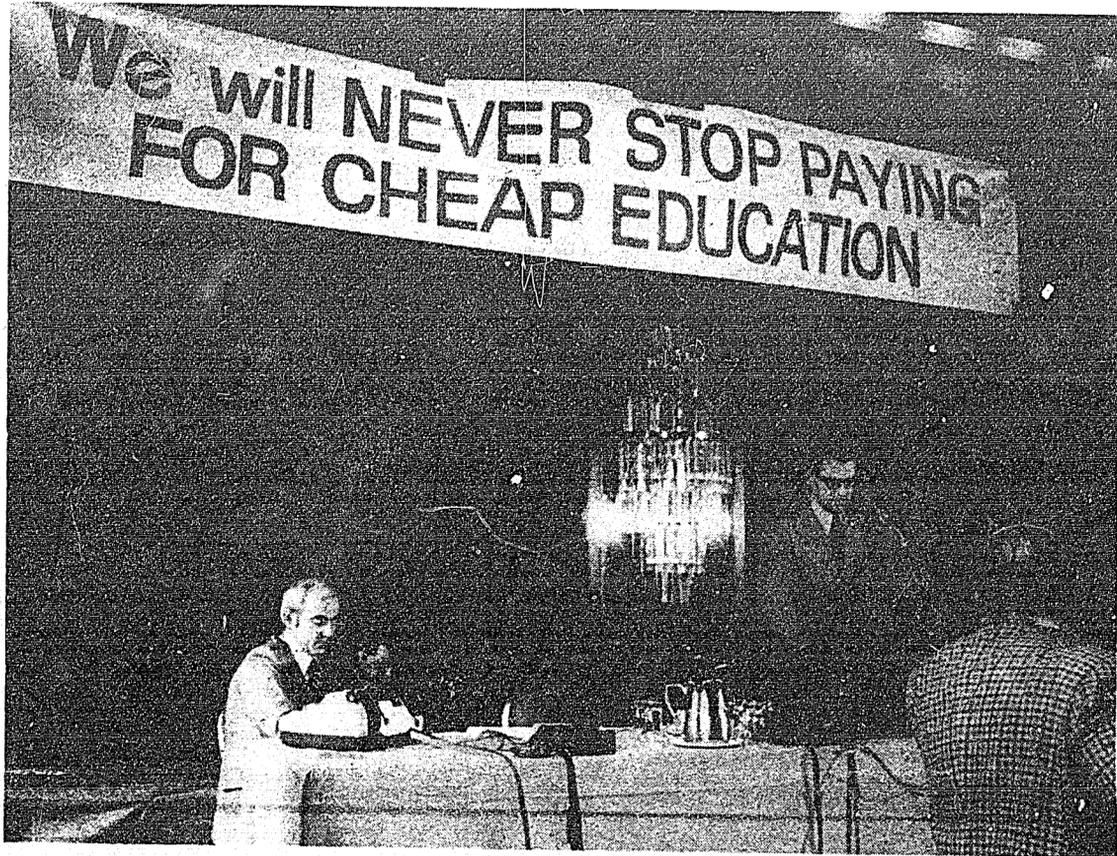


AGM takes militant stance

Ratifies political action \$1,000,000 war chest Plans mass rallies



Education Minister Pat McGeer walked into a highly militant convention where teachers, incensed over the inadequacy of the provincial education budget, had already decided on political action. McGeer delivered a speech of sorts, pushed the party line that 'the cupboard is bare', and rushed back to Victoria without a question period for the delegates or the press.

BCSTA's Mike Berg promotes

Teacher-trustee togetherness

Mike Berg, BCSTA president calls for teachers and trustees to put aside their own interests and work together in the common cause of improving the education system.

Berg, speaking at the Annual General Meeting Monday

evening, March 29, told delegates he see a 'real possibility' of the disagreements between the BCTF and the provincial government spilling over into the area of board-teacher relations. But, at the same time, he commends BCTF officers for making it 'very clear' that school boards are not responsible for the current state of affairs.

He says to improve board-teacher relations 'we must separate these political or economic realities over which trustees and teachers have no control from those factors which we do control.'

