

## **We need Justice Education in BC!**

I am shocked that the BC government has chosen to shut down education about our justice system in this province. I am writing to ask my friends and colleagues to join me in expressing anger over this bad decision.

The BC government has cut funding to the Justice Education Society by 60% this year, forcing the Society to terminate justice system education programs for over 15,000 BC students, 1,000 Aboriginal youth and 600 youth-at-risk.



Many social studies teachers at both the elementary and secondary levels can no longer get their classes into courts throughout BC. Learning about courts is an essential component of social studies courses, which include law and social justice, and seeing the justice system in action is fundamental to this learning.

I think the Society funding cuts are wrong! Here's why:

1. How can our youth learn about their justice system if there are no programs for them to visit BC courts and meet with judges and other justice system personnel?
2. How can social studies teachers prepare their students to be knowledgeable citizens if students can't see our justice system in action?
3. How can we build confidence in our justice system when the government has massively cut the only educational programs that introduce BC students to their justice system?

I understand that \$300,000 is needed to restore justice education services to all British Columbians. The Minister of Education, the Attorney General, and the Solicitor General must come together to fund this province's **ONLY** programs for students to visit the courts and learn about our justice system. Access to justice includes access to education about our justice system!

*To government:* I urge you to restore funding to the Justice Education Society immediately.

*To my colleagues:* Please show your support by forwarding this message to your contacts and typing the email addresses shown below into the CC part of the email, to be sure that BC government and the media are aware of your support.

The Honourable Minister of Education Margaret MacDiarmid  
The Honourable Attorney General Mike de Jong  
The Honourable Solicitor General Kash Heed  
Ian Mulgrew, Vancouver Sun  
John Daly, Global TV

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Thank you for your support!  
Dr. Anne Marie Goodfellow, Concerned Citizen