

Gordon Elementary PAC
Gordon Elementary School
2896 West 6th Ave
Vancouver, BC V6K 1X1

Sept 26th 2011

The Honourable George Abbott, Minister of Education
PO Box 9045, Stn Prov Govt
Victoria BC, VBW 9E2

Dear Minister Abbott,

As PAC members of General Gordon Elementary School in Vancouver School District we **request a fair and reasonable contract be presented to our teachers in a transparent and open bargaining environment**, to align BC's educational structure with other provinces and ensure there are no detrimental long term impacts to the educational standards for our children.

We fully support our teachers in their demand for:

1. Restoration of provision for Class sizes and support for students with special needs.

Gordon Elementary has a relatively large number of undesignated students that need, but do not receive, extra support, so limiting class sizes is particularly pertinent to us. SSWs, resource teachers, teacher librarians, mental and physical health workers and all other supporting teaching staff are crucial for the overall health of the school community. Funding for these positions has been steadily eroded in recent years, and needs to be restored. Without restricting class sizes and sufficient funding for support staff, the quality of education for all students is diminished.

2. Wage increases to bring pay in line with other provinces to ensure we attract high quality teachers.

If we are to hire quality teachers for our next generation of citizens, we must make teaching a financially attractive profession. We support a wage increase in British Columbia to match the wages in other key cities nationwide, to drive high standards.

3. Ability for local districts to negotiate local solutions to local issues.

Each community understands it's own needs, at Gordon we need to find solutions for ESL and special needs education but not school bussing. We advocate the province to place trust in our local teachers ability to negotiate for solutions that work in the local community, rather than force a "one size fit's all solution".

We urge you to **invest wisely in education for our children** by finding a rapid solution for our teachers to ensure the next generations of learners become responsible, productive citizens.

Thank you for your attention to our concerns.

Signed Gordon Elementary PAC Member/s: