

What do parents want?

This workshop explores the diverse expectations of parents as they advocate for their children within our public education system. Led by Charles Menzies and Anita Parhar the workshop will emphasize the diversity of parent interests and experiences while paying particular attention to the concerns of First Nations and minority parents. Drawing upon the professional and personal experiences of the workshop facilitators and participants the goal of this session is to identify key parental expectations for BC's public education system.

Facilitator Bios

Charles Menzies is a parent volunteer with experience as a member of School Planning Councils, school Parent Advisory Councils, and is currently an executive member of the Vancouver District Parent Advisory Council. Charles is also an associate professor of anthropology at UBC where his research and teaching focuses upon contemporary First Nations issues, natural resource management policy (with an emphasis on fisheries), and collaborative research directed at ending social injustice.

Anita Parhar is a doctoral candidate in Educational Studies at the University of British Columbia. Her dissertation explores ways in which many school practices and policies in British Columbia reinforce a limited notion of parent involvement. She offers a more inclusive way of conceptualizing parent involvement and structuring school practices. A mother of three children and formerly a school teacher, Anita conducts research for the School Leadership Centre in the areas of parent involvement and parent leadership.

Agenda

- (1) Introduction of workshop facilitators
- (2) Overview of key issues
- (3) Guided small group discussion.
- (4) Each group reports out their top three points
- (5) Wrap and final discussion

Online Resources

We have placed copies of key articles and related materials online at the following URL:

<http://npweblog.ca/archives/032568.html>