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# BCTF Research Report

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## Subsidizing public education—\$170-million-plus in “school generated revenue”

*[www.bctf.ca/publications.aspx?id=5630](http://www.bctf.ca/publications.aspx?id=5630)*

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Parents, teachers, and others in the community face pressure to make up for the underfunding of education by the provincial government.

It is impossible to tally up all of the contributions—many of them come from sources that are anonymous:

- teachers who buy food so students have breakfast or lunch
- parents who provide funds for many activities, despite public education supposedly being free
- school fund-raising through fairs, candy sales, dinners, and the like
- community organizations, unions, and businesses that support projects.

Some giving to schools is publicly reported, such as grants from the *Vancouver Sun*, with news stories about the schools that receive funds.

The magnitude of the subsidy from sources other than the provincial government is indicated by looking at one type of “special purpose fund” that school boards report to the ministry of education: “School-generated funds”.

School-district audited financial statements indicate a provincial total for the 2012–13 school year of just over \$170 million in “other revenue” for School-generated funds. This is mostly money raised at the school level, and reported to the district for audit purposes.

Again, this reported amount is only a part of the funds spent on students by parents, teachers, and the community.

## School-Generated Funds, 2012–13, by School District

#	District Name	School-generated "Other revenue"
5	Southeast Kootenay	\$2,625,033
6	Rocky Mountain	\$1,049,705
8	Kootenay Lake	\$2,963,180
10	Arrow Lakes	\$179,046
19	Revelstoke	\$0
20	Kootenay-Columbia	\$1,003,817
22	Vernon	\$1,900,248
23	Central Okanagan	\$8,175,227
27	Cariboo-Chilcotin	\$1,465,224
28	Quesnel	\$760,649
33	Chilliwack	\$2,779,953
34	Abbotsford	\$6,079,123
35	Langley	\$4,997,826
36	Surrey	\$13,851,687
37	Delta	\$1,829,078
38	Richmond	\$7,911,631
39	Vancouver	\$28,072,595
40	New Westminster	\$1,476,601
41	Burnaby	\$6,819,110
42	Maple Ridge-Pitt Meadows	\$3,914,424
43	Coquitlam	\$8,988,806
44	North Vancouver	\$6,907,291
45	West Vancouver	\$4,078,086
46	Sunshine Coast	\$817,724
47	Powell River	\$1,689,319
48	Sea to Sky	\$757,620
49	Central Coast	\$122,058
50	Haida Gwaii	\$446,382
51	Boundary	\$267,845
52	Prince Rupert	\$246,358
53	Okanagan Similkameen	\$792,674
54	Bulkley Valley	\$985,027
57	Prince George	\$3,279,648
58	Nicola-Similkameen	\$762,623
59	Peace River South	\$1,129,319
60	Peace River North	\$1,958,977
61	Greater Victoria	\$6,344,378
62	Sooke	\$2,138,115
63	Saanich	\$2,893,595
64	Gulf Islands	\$428,541
67	Okanagan Skaha	\$2,190,189
68	Nanaimo-Ladysmith	\$2,889,966
69	Qualicum	\$1,270,252
70	Alberni	\$1,039,043
71	Comox Valley	\$2,333,884
72	Campbell River	\$1,871,313
73	Kamloops Thompson	\$4,919,749
74	Gold Trail	\$404,864
75	Mission	\$1,500,339
78	Fraser-Cascade	\$510,893
79	Cowichan Valley	\$1,790,336
81	Fort Nelson	\$246,102
82	Coast Mountains	\$1,170,444
83	North Okanagan-Shuswap	\$1,075,590
84	Vancouver Island West	\$166,355
85	Vancouver Island North	\$374,812
87	Stikine	\$88,862
91	Nechako Lakes	\$1,498,390
92	Nisga'a	\$97,728
93	Conseil scolaire francophone	\$1,710,061
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$170,037,715</b>

Source: Schedule 3A, "Changes in Special Purpose Funds and Expense by Object", in school-district audited financial statements as at June 30, 2013, as published on district websites.

"Other revenue" = school-generated revenue in the current year.