

## **2007 AGM: Arts in Education Council of BC**

### **Report of Co-Chair**

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1. With our focus on art IN the schools and their focus on bringing art TO the schools, our collaboration with Artstarts is proving a real shot in the arm and has enhanced our provincial reach.
2. This year we were happy to help sponsor the inspiring Penny Milton speech on video, which is for a time available on line at Artstarts.com and is available in hard copy to members. We are investigating ways of sharing it through the Ministry's web cast process and to PSAs and other AGMs for viewing.
3. Our Newsletter will now appear with Artstarts' own bi-annual newsletter and you will find our archives housed with them also. Perhaps best of all, our monographs, still all too relevant, are available at the flick of a link on Artstarts website. To give you a taste, some will be published in our Newsletter.
4. We approached the Ministry with several suggestions regarding re-inventing schools closed due to decreased enrollments. Director of special Projects, Claudia Roch (appointed almost exactly two years ago to the Ministry of Tourism, Sports and the Arts, the first time the arts were given mention since 2001) responded with "The Ministry is looking at a number of possibilities and submissions. I am sure they are, so here's hoping. Noting that Quebec spends \$19.32 per citizen on fine and performing arts, while BC only manages \$1.98, we might hope that Ms. Roch, a successful businesswoman and economist, may improve our standing.
5. Response from members regarding email has been very slow and efforts to update our lists are ongoing.
6. Disbursement of funds for the coming year, necessary to maintain our charitable status, continues to absorb us and includes sponsoring speakers at conferences such as the Principal's Conference or the Association of BC Arts Councils or perhaps sponsoring an Advocacy Workshop.
7. Finally, amidst all this year's exciting changes, we have never lost our focus on trying to bring excellent, sequential, discrete arts programmes taught by expert professionals to all our students beginning with the very youngest. Creativity is a greatly overworked and misused word, but if we want our children to be creative, and we do, let's give them the tools to do the job and by introducing them to the work of great creators of artworks, let us ensure that we never fail to give them their cultural inheritance.
8. Ours is a tiny but passionate group and I ask you to spare a kindly thought for our diligent workhorses, if they will forgive such a crude designation. May the work and the passion never cease.

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Morag Cuthbertson