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## NEWS RELEASE

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Ministry of Education

### **PROVINCE PROVIDES \$126M FOR EDUCATION FROM SAVINGS**

VICTORIA – The Province is meeting its commitment to put all cost savings from the teachers’ job action into the education system, Education Minister Shirley Bond announced today.

“We said we would keep the savings from the teachers’ dispute in the education system – and we’re doing that,” said Bond. “Districts reported saving \$126 million, and we are reinvesting all of it in the education system.”

Out of the savings, the Province will provide a total of \$56 million to public schools and school districts. The Province will provide one-time funding of \$50 per student for each public school. In addition, all 60 school districts will receive one-time funding of \$50 per school-aged student. Schools and districts will work with education partners to decide how to spend the funding.

“The first priority for the district funding is for textbooks and learning resources,” said Bond. “Schools will decide their priorities in consultation with school planning councils, parents and staff. We are encouraging schools and districts to use this funding where it will have the most impact in improving student achievement.”

Thirty-four school districts will also share \$2 million for extra instructional time to address lost school days due to the teachers’ job action. The districts submitted proposals to the ministry requesting funding to offer additional instruction in evenings, on Saturdays or on other days when school would not normally be in session.

The balance of the \$126 million will be used within the education system as follows:

- \$20 million to districts to reduce class sizes, as recommended by industrial inquiry commissioner Vince Ready and agreed to by the provincial government and the B.C. Teachers’ Federation.
- \$40 million in one-time funding for the B.C. Teachers’ Federation Long Term Disability Trust.
- \$8 million for provincial education initiatives, including a rural schools strategy and healthy schools program. Details will be available in the new year.

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For information on AchieveBC, visit [www.achievebc.ca](http://www.achievebc.ca) online.

1 backgrounder(s) attached. 1 factsheet(s) attached.

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