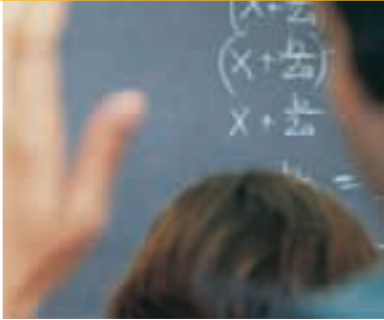


THE BEST PLACE ON EARTH »»
FOR EDUCATION AND LITERACY



**BRITISH
COLUMBIA**

The Best Place on Earth

WE WANT YOUR INPUT



A strong education system is the foundation of B.C.'s social, economic and cultural success. Education is essential at all stages of life – from our earliest school experiences in the K-12 system to career choices we make as young adults, and later in life when

many of us return to school for personal interest or skills upgrading.

Literacy is an important piece of our overall education strategy. Accessible, high-quality literacy programs are critical for many B.C. immigrants, as well as established residents who can take advantage of these programs to assist them in attaining their educational, career and life goals.

With record levels of education funding and a renewed focus on student achievement, we're helping to provide British Columbians with the support and opportunities they need to build a bright future in their communities. We're also making unprecedented investments in post-secondary spaces and facilities, to ensure that we have the skills and knowledge necessary to meet the future needs of our province.

I invite you to contact me with your ideas on how we can support learners of all ages as we strive to become the best educated, most literate jurisdiction in North America.

A handwritten signature in white ink that reads "Gordon Campbell". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional style.

*Honourable Gordon Campbell
Premier of British Columbia*



Please Recycle

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INCREASING RESOURCES FOR STUDENTS

Despite declining enrolment, the Province has raised education funding for K-12 to the highest levels in B.C. history to ensure students and teachers have the resources they need, with:

- » A \$5.49-billion budget for K-12 education in 2007-08 – a 19.2% increase over 2000-01.
- » Total increased funding of \$1,716 per pupil since 2001.
- » \$407 million in additional one-time funding grants to B.C. school districts since 2001.
- » Special funding to add 12,000 new computers in B.C. schools.
- » \$285 million in additional funding for special needs students in 2006/07.
- » An additional \$10 million for textbooks.

INVESTING IN SAFE, HEALTHY SCHOOLS

A positive learning environment is critical to student achievement. To ensure B.C. students have safe, healthy schools, the Province is:

- » Investing \$1.5 billion to complete seismic upgrades in B.C. schools.
- » Directing \$1.8 billion in capital funding over the next three years to renovate, replace or build schools.
- » Instituting a zero-tolerance approach to bullying in schools.

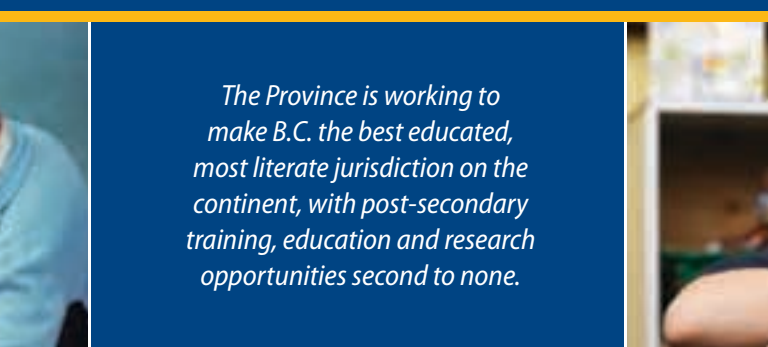


- » Expanding the Action Schools! program to include over 1,300 schools with students from kindergarten to Grade 9.
- » Implementing 30 minutes of mandatory daily physical activity for all K-12 students and expediting the removal of junk food from schools in B.C.
- » Partnering with the Union of B.C. Municipalities and the B.C. School Trustees Association in a \$10 million program to use under-utilized space in schools through the School Community Connections program.

