

WHO SETS THE PUBLIC EDUCATION AGENDA?

Who should, how and why!

Public Forum

Date: September 6, 2007

Time: 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Place: SFU Harbourview Segal Room

The government of British Columbia has introduced and is considering (Campus 2020) significant changes in public education policies rapidly and with decisiveness. Government has an agenda for public education. Who should set the agenda for public education policies? Why? How should those affected by changes in public education be involved in determining the policy agenda?

The Charter for Public Education represented a broad consensus of British Columbians. The Charter report (released in the spring of 2003) was built through conducting forums where students, parents, educators, trustees/governors and other citizens could express their visions and ideas. The Charter for Public Education Network (CPEN), an organization committed to advancing the principles for public education articulated in the report of the Charter, believes it is now time to organize a series of forums on public education policies. An initial conversation will be open to the members of CPEN, teachers, parents, students and citizens on September 6 at SFU Downtown. **Admission for CPEN members and students is free. Admission for members of the public is by donation.** Refreshments will be served. The purpose of this forum is to hear from the people concerning future forums. What are the issues people want addressed? What format do the participants want to see in subsequent forums? What background information do they want? What ongoing channels of communication would enhance their opportunities to participate in shaping the future of public education in B.C.?

AGENDA FOR THE FORUM

- An opening Panel of: Irene Lanzinger, President, B.C. Teachers' Federation, Cindy Oliver, President, Federation of Post Secondary Educators, Wayne Ross, Professor, Department of Curriculum Studies, University of British Columbia, Mike Zlotnik, President of CPEN will provide information and context about Bills 20, 21, 22 and 29 and Campus 2020 and the alternative agendas contesting for the future of public education in British Columbia.
- Small groups will provide opportunities to discuss ways for students, parents, teachers and citizens to participate in setting the agenda for public education.
- Small groups will be invited to identify the needs people have for information and/or tools and the resources and passions people have to contribute to building the Charter vision into the institutions and practices of public education.
- Brief oral reports from the small groups to the plenary session will report the highlights of the discussions.
- There will be discussions and interactions among the audience and panelists.
- Written surveys will be distributed, filled in and collected at the Forum.

How can you participate in the initial forum on September 6?

As long as seats are available, anyone seeking admission will be allowed to participate. You are not required to pre-register. However, if you want to ensure that you have a seat, you may pre-register by e-mailing this address: info@publiced.ca . There are over 100 seats available.