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Citizens 'Stand with Standing Committee' and Demand BC Government Increase Funding to Public Schools

Funding for B.C. public schools is second-lowest in Canada. British Columbia parents demand government action.

VANCOUVER — The Parent Advocacy Network for Public Education (PAN) today announced it is delivering over 1,500 postcards and online signatures from B.C. citizens declaring “I Stand with the Standing Committee” at 10:00 AM PST to Premier Clark’s Vancouver office at Canada Place.

Last fall, the all-party provincial Select Standing Committee on Finance & Government Services Report of Budget 2016 Consultations found - for the second year in a row - that the top priority for British Columbians is K-12 education funding. In their Report on Budget 2016 Consultations, the Committee noted that current funding levels and assistance are inadequate, which is causing significant operational and program delivery problems in schools throughout B.C.

In response, PAN, in conjunction with Families Against Cuts to Education (FACE), began a grassroots postcard campaign and an online signature campaign to hold the provincial government accountable for the inadequate public education funding contained in Budget 2016.

“We ask the provincial government to stand by their words and invest in our children, as they are the future. British Columbians have spoken; the all-party Standing Committee has for the second year in a row made these recommendations,” said Andrea Sinclair, PAC Chair for Charles Dickens Elementary and a founding member of the Network. “PAN and a very large number of parents across the province feel strongly that Premier Clark, Mr. Bernier and the Treasury Board need to respect the recommendations and act accordingly.”

Added Sinclair, “Our public education system has been crippled by over a decade of inadequate funding. Parents are tired of fundraising for everything from playgrounds to art and music programs, library books and basic technology and the inequality between schools continues to grow.”

[The Select Standing Committee on Finance & Government Services recommendations:](#)

1. Provide adequate capital funding to school districts for facility improvements/seismic upgrades/additional schools



2. Provide stable, sustainable and adequate funding to enable school districts to fulfill responsibilities to continue to provide access to quality public education, with recognition of the increased costs school districts have incurred.
3. Review the Ministry of Education funding formula for programs and services, as well as administrative staff compensation levels to ensure adequate and competitive compensation.

The urgent concerns of British Columbians are reflected in the Select Standing Committee's recommendations and should be addressed now at a time when the B.C. government is proudly reporting a surplus of \$277 million. Citizens now demand increased funding to B.C.'s public schools - We Stand with the Standing Committee!

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Supporting Resources

- Online signature campaign: <http://www.thepetitionsite.com/takeaction/305/769/792/>
- For the most current information, visit: <http://www.panvancouver.ca/>
- Follow **PAN Vancouver@PAN_Vancouver** on Twitter
- Like PAN on Facebook: www.facebook.com/PANVancouver
- Email: parentadvocacynetwork@gmail.com

About the Parent Advocacy Network

The Parent Advocacy Network for Public Education (PAN) is a grassroots group of parents from schools all across Vancouver who volunteer their time and effort. The group came together in July 2015 through a common commitment to public education and extreme concern for its future.

We see an urgent need for schools to connect with one another (through PACs and parents or through advocacy groups) to share information and support one another and thus stand together in protecting public education.

We share research and information about public education and current policies that impact Vancouver schools as well as upcoming advocacy initiatives happening in Vancouver. In this way we see ourselves as supporting and complementing existing groups such as FACE, PPEN, PENS, DPAC, and BCCPAC in the work they are doing.

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