



NORTH VANCOUVER SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 44

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October 11, 2006

Dear Parents and Guardians:

Subject: School Fees 2006/07

As you are aware, the Supreme Court has ruled again on the issue of school fees in the case of Young v. Minister of Education. In addition, another court action has recently been launched against the Province of British Columbia regarding the issue of repayment of past fees paid. The North Vancouver School Board believes that all fees charged by our schools, both past and present, are compliant with the *School Act* and consistent with the *Ministerial School Board Fees Order* (M321/04). The Board will not be issuing refunds for past fees paid. The Board does however feel it is prudent to review all current school fees again in light of the recent court decision.

The legality of specific fees is uncertain and it is likely not to be clarified for some time. There are some schools that are currently in the process of issuing fee statements and collecting funds. Any fees that have been collected for the 2006/07 school-year will be "held in trust" pending the Board's fee review. Parents who wish to pay their fees at this time may do so and those funds will also be "held in trust." Due to the uncertainty of this situation, some parents may prefer to withhold payment of their school fees at this time. This is acceptable, however, schools may reissue invoices after the Fees review has been completed and parents will be requested to pay their fees at that time.

There are many parents who have also expressed deep concern to their school principals of the potential negative implications of "no fees" resulting in the cancellation of activities or the elimination of programs. The North Vancouver School Board will endeavour to continue to provide the quality of educational programs, activities, field trips and extra-curricular activities that parents have come to expect for students in North Vancouver.

We will be seeking clarification from the Minister of Education, the Honourable Shirley Bond, as to how she proposes to reconcile the Ministry's desire to increase choice and flexibility in the public school system without requisite funding or without the ability to charge fees.

Thank you for your patience and understanding as we await clarification from the Ministry of Education.

Yours sincerely,

John Lewis
Superintendent of Schools

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