

**What can I do if I am interested in joining the PAC, but cannot because I have young children at home?**

Many schools offer childcare in the school for parents who are attending PAC meetings.

Ask the school secretary about childcare arrangements.

**How can I find out more about the PAC in my child's school?**

- Read the school's newsletter or go to its website.
- Look for information on the school's community bulletin board.
- Ask the school secretary.
- Contact your school's Multicultural Liaison Worker or Settlement Worker in Schools (SWIS) to get more information in your home language about the PAC.



### **“Parent Advisory Council”**

This brochure is one in a series sponsored by the VSB SWIS program and produced collectively by a group of ESL/ELL teachers and the VSB MCLW team.

Canada



This project is made possible through funding from the Government of Canada and the Province of British Columbia.

# **Parent Advisory Council**



## **Answers to Commonly Asked Questions**

*All parents of a school community are welcome to join the PAC.*

*When possible, interpretation can be provided for those parents who do not feel their English skills are strong enough for them to fully participate.*

*Many parents new to the community choose to come with a friend or neighbour.*

## What is the Parent Advisory Council (PAC)?

Every public school in British Columbia has a Parent Advisory Council.

It is made up of a group of parents, administrators, and may include teachers.

The PAC meets about once a month, usually in the evening.

## Why do schools have a PAC?

The PAC's main purpose is to discuss and set goals and objectives so it can help make the school and school community a better, safer place.

The PAC also:

- gives parents a voice in their children's education;
- provides parents with information about various issues; and
- gives parents an opportunity to meet each other, socialize and talk.

## What are some things the PAC can do for the school?

The PAC helps the school find ways to do a variety of projects such as:

- purchasing new playground or gym equipment.
- upgrading the school's computers and/or computer programs.

- establishing or improving a school garden.
- helping set up special programs, for example to stop bullying.
- helping individual teachers who want to set up special programs that require extra funding.
- assisting in planning and organizing school events that celebrate special occasions during the school year.

## What are the benefits of joining the PAC?

Joining the PAC is optional. However, joining it gives parents an opportunity to:

- meet other parents;
- learn more about the school; and
- contribute ideas and ask questions.

