

## **BC Confederation of Parent Advisory Councils - (BCCPAC)**

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

Conference & AGM Now Virtual!

The pandemic has repeatedly illustrated that we have to continue to learn and adapt. Well, today BCCPAC is again adapting as it's needed.

We had thought our members, parents and guardians across the province were eager and ready to come together in-person for our annual Parent Education Conference and/or Annual General Meeting; unfortunately, our overall registration numbers tell us a much different story.

After due consideration, our Board of Directors has made the very difficult but wise decision to move our in-person events to virtual Zoom events with our Parent Education Conference remaining on Friday April 29 and our AGM on Saturday April 30.

We cannot proceed with an in-person event with a very small group of delegates; this doesn't benefit our organization, our speakers, our exhibitors or attendees. More critical, is our need to ensure we obtain a 20% quorum for our AGM in order to conduct business.

**BUT there is good news! Please Read on...**

**We can now offer a virtual registration fee – like we did in 2021 - to attend the Parent Education Conference! If you register by April 25, as a member, you pay only \$35 to attend the full conference!**

**[Register Now!](#)**

**Superb Line-up of Speakers!**

We are excited to have **Dr. Rebecca Winthrop from The Center for Universal Education at the Brookings Institution as our Keynote Speaker.** Rebecca is a Senior Fellow and Co-Director of the Center for Universal Education at Brookings. Her research focuses on education globally, with special attention to the skills young people need to thrive in work, life, and as constructive citizens. Dr. Winthrop works to promote quality and relevant education, including exploring how education innovations and family and community engagement can be harnessed to leapfrog progress, particularly for the most marginalized youth.

Join Rebecca to explore [CUE's playbook on family-school engagement](#), featuring key findings from a survey of 25,000 parents & 6,000 teachers and a review of over 500 family

engagement strategies around the world. Participants will learn how to apply evidence-based strategies and tools in their local contexts.

Rebecca will be joined in her session **on Transforming Education Systems through Family-School Collaboration** by Judy Halbert and Linda Kaiser from the **Networks of Inquiry and Indigenous Education (NOIIE)**. NOIIE is a network of inquiry-based schools and school districts in BC, [with partner networks around the world](#).

And we have the pleasure of bringing to delegates **Dr Jennifer Charlesworth**, the Representative for Children and Youth who will be discussing how to **Create Belonging in Schools: Helping Children Thrive**. The mental health and well-being of young people has been top of mind throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, and continues to be a pressing concern as we move into new phases. BC's Representative for Children and Youth has a unique perspective on the situation through the reports that come into her Office on critical injuries and deaths of young people, as well as through advocacy cases. Building on a 2020 report by the Child Health Policy Centre and sponsored by the Representative's office that demonstrated that COVID-19 was likely to have significant negative impacts on child and youth mental health, Dr. Jennifer Charlesworth will share what we have learned since about the well-being and mental health of children and youth in these precarious and challenging times. Using the lens of belonging, she will also discuss what she hears from young people and families about what's happening in schools and community and will address the question: How might we enhance young people's experience of connection and belonging so that they not only cope, but thrive?

And just like in prior years, we are unique in our ability to provide parents/guardians the opportunity to hear directly from both the Minister of Education and Child Care, **the Honorable Jennifer Whiteside** and the Deputy Minister, **Christina Zacharuk** – and both will be answering delegate questions.

But that's not all! We have more top quality speakers on Friday including:

- **The Journey of the Indigenous Family Voices for Education from SD73** - The session will be about the formation of a school district Indigenous parent, guardian, and caregiver group, the journey they have taken, and how they were able to create agency and a voice walking alongside the school district and the existing Parent Advisory Council structures.
- **Presentation from Foundry BC on Virtual Services for Families** - This session will go into detail describing the various services offered by Foundry Virtual BC and invite time for attendees to partake in a Q & A at the end of the presentation.
- **Visioning a Healthy School Food Program for BC Students with the Coalition for a Healthy School Food Program** - During this interactive session, you will learn about advocacy for a universal, health-promoting school food program for K-

12 students in BC and across Canada. Delegates will be invited to share their perspectives on and experiences with current school food programs, as well as their visions for the future of school food in BC.

- **Misinformation and Disinformation, Preventing an Infodemic with the BC RCMP** - This session will introduce to you and help you distinguish between Disinformation and Misinformation, understand how an Infodemic is created and spread online, and applying critical thinking skills to prevent the spread of online disinformation and misinformation.
- **Update on the Policy for Enhanced Student Learning with senior staff from Ministry of Education**

We very much look forward to your virtual participation!

### **AGM Registration & Proxy Forms due by April 20**

As the AGM will be virtual, there is no cost to attend but members **MUST** register in advance to attend, and per our Bylaws, we require 20% quorum to conduct business. If you are eligible to attend, submit your PAC or DPAC [Registration Form](#) and the appropriate [Proxy Form](#) no later than April 20.

And a reminder that while only one individual will be eligible to vote per the Proxy Form submitted, any individuals of that member PAC or DPAC can attend the AGM (there's no limit). **However, each person who is planning to attend the AGM (voting or not) must register by April 20.** Our [AGM](#) will include board elections, review of budget and financials and the discussion and adoption of new Resolutions.

**Don't delay! [Register Today!](#)**