Teachers and trustees must first come together in a concern and desire for the public interest in education says Berg. 'If this is not their concern,' he says, 'then they will fail to meet the second and most important criteria — namely that they have credibility with the public we serve. Groups who seek only the interest of their own members may gain public credibility in the short-run but in the long-run, no way,' Berg says emphatically.

'We must search for truth, not support for partisan politi-

cal positions if we are to serve the public interest in education,' he stresses.

Berg touched briefly on the Minister of Education's speech of that afternoon, saying he was neither 'impressed, touched nor moved,' by it.

He says the Minister's statistics showing that the portion of the government's budget spent on education had increased is a 'meaningless, statistic in support of a partisan position.'

He also pointed out to the delegates that the BCTF had used the same statistic for its own partisan interests in previous years.

Berg says the amount of money being spent on education 'has to be determined by public needs and the ability of the system to respond to the needs, not by invalid statistics used to advance partisan interests. Such tactics can only come back upon us,' he concluded.

BCTF President, Bill Broadley commented on Berg's address saying it was 'one of the most positive speeches from a BCSTA president that I can remember.'

Class sizes in B.C. could increase by 25% if school boards cut back their budgets.

In six months we could travel backward in time six years, BCTF president Bill Broadley warned delegates to the Annual General Meeting.

Broadley estimated that the provincial government has carved seventy million dollars out of the provincial share of education.

Delegates to the AGM agreed with him about the seriousness of the budget cuts by carrying unanimously a motion to condemn the provincial government's 1976 Education budget.

Local boards face a dramatic increase in mill rate imposed by the provincial government.

Boards have to pass on the increase in the basic levy to ratepayers. Broadley fears that boards may try to cut back on programs to lessen the impact.

In effect, delegates were told, the government is applying a tax increase without declaring it.

This will come about by increasing the local share of the basic education program from a corresponding decrease in the provincial share. The tax increase that will take place at the local level will look like the work of school boards but will actually be the work of the provincial government. (see tables for actual figures)

B.C. classrooms could be short 5500 teachers next year if boards reduce budgets to eliminate the tax increase. Boards may face the further difficult decision of which programs to cut back and which programs to eliminate altogether.

Delegates approved a 22% fee hike, from \$164 to \$200, to fund a program to defend education budgets. Other motions, reprinted below, were passed and designed to hold the level of education firm in the province.

In the Learning Conditions session Don Walmsley, co-chairperson of the LC committee and first vice-president of the Federation, had warned delegates that as far as BCTF programs were concerned it was not 'business as usual'. In fact the Federation has cut back on programs these past few weeks to concentrate re-

sources on preventing budget cuts, he said.

'You should not expect to operate on a business as usual basis for the next several years.'

Carried unanimously

The following recommendations were unanimously carried.

83: — That the BCTF condemn the provincial government's 1976 Education Budget on the basis that:

1. It substantially reduces the provincial share of the education budget and imposes a major tax increase on local taxpayers.

2. It attacks the educational opportunities of students at a time when higher standards are being demanded by the public.

3. It will remove up to 5,000 teachers from the classroom.

84: — That the BCTF insist that the provincial government's grants to school districts for operating expenses of the public schools be increased to a level that will ensure that there will be no increase in the basic levy.

85: — That the BCTF oppose any increase in the pupil-teacher ratio in any school in which the BCTF basic or supplementary staffing formulas are not met.

Carried

86: — That, having determined that the present crisis will continue for some time, the 1976 AGM recommends that the Executive Committee be prepared to cut back programs and services to the degree necessary to provide the maximum staff, financial and political support for the maintenance of current learning and working conditions and for the maintenance of existing 1976 collective agreements with due regard to the priority programs as decided by delegates to the 1976 AGM.

87: — (a) That the BCTF actively resist any layoffs of teachers.

(b) That the BCTF oppose any increase of the pupil-teacher ratio.

(c) That the BCTF insist that local school boards hire staff to replace normal retirements, resignations, and terminations of temporary appointments.

(d) That the BCTF oppose negotiations with trustees or their representatives at the local or provincial level concerning the layoffs of teachers.

(Continued on page 2)

New executive elected

Your new Executive Committee for 1976-77: — President, Bill Broadley, Victoria; 1st Vice-President, Don Walmsley, Boston Bar; 2nd Vice-President, Pat Brady, Prince George; Members-at-Large — Al Blakey, Vancouver Elementary; Julia Goulden, Burnaby; Ken Smith, Kamloops; Gale Neuberger, Coquitlam.

