughters, or "progeny" that can be breathed into the lungs.

On average, 16% of lung cancer deaths are attributable to radon exposure in Canada. In 2006, an estimated 1,900 lung cancer deaths in Canada were due to radon exposure. Radon is the 2nd leading cause of lung cancer, after smoking.

Children have been reported to be at greater risk than adults for certain types of radiation exposure, but there is currently no conclusive data on whether children are at greater risk than adults from radon.

In June 2007, Health Canada announced a lowering of guidelines for acceptable levels of radiation from 800 to 200 BQ/m<sup>3</sup>, and recommends that "if the long term average radon concentration during school hours is above 200 Bq/m<sup>3</sup>, remedial action is recommended."

## **Proposed Resolution:**

Material to remain public: That BCCPAC keep documents such as Speaking Up, Bullying Stops Here, or a Parents Guide to Individual Education Plans public, and not require the general parent population to log into the BCCPAC website in order to access them.

## **Proposed Resolution:**

Capacity adjustments in geographically larger school districts: That BCCPAC lobby the Ministry of Education to adjust the capacity utilization calculations, in order to take into consideration the needs of geographically larger districts.

## **Reasons:**

In assessing a school district's capital funding request for new construction and addition, the minimum percentage utilization requirements are 100% for grades 1 to 7, 110% for secondary, and district average of 95%. This formula does not take into consideration the needs of a district that is geographically spread out – excess capacity in one area does not negate a need for more capacity in another area.