

**The Honourable  
Margaret MacDiarmid**  
Minister of Education and Minister responsible for  
Early Learning and Literacy

May 11, 2010

Dear Ms. MacDiarmid,

I am writing at this time, to let you know how concerned I am, about the inadequate funding of our public education system; especially in rural areas such as School District #10, Arrow Lakes.

The pie graph is an excellent tool in illustrating how the annual budget is spent. Almost everybody likes "pie" and it's unsettling to see how such a tiny slice is expected to adequately cover so many costs. It's time the government fully funded public education. Stop forcing Boards of Education to make cuts to programs and services to pay teacher wages and benefits (approximately 85%) out of the piece of pie (approx. 15%) allocated for books, paper, heat, light, bussing, field trips etc. etc.

It is often said that our children are our future. I would like to believe that our provincial government has the best interests, of every student in B.C., at heart. Why should the children of SD #10 have to worry each year that their community school may be closed, or the band program may be cut, or that they may have to take a provincially examinable course by correspondence because we just can't afford a teacher to teach the class?

I am tired of your rhetoric and your manipulation of statistics. While I agree that teachers are capable of doing a better job with smaller class sizes, that isn't always the case in rural schools where multi-grade classes are the norm. Amalgamation is not the answer it may have been for some school districts approximately 10 years ago, either. As a parent and a taxpayer, I implore you to stop making cuts to funding for public education. There isn't any more fat to be trimmed. You're hurting our kids.

Respectfully,

Parent  
School District #10  
Arrow Lakes