IMPROVING STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT AND SCHOOL ACCOUNTABILITY

As part of its commitment to make student achievement the top priority, the Province has worked with educators, districts and parents to:

- » Introduce new contracts, developed by school districts and overseen by superintendents of achievement, to set clear achievement goals and outcomes.
- » Improve reading skills in B.C. communities by broadening the mandate of boards of education to include the development of district literacy plans.
- » Establish a teacher discipline registry to protect B.C. students and provide the public with information about educators who have been disciplined by the B.C. College of Teachers.
- » Make adult basic education free for all students and increase financial aid for adult learners under ReadNow BC, the provincial literacy plan.



The Province is working to make B.C. the best educated, most literate jurisdiction on the continent, with post-secondary training, education and research opportunities second to none.

ENHANCING LITERACY PROGRAMS ACROSS BRITISH COLUMBIA

To make sure every British Columbian can access the literacy learning they need, and to make B.C. the most literate jurisdiction in North America, the Province is:

- » Investing more than \$106 million in literacy programs and initiatives since 2001.
- » Implementing the \$27-million first phase of ReadNow BC, an action plan to help British Columbians improve their reading skills.
- » Providing an additional \$12 million over three years to strengthen and increase access to public libraries, and an additional \$3.25 million to expand the OneCard program, providing single-card access to materials at any B.C. library.
- » Establishing 80 Strong Start BC early learning centres to support the development of young children in every school district.
- » Increasing the budget of community adult literacy programs to support Aboriginal and immigrant learners.
- » Investing \$17.5 million to make adult basic education tuition-free for all students, and increase financial aid for adult learners.

OPENING UP ACCESS TO POST-SECONDARY LEARNING

Seventy per cent of new jobs in the next decade will require some form of post-secondary education. The Province is working to ensure B.C. students have access to the training they need, with the largest expansion of post-secondary education in 40 years, including:



- » Adding 25,000 new student spaces at B.C. post-secondary institutions by 2010.
- » Doubling the number of computer science and computer and electrical engineering graduates.
- » Nearly doubling the number of medical school graduates, with \$134 million invested in new medical training centres at UBC, UNBC and UVic, and a commitment to establish another medical campus at UBC Okanagan.
- » Adding over 3,300 nurse training spaces beginning in 2001/02.
- » Increasing the number of industry trainees by 30% under the new Industry Training Authority and providing more flexible training to meet job-market needs.
- » Increasing annual post-secondary funding by \$161 million over three years.
- » Adding up to 450 One World and Pacific Horizon scholarships to provide BC students with valuable study and work opportunities.
- » Capping tuition increases at the rate of inflation and providing in excess of \$400 million over three years for student financial assistance.
- » Launching a three-year, \$65-million Aboriginal post-secondary strategy to help Aboriginal students start, stay in and succeed in post-secondary education and training.



With an increase of \$1,716 per pupil since 2001, funding for K-12 education in B.C. is at its highest level ever.

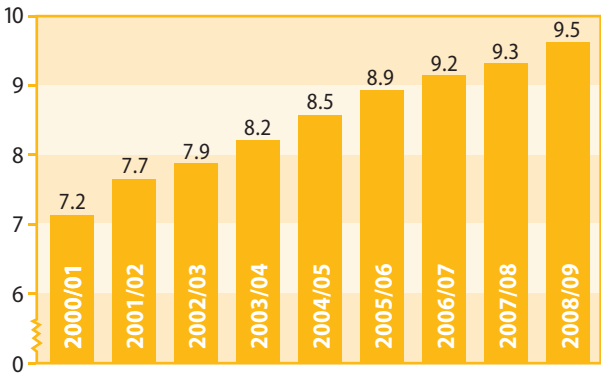


EXPANDING B.C. COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

To provide students with access to post-secondary education closer to home, the Province is investing \$800 million in facilities and is expanding college and university campuses across B.C., opening:

- » The new Thompson Rivers University in Kamloops, and a second campus in Williams Lake.
- » The new UBC Okanagan campus and Okanagan College in Kelowna and other regional communities.
- » The new SFU campus and a new Kwantlen University College trades training centre in Surrey.
- » The new Northwest Community College campus in Prince Rupert.
- » The new UNBC/College of New Caledonia campus in Quesnel.

