

BCCPAC DPAC Summit
November 18-19, 2022 in Richmond
Attended by: Laura Weller and Christa Porter; Summarized by: Christa Porter

This was our first experience at an in-person BCCPAC event. It was at a great location with good food. Informative sessions and lots of networking with other DPACs. From what I could tell, there were 40 DPACs represented out of 60 in BC. We collaborated with reps from Northern BC and agreed to have a virtual collaboration session in the new year. Help Houston and Fort Nelson get their DPACs going. A brief summary of the agenda is below. More info on the BCCPAC website.

Friday

1. Minister of Education and Child Care – Hon. Jennifer Whiteside
 - BC saw higher immigration in 2021 than previous years, and higher than other provinces. Creating enrollment pressures for staffing and crowded facilities.
 - Playground Grants helped 230 schools since 2017, will continue.
 - Global inflation issues causing affordability issues for families. One time fund 60M towards school supplies, clothing, fees, meals. Many districts have universal meals programs.
 - Working with Federal gov't on universal child care funding and more spaces at or near schools, fees reduced up to \$500/family in near future.
 - Indigenous Focus Framework Agreement to close the equity gap in education.
 - Inclusive Education and SOGI bringing identity education.
 - Sexual Harassment/Student Safety issues prompted development of consent curriculum that goes to grade 12 (previously end at gr 10). ERASE resources and issue reporting.
2. Improving Student Outcomes – Lucas Corwin, Sector Improvement Branch
 - Framework for Enhancing Student Education guides school districts with their Strategic Plans
 - Continuous Improvement Cycle and annual reporting
 - Parents understand the data and hold leadership accountable for their goals
3. Learning and Supports Update – Assistant Deputy Minister, Learning Division - Jennifer McCrea
 - Mental Health In Schools, Addictions Support, Compassionate Systems Leadership
 - Clinical Counselors in the schools, Youth Care Workers, Indigenous Education Workers
 - Anti-Racism Action Plan for K-12 – Indigenous, Black, People of Colour (IBPOC)
4. Truth Healing and Reconciliation – Denise Augustine and Brad Baker – Indigenous Education with Ministry of Education and Child Care
 - Importance of reconciliation in education, what is best for indigenous students, benefits all
 - Local Education Agreements and Indigenous Education Councils in many districts
 - Invite rightsholders to your meetings, indigenous parents to PAC meetings, ask for input
5. Public Health Update – Dr. Geoffrey McKee, BC Centre of Disease Control
 - Covid is still with us but increase in RSV, Influenza, and ERV (colds) in children
 - Hospitalizations and emergency room visits due to lack of medication
 - Vaccines are safe and help with overall public health
 - Middle Years Development Index (MDi) grade 4-8 indicate well-being/social-emotional
 - Youth Development Index (YDI) being developed
6. Minister of State for Child Care – Hon. Katrina Chen
 - Pilot programs for \$10/day child care spaces. Usually in modular buildings at or near an elementary school
 - Incentives for early childhood educators to get trained and have positions immediately
 - Not just child care, but development programs, and safe, inclusive learning environments

Saturday

1. Emerging Topics – watch for Virtual Town Halls to gather data/issues from parents/PACs

If anyone needs more information, email exec@sd57dpac.ca.