

Name

Address with postal code

Date

Dear Honorable Dr. Margaret MacDiarmid,

As parents of two children at X Elementary School in Vancouver, we are deeply concerned about the increasing effect of funding shortfalls, which results in the loss of services and supports to children like ours.

The Vancouver School District is projecting a funding shortfall of up to \$18.2 million for the 2010/2011 school year. Without a funding increase to cover this shortfall, the Vancouver School Board will be required to make drastic cuts to an already very lean and under-funded school system.

While it may be true that provincial funding for education is at its highest level, recent increases have not kept pace with rising costs. This is why Vancouver has been forced to cut more than \$51 million in staffing, programs and services since 2002/03.

Upon the entrance of a child into Kindergarten, parents in British Columbia must assume the role of fundraiser and volunteer to ensure that child the best possible school experience. Getting involved in your child's education is tantamount to a successful school experience and helps build great school communities – and we happily do it. However, it is frustrating to assume the role of education activist in this great city, in the 21st century, to protest funding shortfalls that will not keep BC children at par with the global community.

It is insulting to be handed a funding package that does not cover basic costs. Many of these basic costs have had to be fought for by educators in the past. We need to keep our current student-staff ratios, special needs educators, librarians, custodians, and curriculum supplies in order to cultivate a healthy, confident, and successful future generation in society. Our world-class public education system has been losing families to the private school system because of a perceived lack of resources in the classroom. With increased funding cuts, these perceptions will reign true.

Please fully fund our 'educational investment' to the best of your ability, and as experienced by the success of the 2010 Olympics, create a legacy of scholarly pride amongst our children, educators, and families.

Sincerely,

Name

cc. Honorable Gordon Campbell