\$2.3 Billion More for Education



By 2008, total education funding at all levels in B.C. will reach \$9.5 billion – \$2.3 billion more than in 2000/01.



FOR MORE INFORMATION

RELATED MINISTRIES AND INITIATIVES

Achieve BC

(Tools to help British Columbians reach their educational and career goals)

www.achievebc.ca

Ministry of Education

www.gov.bc.ca/bced

Ministry of Advanced Education

www.gov.bc.ca/aved

LINKS FOR K-12 STUDENTS

Aboriginal Education

Victoria: 250 356-1891

www.bced.gov.bc.ca/abed

B.C. Confederation of Parent Advisory Councils

Lower Mainland: 604 687-4433

www.bccpac.bc.ca

B.C. School Trustees Association

Lower Mainland: 604 734-2721

www.bcsta.org

Schools and District Information

www.bced.gov.bc.ca/schools

Graduation Requirements

www.bced.gov.bc.ca/graduation

Provincial Scholarships and Awards

www.bced.gov.bc.ca/awards

Provincial Exams

www.bced.gov.bc.ca/exams/

Healthy Schools

www.bced.gov.bc.ca/health/

Literacy

www.bced.gov.bc.ca/literacy/

Strong Start BC Centres for Early Learning

www.bced.gov.bc.ca/literacy/early_learning/strongstart_bc.htm

FOR MORE INFORMATION

LINKS FOR POST-SECONDARY STUDENTS

Aboriginal Post-Secondary Education

www.aved.gov.bc.ca/aboriginal/

StudentAid BC - Student Financial Aid

Victoria: 250 387-6100

Lower Mainland: 604 660-2610

Toll-free Canada/USA: 1 800 561-1818

TTY line for deaf and hearing impaired: 250 952-6832

www.aved.gov.bc.ca/studentaidbc

For information on the Loan Forgiveness Program, go to:

www.aved.gov.bc.ca/studentaidbc/repay/repaymentassistance/welcome.htm

B.C. Public Post-Secondary Institutions

www.aved.gov.bc.ca/institutions

Private Career Training www.pctia.bc.ca/

Toll-free: 1 800 661-7441

Educational Planner/Transfer Guides

Provincewide: 604 412-7700

www.bccat.bc.ca/

Industry Training Authority www.itabc.ca

Toll-free provincewide: 1 866 660-6011

Adult Education Programs

www.aved.gov.bc.ca/adulteducation/welcome.htm

USEFUL LITERACY LINKS

Literacy BC www.literacy.bc.ca

Toll-free: 1 888 732-3234

Literacy Tools for Teachers and Parents

www.bced.gov.bc.ca/literacy/resources.htm

Literacy Now

(A 2010 Legacies Now program to support community literacy programs)

www.2010legaciesnow.com/literacy_now_communities/

Adult Literacy (Ministry of Advanced Education)

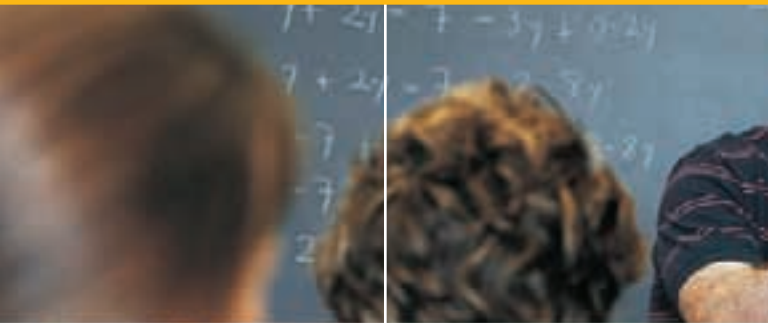
www.aved.gov.bc.ca/literacy

ReadNow BC

www.readnowbc.ca

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