Continuing Executive Members-at-Large until June, 1977: — Sue Granger, Cariboo-Chilcotin; Nina Green, Central Okanagan; Ross Regan, Victoria. Jim MacFarlan, Burnaby, is past president.

To all BCTF members. This issue of the Newsletter is a rush addition designed to give you just the key highlights of the AGM. The issue following will include a more detailed account.

POLITICAL ACTION

(e) That the BCTF encourage local school boards to maintain their February 15, 1976 budgets by passing on this transfer in taxation to property taxes at this time.

(f) That the BCTF offer to work with the BCSTA and local school boards to get the provincial government to rescind its education finance cutbacks.

(g) That the BCTF organize mass rallies of teachers to discuss possible action and organize public meetings involving parents and students to join in a collective action against the cutbacks in education.

88: — That part A of Recommendation 26 (Book 1, p. 18) be amended to read: 'For the 1976-77 fiscal year the active membership fee payable for the operation of the Federation be 1.11 percent (\$200) of the estimated mean salary of BCTF members.'

89: — That the following be inserted as a preamble to the Declaration of Basic Learning and Working Conditions Rights, Prerogatives and Obligations (Recommendation 41 — Book 2, p. 89):

'The following Declaration is a statement of policy representing the collective professional opinion of the members of the B.C. Teachers' Federation. It is intended to provide a provincial standard of learning and working conditions, violation of which provides grounds for filing a grievance even when there is no violation of locally established criteria. Resolution of a grievance where conflicting criteria exist must be based on evidence that the situation is, as stated in Subsection 5.4, "detrimental to the educational welfare, health, or safety" of those students in the grievor's care.'

Note: — This recommendation originated with the Learning Conditions Committee and is submitted to the AGM without the endorsement of the Executive Committee.

Amendment to 41: That section 3.1 of the Declaration (Recommendation 41 — Book 2, p. 89) be amended to read:

'3.1 It is the obligation of the local association to ensure that discussion of the Declaration takes place.

'3.1.1 Any additions to, deletions from, or other modifications of this Declaration shall be forwarded to the BCTF for comment carried before they are adopted by a general meeting of the association.

'3.1.2 Subsection 3.1.1 notwithstanding, no local association shall have the authority to amend or delete Subsection 5.4 of the Declaration. 1

Footnote 1 — Subsection 5.4 is intended to provide due process to BCTF members in the exercise of their professional judgment in determining, and seeking correction of, situations they regard as educationally unsatisfactory.'

Note: — see 89.

Recommendation 91: That part 2 of Recommendation 37 (Book 2, p. 88) be amended to read:

'2. That the BCTF and local associations encourage members faced with learning or working conditions contrary to any clause relating to class size, teacher workload, specialized services, segregation, health or safety of the Declaration of Basic Learning and Working Conditions Rights, Prerogatives, and Obligations to file formal grievances if prompt resolution is not accomplished through informal procedures.'

School operating costs

FEBRUARY 15, 1976	MARCH 26, 1976
UNSHARED \$129 MILLION NOTE 1	UNSHARED \$129 MILLION
LOCAL SHARE OF BASIC EDUCATION PROGRAM \$286 MILLION NOTE 2	LOCAL SHARE OF BASIC EDUCATION PROGRAM \$356 MILLION
B.C. GOVERNMENT \$370 MILLION NOTE 3	B.C. GOVERNMENT \$300 MILLION NOTE 4

Resolutions and Recommendations

How they fared

FIRST SESSION
Sunday, March 28
8 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.

