

OCT 09 2009

Our Ref: 132120

Grahame Rainey  
President  
BC Science Teacher's Association  
Box 1002  
Ashcroft BC V0K 1A0

Dear Mr. Rainey:

Your letter to the Honourable Minister Bond, previous Minister of Education, of June 1, 2009 was forwarded to me for response.

Thank you for the teleconference meeting on September 21, 2009 with yourself, Anita Chapman and Susan Lambert. On the ministry side of the table, Sherri Mohoruk, Nancy Walt, Britta Gundersen-Bryden, Connie Cirkony and I were in attendance.

I was pleased to have the opportunity to hear first hand a summary of the events leading up to the survey that your association undertook in the winter of 2008-09. In addition to your summary, my goal was to seek clarification of the big issues and learn how your members have reacted to the survey results now that they have become public.

Some of the key concerns of your membership included: insufficient time to implement the revised curriculum, lack of resources and lack of support to implement the revised curriculum, and poor implementation and communication from the ministry concerning the revised curriculum. Science 10 teachers also suggested that feedback from the ministry regarding the performance of their students on the provincial exam would be helpful. Additionally, Ms. Chapman reiterated that the BCTF did not support a provincial exam for Science 10 and it should be left to classroom teachers to exam grade 10 students.

Your members had comments and concerns regarding improvements and the value of exam results to teachers concerning their students. Through Edudata Canada, the Ministry provides teachers with item level analysis to help pinpoint areas of strength and topics on which students did less well than others. This web-based system can be accessed through the internet at [http://edudata.educ.ubc.ca/Science10\\_Item/ScienceTen\\_home.htm](http://edudata.educ.ubc.ca/Science10_Item/ScienceTen_home.htm) The BCScTA may wish to share information about this site with its members and provide feedback to the Ministry on how the site could be made more helpful in the future.

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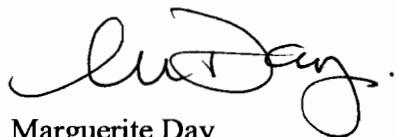
It may interest you to know that results from the January 2009 exam (based on the new curriculum) show that the percentage of 'A' & 'C' students remained stable, an increase in 'B' students, and a decrease in the number of students who failed (compared to the Science 10 exam from June 2008 based on the old curriculum). This could be interpreted to mean that teachers are teaching more of the PLOs in order to better prepare students for the exam.

The Ministry is committed to making incremental improvements to provincial exams and to the curriculum. Feedback from provincial specialist associations, such as that received through your survey, and through provincial exam results inform ministry decisions as to where improvements should be made. Please be assured that I have forwarded your survey results to the Executive Director and Director responsible for the development and revision of the province's large scale assessments.

As promised, I will pass along your comments from our meeting to the Assistant Deputy Minister responsible for curriculum. In addition, we will be sending a briefing note to Minister MacDiarmid to inform her of the survey findings and your comments to us at our meeting.

Thank you again for taking the time to write and sending the ministry a copy of your association's survey results.

Sincerely,



Marguerite Day  
Acting Director  
Learning Initiatives Branch

Pc: Britta Gundersen-Bryden, Executive Director, Ministry of Education  
Nancy Walt, Director, Ministry of Education  
Honourable Margaret MacDiarmid