

# B.3

## MOTION ON NOTICE

### 3. Provincial Education Funding Cuts in Vancouver

MOVER: Councillor Andrea Reimer

SECONDER: Councillor

WHEREAS the Vancouver Board of Education (VBE) is facing an \$18.1 million provincial government funding shortfall for the 2010-11 school year;

WHEREAS this shortfall will result in severe negative impacts on students, including the elimination of important programs, a shortened school year, layoffs of hundreds of teachers and support staff, and the potential closure of schools;

WHEREAS the \$18.1 million shortfall is the result of the provincial Ministry of Education not providing funding for costs that the Ministry controls, such as inflation on required goods and services; a provincially-approved increase in utility costs such as hydro and natural gas; provincially-negotiated increases in salary increments; and increased tax and benefit costs for employees and other costs beyond the control of the VBE;

WHEREAS the provincial government provides 93% of all funding for the VBE;

WHEREAS the VBE cannot run a deficit and must balance its annual budget through cuts to needed services;

WHEREAS the VBE has already cut \$51 million in accumulated annual education spending over the past eight years, making new cuts even more severe;

WHEREAS Vancouver schools play an integral role in early childhood development, as well as cover gaps in our social safety net, including services such as frontline settlement for new families; and

WHEREAS the public education system is crucial to Vancouver's quality of life, and in attracting people to live, work and invest in our city.

#### THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT Vancouver City Council call on the Province to fund at a minimum the \$18.1 million shortfall in the 2010-11 Vancouver Board of Education budget, and urge the Province to increase funding to reduce the impact of cuts to the Vancouver Board of Education over the past eight years.

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