

Issue**Graduation Portfolio requirement review****Distribute to****Trustees, Superintendents, Secretary-Treasurers****BCSTA contact****Jean Ciriani, Communications Director****Ministry of Education to review the Graduation Portfolio requirement**

Education Minister Shirley Bond announced yesterday that Graduation portfolios will not be a mandatory requirement for students graduating in the 2006/2007 school year. The minister has initiated a review of the portfolio program over the next several months, citing concerns raised by parents, students, teachers and school trustees.

In a submission to the 2002 Graduation Program Review, BCSTA supports the use of portfolios to broaden student assessment, along with a number of questions about implementation of the portfolio requirement.

At AGM 2006, BCSTA resolved: "That BCSTA request the Ministry of education to:

- improve communication between high schools and post secondary institutions in order to increase the value and effectiveness of the graduation portfolio as they relate to entrance to these institutions.
- document the effectiveness of the graduation portfolio in improving entrance to postsecondary institutions; and
- develop strategies that would help potential employers understand the value of the graduation portfolio."

At AGM 2004, BCSTA resolved: "That BCSTA request the Minister of Education to work with school boards and education partners to establish implementation strategies regarding graduation portfolios, including adequate financial and staff support and other resources, to benefit all BC students, recognizing the:

- need for continuity of staff support and scheduled time for students through Grades 10 to 12;
- different learning needs and styles of ESL, at-risk, special needs students, First Nations students or students living in poverty, etc.; and
- short time frame to plan for implementation in September 2004."

Then Education Minister Tom Christensen replied to the 2004 AGM resolution, acknowledging the concerns and noting that the Ministry committed \$145,000 and staff support to hold regional meetings with teachers, councillors and administrators. "I believe these regional events will foster school board development of a variety of implementation strategies to meet the unique needs of their student populations," Christensen wrote on August 30, 2004.

BCSTA will update the membership on plans for the Graduation Portfolio Review as information becomes available.

For more information, click to view the following:

- BCSTA AGM 2006 Report of Proceedings, *Resolution 13. Communication between high schools and post secondary institutions on graduation portfolios.*
http://www.bcsta.org/govern/Report_of_Proceedings/Report_of_Proceedings.pdf
- BCSTA AGM 2004 Report of Proceedings, *Resolution 7. Graduation Portfolios*
http://www.bcsta.org/pub/E-Alert/Report_of_Proceedings_2004.pdf
http://www.bcsta.org/pub/E-Alert/Resolutions_2004.pdf
- Ministry of Education Graduation Requirements Review, BCSTA Submission – December 2002
http://www.bcsta.org/pub/Reports-Briefs/Grad%20Requirements%20Review_Dec2002.pdf
- Ministry of Education Graduation Page - <http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/graduation/>
- Media coverage:
 - **Grad-portfolio program under review by ministry**, The Province, July 27, 2006
http://www.bcsta.org/pub/E-Alert/July_27_The_Province.pdf
 - **Graduation portfolio program under review**, Times Colonist, July 27, 2006
http://www.bcsta.org/pub/E-Alert/July_27_Times_Colonist.pdf