



British Columbia
School Trustees
Association

Vancouver Sun
Letters to the Editor
#1-200 Granville Street
Vancouver, BC
V6C 3N1

May 7, 2008

Dear Editor,

Last week, the Fraser Institute published its annual Report Card on British Columbia's Elementary Schools. BCSTA believes that the conclusions drawn by the Fraser Institute are incomplete and misleading because it ranks schools based on a narrow snapshot of information and fails to reflect the breadth and depth of activities occurring in schools.

The report does not take individual school, student population, or other community factors into consideration. All boards of education work diligently to meet the unique needs of every student. The narrow snapshot of data used by the report fails to recognize the significant accomplishments and progress taking place in BC's public schools.

There is value in knowing how well students are doing. BCSTA supports the use of a wide variety of processes of gathering that information, including classroom-based, district-wide, and provincial assessments. Information gained through a variety of methods that include a number of factors is useful in determining how individual students, districts and the province are doing in achieving educational goals. BCSTA does not believe, however, that it is beneficial or fair to rank schools in this way.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Connie Denesiuk". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Connie Denesiuk
BCSTA President