



**District Parent Advisory Council**  
**School District #73 (Kamloops/Thompson)**  
**1383 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Kamloops, BC, V2C 3X7**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

March 24, 2011, Kamloops – SD73 DPAC applauds Premier Clark’s announcement today that community gaming grants will be restored, and in some cases increased.

This is great news for Parent Advisory Councils around the province. It is wonderful to see Premier Clark increasing gaming grant distributions so soon after taking over – it sends a message that recognizes the important contribution that parents make to the education system. Giving grants to volunteer organizations like PACs and DPAC is smart financial management – parents leverage the funds they receive many times over through their volunteer hours. The money truly goes a long way.

The funding increase is especially welcome because we all know how tight school district budgets have become. There is tremendous pressure on PACs to fund student enrichment and extra-curricular activities. A 25% increase to PAC allotments is not insubstantial – it will allow parents to extend the reach of their activities significantly. There are always trade-offs and PACs will obviously still have to make choices about what projects they would like to support, but this increase will go a long way to boosting morale and making parents feel that the many hours they contribute to their children’s schools are valued.

Gaming funds to PACs were cut 50% in 2009/10 and were restored this year after a public outcry on the part of parents. We hope that this increase (from \$20 per student to \$25 per student) is indicative of a larger commitment to properly fund education across the province.

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