

BC education budget to grow by 2.3% in 2007/08

The BCSTA learned that the 2.3% increase - approximately \$123 million - includes all costs arising from the contract settlements as well as increases to the teacher pension agreement.

2.3% and 2% are anticipated in subsequent years.

BCSTA President Penny Tees comments include:

- "School Boards are pleased to see an increase to the provincial education budget to fully cover negotiated settlements and pension increases."
- "School Boards won't know the full impact of the budget until we receive our operating budgets in mid-march, and can determine if additional money remains once contract costs and inflation are covered."
- "The Throne Speech announced a broader mandate for school boards in the areas of literacy and early learning. School Boards welcome these responsibilities, but do want to identify where support will come from for these new services without eroding programs in our K to 12 schools."
- "The Budget Speech mentions "An additional \$468 million over four years for programs targeted towards children at risk or with special needs, adults with developmental disabilities, and individuals or families in need..." School Boards will be interested to learn if any of these funds will be available to children attending public schools."

www.bcsta.org/userimages/07feb_eAlert_Budget.pdf

Around the country

Anti-school board resolution defeated - Nova Scotia Tory resolution C-2 to remove school boards was defeated at the AGM held in early February.

BCSTA's ESL Forum was front-page news - Interviews and perspective from the February 9 ESL Forum of the British Columbia School Trustees Association were featured in Monday's *Vancouver Sun*.

"This is an historical moment," Chris Friesen, director of the Immigrant Services Society of BC said, describing the event in an interview with education reporter Janet Steffenhagen. "It's the first time we've actually had a focused dialogue about these children."

Watch the BCSTA website and *eDigest* for the Forum summary and translation of coverage by the *Ming Pao* newspaper.

www.bcsta.org

ASBA prepares for 2007 school board elections

Next Fall – the deadline to file nominations is September 17 and election day is October 15.

www.asba.ab.ca

Saskatchewan School Boards Association develops two new employee relations programs.

1 – "Performance Management of School Support Staff", to help principals with non-teaching staff.

2 - "Job Description 101" for development of common job descriptions for school support staff.

www.saskschoolboards.ca

From the Canadian Education Association - Instructional/Teaching Days, 2006-2007 School Calendar www.cea-ace.ca

PROVINCE/TERRITORY	AUG.	SEPT.	OCT.	NOV.	DEC.	JAN.	FEB.	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JUL.	POSSIBLE INSTRUCTIONAL DAYS
YUKON	Varies across the territory from school to school												178-185
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES	22	20	21	21	16	20	20	22	19	22	20	20	243
NUNAVUT	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	195
BRITISH COLUMBIA	-	19	21	21	16	18	20	17	19	22	20	-	193
ALBERTA	N/A												200 max.
SASKATCHEWAN	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
MANITOBA	-	19	21	22	16	21	20	17	20	22	21	-	199
ONTARIO	0	20	21	22	16	18	20	17	19	22	21	0	196
QUÉBEC	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	180 - 200
NEWFOUNDLAND & LABRADOR	0	18	21	21	16	21	20	22	15	22	15	0	191
NEW BRUNSWICK	-	19	21	21	16	18	20	17	19	21	16	-	188
NOVA SCOTIA	-	19	21	21	14	21	20	17	19	22	21	-	195
PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND	0	19	19	21	16	17	19	17	19	21	18	0	186