REC 6 — Carried (with addition to 8.21(b))
RES 6 — Defeated
REC 2 — Carried
REC 3 — Carried
REC 4 — Defeated
RES 10 — Carried as amended
RES 11 — Carried
REC 25 — Not dealt with
RES 8 — Not dealt with
RES 42 — Not dealt with

SECOND SESSION
Monday, March 29
9 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

REC 70 — Carried
REC 71 — Carried
REC 72 — Carried
REC 73 — Carried as amended
REC 74 — Carried
RES 30 — Withdrawn
RES 29 — Defeated
REC 83 — Carried as amended
REC 84 — Carried as amended
REC 85 — Carried
REC 86 — Carried as amended
REC 87 — a) Carried
REC 87 — b) Carried as amended
REC 87 — c) Carried
REC 87 — d) Carried
REC 87 — e) Not dealt with in this session
REC 87 — f) Not dealt with in this session
REC 87 — g) Not dealt with in this session
REC 88 — Not dealt with in this session
REC 82 — Not dealt with in this session
LATE RES 103 — Not dealt with in this session
LATE RES 104 — Not dealt with in this session
REC 47 — Not dealt with in this session

THIRD SESSION
Monday, March 29
2 p.m. - 5 p.m.

REC 87 — e) Carried as amended
REC 87 — f) Carried as amended
REC 87 — g) Carried
REC 88 — Carried
REC 82 — Carried
Motion to retain statement 31.16 Carried
LATE RES 103 — Withdrawn
LATE RES 104 — Postponed to after Labor Liaison Report
REC 34 — Carried
REC 35 — Carried
REC 37 — Part 1 Carried
Part 2 as amended by REC 91 Carried
REC 38 — Carried
REC 39 — Carried
REC 40 — Carried
REC 41 — Part 1 Carried
REC 41 — Part 2 Carried
REC 41 — Part 3 Carried as amended by REC 90
REC 41 — Part 4 Carried
REC 41 — Part 5 Carried
REC 41 — Part 6 Carried
REC 41 — Parts 7-13 Not dealt with
REC 41 — RES 12 Not dealt with

FOURTH SESSION
Monday, March 29
7:30 p.m. - 10 p.m.

REC 75 — Carried
REC 76 — Carried
REC 1 — Carried
RES 1 — Referred to the Task Force on Authority & Responsibility
RES 2 — Carried
RES 3 — Defeated
RES 4 — Defeated
RES 5 — Referred to the Agreements Committee

FIFTH SESSION
Tuesday, March 30
9 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

REC 69 — Carried
REC 79 — Carried
REC 80 — Carried
REC 81 — Carried as amended
RES 27 — Defeated
RES 28 — Defeated
REC 5 — Carried
REC 7 — Carried
REC 8 — Carried
REC 9 — Carried
REC 33 — Carried

SIXTH SESSION
Tuesday, March 30
2 p.m. - 5 p.m.

REC 55 — Carried
REC 53 — Carried
REC 54 — Carried
RES 22 — Defeated
REC 68 — Carried as amended
RES 24 — Carried
RES 25 — Defeated
RES 9 — Carried
(to be part (a) of 12.21)

SEVENTH SESSION
Tuesday, March 30
7:30 p.m. - 10 p.m.

LATE RES 104 — Carried as amended
REC 56 — Carried
REC 57 — Carried
REC 58 — Carried
REC 59 — Carried
REC 60 — Carried
REC 61 — Carried
REC 62 — Carried
REC 63 — Carried
REC 64 — Carried as amended
REC 65 — Carried
REC 66 — Carried as amended
REC 11 — Carried
REC 12 — Carried
REC 13 — Carried
REC 14 — Carried
REC 15 — Carried
REC 16 — Carried
REC 17 — Carried
REC 18 — Carried
REC 19 — Carried
REC 20 — Carried
REC 21 — Carried
(Reworded before presentation)
REC 22 — Carried
RES 7 — Withdrawn
From Session Two
RES 44 — Carried

EIGHTH SESSION
Wednesday, March 31
9 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

REC 48 — Carried
RES 16 — Withdrawn
REC 49 — Carried
REC 50 — Postponed until after RES 18
RES 18 — Carried (wording added)
REC 50 — Withdrawn
REC 51 — Carried
RES 19 — Defeated
RES 38 — Defeated
REC 78 — Not discussed affected by REC 23
REC 67 — Carried
REC 23 — Carried
RES 23 — Withdrawn
From Second Session
RES 35 — Defeated
RES 36 — Part 1 referred to the Exec. Committee
From Third Session
REC 41 — Part 7 Carried as amended
Part 8 Carried
Part 9 Not completed

NINTH SESSION
Wednesday, March 31
2 p.m. - 5 p.m.

