

Date: Wed, 16 Sep 2009 14:43:24 -0700

To: "Rich Coleman, MLA Fort Langley-Aldergrove" <rich.coleman.mla@leg.bc.ca>

CC: "Margaret MacDiarmid, Minister of Education" <margaret.macdiarmid.mla@leg.bc.ca>

Subject: PAC Gaming Grants

Hello,

On behalf of the James Kennedy Elementary School Parent Advisory Council...

We would like to express our concern regarding the proposed cuts to the gaming grant that we have received in years past. As you are very likely aware the Langley School District is facing a unique set of funding challenges with the recent discovery of a multi-million dollar deficit reportedly due to accounting errors. This has put a great deal of budgetary pressure on the administration of James Kennedy Elementary.

Our PAC has always played an important role in the education of children at James Kennedy by providing thousands of dollars of support each year for items such as library books, classroom books, classroom equipment and supplies, fitness programs and equipment, emergency preparedness, and many others. We strive every year to ensure that our budget focuses on educational enrichment for our students, and we feel that this helps to fill in some of the gaps that are not fully covered by government funding.

The currently proposed cuts to the gaming grant will amount to over \$6000 lost from our PAC budget (over 600 students attend the school). This will result in a large cut to the financial support that our PAC can provide to James Kennedy Elementary, and therefore a great loss to the students in the form of materials, resources, and programs. Further, this comes at a time when our school can least afford it due to the funding challenges facing the Langley School District. It is our hope that you can show your support for our school by helping to see that the full gaming grant of \$20/student is provided to our PAC.

Sincerely,

Alan St. Pierre
PAC Chairperson
James Kennedy Elementary School