

School union rep: Please post or copy for members

School Staff **BCTF** 2009-10 **ALERT** #25

March 23, 2010

BC education budget deceptive

“More funding than ever?” More like “more cuts than ever.”

The miniscule increase of \$129 million on a \$4.82 billion budget still leaves boards floundering with ever-increasing funding shortfalls.

K to 12 education gets a diminishing share of the provincial budget: 26.36% in 1991–92 to 15.34% in 2009–10.

The government says there is \$54 million in funding for the July 1 two-percent salary increase and \$57.6 million for full-day Kindergarten. In response to intense pressure, HST costs will be rebated, and the Annual Facilities Grants, (\$110 million) cut last year will see half returned this year. Yet 33 districts saw their budgets frozen. Others saw small increases. Vancouver’s shortfall is now \$18 million. Most boards report cuts to programs and likely layoffs. Forty-nine school closures are threatened.

Downloaded, unfunded cost pressures remain:

- teacher pensions cost increases
- carbon offsets, MSP premiums
- BC Hydro rate increases
- loss of purchasing power due to general inflation for goods and services
- unfunded mandates such as BCeSIS, Bill 33 reporting, and early learning and literacy initiatives.

What can you do?

- Encourage your local community to contact MLAs to tell your stories and oppose the cuts.
- Contact your local office and take part in meetings and rallies.
- Find out more at bctf.ca or in the April edition of *Teacher*.
- Join the Rally to Stop the Cuts on April 10—11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Vancouver Art Gallery (north side).

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The current staff alert can be found at
bctf.ca/publications/SchoolStaffAlert.aspx