Procedural motion to refer the pension plan integration to Local Associations for study — Carried
RES 39 — Withdrawn
RES 17 — Defeated
REC 26 — Part A Carried as amended by REC 88
Part B Carried
Part C Carried
Part D Carried
REC 27 — Carried
REC 28 — Carried
REC 29 — Carried
REC 30 — Carried
REC 31 — Carried
REC 32 — Carried

TENTH SESSION
Wednesday, March 31
2 p.m. - 5 p.m.

From Session Nine
REC 77 — Carried
RES 31 — Defeated
New Agenda
REC 89 — Carried
REC 41 — Part 9 referred to the Learning Conditions Committee
REC 41 — Part 10 Carried as amended
REC 41 — Part 11 Carried
REC 41 — Part 12 Carried
REC 41 — Part 13 Carried
REC 43 — Carried
REC 44 — Carried
REC 45 — Carried
REC 46 — Carried
RES 14 — Defeated
RES 13 — Defeated
LATE RES 101 — Withdrawn
LATE RES 102 — Defeated
RES 32 — Referred to RA
RES 34 — Withdrawn
RES 32 — Referred to RA
RES 20 — Referred to RA
RES 21 — Referred to RA
RES 12 — Withdrawn
RES 12 — Referred to RA
NEW RES 201 — Referred to RA
NEW RES 202 — Referred to RA
NEW RES 203 — Referred to RA
NEW RES 204 — Referred to RA
NEW RES 205 — Referred to RA
NEW RES 206 — Referred to RA
NEW RES 207 — Referred to RA
NEW RES 208 — Referred to RA

REC 77 — Not dealt with
RES 31 — Not dealt with

Strong support for integrated PE

Strong support for integrated physical activity programs in B.C. schools was given by delegates to the AGM.

Three major recommendations put before the convention by the Task Force on the Status of Women calling for integrated physical education programs in which a student will learn and develop activities that will foster good physical health through a lifetime to become an integral part of their individual lifestyle, were carried handily.

A resolution from the B.C. Physical Education Teachers' Association asking that PE instructional and extracurricular programs should have flexibility in integration and segregation of students in activities according to safety and teacher/student choice, was just as resoundingly defeated.

Also defeated was a resolution from the East Kootenay Teachers' Association asking for an amendment to policy statement 44.15 (passed at last year's AGM) that states that 'in accordance with the B.C. Human Rights Code, all courses, programs, activities and clubs sponsored by schools shall be open to all students, regardless of sex.'

Task force recommendations passed also called for the BCTF to encourage locals to strike a committee to develop integrated PE programs and to support any public school physical activity program that encourages participation of all students, regardless of sex or skill level.

The defeat of the PE teachers resolution and that of the East Kootenay teachers did not occur without blistering opposition from a small but vocal number of delegates.

Lynn Begin, Creston, pointed to evidence of the AMA indicating that at the secondary school level girls simply did not have the cellular structure of boys and that it was undesirable and unsafe to promote integrated sports at that level.

Hazel Huckvale, Glendale school, Williams Lake, insisted that there must also be a responsibility to those who excel in sports just as there is in other school courses.

Dave Black of Penicton saw negative ramifications in what appeared to be positive recommendations by the Status of Women. He wondered if in the end integration in physical activities would discriminate against girls who have excelled in certain sports.

Speaking to the B.C. PE teachers' resolution, president

Continued on Page 4

Explanation of tables

Notes for Table 1
Sources of Data
BCSTA Analysis of 1975 School District Budgets
B.C. Assessment Authority
Department of Education
Note: In 1974 61.9% of gross local taxes were assessed on non-residential property and 38.1% on residential property. The same proportions have been assumed for 1975.

Notes for Table 2
1. Local school boards must pay all costs above the 'Basic Educational Program.' The only exception occurs where supplementary grants are provided. (Education Minister McGeer, February 27, announced the discontinuance of supplementary grants.)
2. The term 'Basic Educational Program' is misleading in that it represents a purely financial rather than educational concept and is based on past levels of expenditure. No district in B.C. has operated within the BEP for years; hence all districts pay various amounts of unshared costs depending upon different costs of operating schools, different levels of pupil-teacher ratio, and program quality.
The Public Schools Act requires the Department to notify each school district of the amount of the BEP for that district on December 1 for the next calendar year. The BCTF estimate of the total BEP of all school districts is \$655 million, as a minimum estimate.

