



April 3, 2003

Log # 212735

To All Parent Advisory Councils and District
Parent Advisory Councils in British Columbia

Re: PAC and DPAC Access to Direct Access Grants

Under the direct access grant program, the Province of British Columbia provides grants, from revenues earned from casinos and lottery gaming, to community organizations across BC. Parent Advisory Councils (PACs) have been able to apply for these grant funds since the program began in 1998.

On March 12, 2003, the Solicitor General wrote to community organizations in the province outlining changes being made to the program, effective April 1, 2003. Those changes simplified the application process for PACs and guaranteed funding for all PACs that apply. Further, District Parent Advisory Councils (DPACs) became eligible for funding.

Upon submission of a complete application form:

- A PAC is automatically approved to receive a grant of \$20 per student, based on previous year enrolment figures from the Ministry of Education; or
- A DPAC will receive a \$2,500 grant.

PAC funding is intended to benefit students by enhancing the extracurricular opportunities of a variety of student activities. Typical eligible purposes are included on the application form. As before, grant funds must remain under the management and control of the PAC. Funds cannot be used for, or transferred to, curricular purposes, schools, school districts or any of their activities or programs.

Applying for Direct Access Funding

An **Application for PAC/DPAC Direct Access Funding** must be submitted by the annual deadline of June 30. Applications will be processed and funds electronically deposited into each PAC's gaming bank account by September 30.

For this year only, applications from PACs for direct access received before April 1, 2003 will be processed and paid by June 30, 2003, at the new rate of \$20 per student. These PACs will not receive additional funding in September 2003, when other PACs are paid.

In all subsequent years, all PACs will apply for direct access funds by June 30, with funds being electronically deposited by September 30 of the year.

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**Ministry of
Public Safety and
Solicitor General**

Gaming Policy and
Enforcement Branch

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As has always been the case:

- The application form, which can be downloaded from www.pssg.gov.bc.ca/gaming/, requires two signatures;
- Each PAC must have a separate bank account for its gaming funds. Account cheques must be imprinted with the words “Gaming Account”. A voided cheque must be submitted with the application form;
- If a PAC previously received gaming funds, it must also submit its Gaming Account Summary Report showing the disposition of the previous year’s gaming funds (revenue from direct access, bingo affiliation, or licensed gaming events); and
- A donation of gaming funds by a service club to a PAC will not affect that PACs direct access funding. However, these donations must be recorded on the Gaming Account Summary Report.

Capital Projects

PACs can allocate their direct access grant towards an eligible capital project, such as a playground accessible to the community. School construction, such as the renovation of a cafeteria or industrial shop, is not eligible.

PACs are generally not eligible to apply for a Major Capital Project Grant, as capital projects on school grounds do not meet the requirements for that type of grant.

Independent School Parent Groups

As with public school PACs, parent groups at category 1 and 2 independent schools are eligible for PAC direct access funding. Those independent school parent groups use the same application form and select the PAC category in Section 1 of the PAC/DPAC application form. They are subject to the same conditions as public school PACs.

PACs Affiliated with Commercial Bingo Halls

PACs currently receiving funds from bingo affiliation will have their certificates of affiliation amended by June 2003 to provide \$20 per student. This amount is in addition to the \$20 per student from direct access. The amount calculated for such PAC’s three year bingo affiliation will be based on the most recent enrolment available for the school. That amount will not be adjusted during the affiliation period, whether or not enrolment changes. Those PACs must apply for their direct access funding by the deadline of June 30, with payment occurring by September 30.

PACs not currently affiliated with a commercial bingo hall may apply for bingo affiliation. However, there are limited opportunities available for any new organizations to be affiliated with commercial bingo halls.

Licensed Gaming Events

PACs continue to be eligible to apply for gaming event licences, such as ticket raffles, which provide additional fundraising opportunities. Revenue generated through licensed gaming events will generally not impact a PAC's direct access grant, but must be recorded on the PAC's Gaming Account Summary Report that is submitted annually.

Additionally, the appropriate revenue report must be submitted for each gaming event licence. Revenue reporting forms and more information about Class "A" and "B" gaming event licences can be downloaded from www.pssg.gov.bc.ca/gaming/, or by calling 250 387-5311.

For your information and use, attached are copies of:

- The March 12, 2003 letter from the Solicitor General; and
- The Application for PAC/DPAC Direct Access Funding.

I look forward to attending the BC Confederation of Parent Advisory Councils' Spring Conference and/or Annual General Meeting in early May to discuss these matters.

Sincerely,

Original Signed by

Derek Sturko
General Manager