3. The B.C. government is responsible for setting a basic levy which is a standard mill rate for all districts in B.C. The amount raised by the basic levy is the local district's share of the BEP. The government is, by law, responsible for paying all costs of the BEP above the amount raised by the basic levy.

The Department notified school boards, December 1, 1975, that the basic levy was estimated to be 26.5 mills. Total 1976 provincial assessments for school purposes are estimated at \$10,800,000,000. Therefore the local share of the BEP would have been 26.5 x 10,800,000 or \$286 million. Consequently the provincial share of the 65 million BEP would have been \$370 million.

It was on this basis that school boards prepared their February 15 final budgets and submitted them to Victoria. The budgets have since been reviewed by Departmental budget review teams and, except for some minor amendments, have been found proper.

4. The March 26 budget of the provincial government does not provide the necessary \$370 million. Total grants to school districts are increased by 35.5 million to 375.5 million. However these grants include non-operating expenses and debt (capital) charges which last year totalled \$70.3 million and are estimated to increase this year. We estimate that only \$300 million remains as the province's share of the \$65 million BEP. Therefore local taxpayers will be forced to pay an additional \$70 million toward the cost of the BEP. This will be 6.5 mills increase.

The increase is 16% on last year's average total mill rate for school purposes of 41 mills.

Sharing of operating and capital costs . . .

LOCAL NONRESIDENTIAL	PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT	LOCAL RESIDENTIAL
\$251 MILLION 35%	\$313 MILLION 43%	\$155 MILLION 22%
HOME OWNER GRANT \$97 MILLION		
PROPERTY TAX REMOVAL \$25 MILLION		
\$33 MILLION 5%		

Table 1

Taxes account for a mere 5 per cent

Local school taxes are not high. Gross school taxes on residential property raise 22% of the cost of the public school system. Homeowners grants and property tax removal grants are applied to reduce the burden on local homeowners.

After these grants are applied, net residential property taxes account for only 5% of school costs.

The cost of entirely removing the school taxes on residential property would be only \$33 million, a mere 1% of the total provincial government budget. Why do provincial governments continue this unpopular tax that could be removed at so little cost?

The answer lies in appearances: The need to create the appearance of high school taxes, that in turn, serves to hold down school board spending. Force boards to levy \$155 million in taxes on local homeowners, then provide \$122 million in tax relief to residential property taxpayers.

The resulting confusion serves a purpose. The commercial, industrial and other non-residential interests that pay 35% of the total cost of schools and 88% of net local taxes have a vested interest in keeping mill rates low. However, these interests could not win local voter support for their position if the true facts were known.

The vested interests find allies among those homeowners who simply don't know how little their net school taxes are. The great majority of B.C. homeowners pay less than \$20 per month for net taxes.

Average school property taxes are far less than the cost of insuring an automobile.

Toronto, Vancouver taxes

1975 SCHOOL TAXES OF AVERAGE HOMEOWNER			
	Vancouver	North York (Toronto)	
Assessment	\$9,123	\$7,000	
Mill Rate	37.18	56.22	
Gross School Taxes	\$339	\$408	
Homeowner Grant	\$200	\$180 (Property Tax Credit)	
Resource Grant	\$ 56	—	
Net School Taxes	\$ 83	\$228	

Note: For 1976, the Budget Committee Chairman for North York projected a 10 mill increase in North York school taxes. This would add \$70 to school taxes for North York taxpayers while Vancouver taxpayers can anticipate a \$60 increase in gross taxes and a \$39 increase in net taxes.

(The Homeowner and Resource Grant have been combined into one \$280 Homeowner Grant for 1976. This will provide greater tax relief for the average taxpayer.)

Source of Data:
The Province, March 29, 1976
Toronto Star, March 6, 1976
BCSTA, Analysis of 1975 School District Budgets,
Canadian Teachers' Federation

McGeer bombs

Dr. Pat McGeer addressed the BCTF AGM, Monday, March 29.

He read 14 pages of double-spaced capped type.

He reads well.

But then, he and everyone else had read the script somewhere before.



After a grueling morning of passing resolution after resolution denouncing educational budget restraints and planning counter-action delegates exploded in laughter when the Minister informed them solemnly, 'I can assure you of one thing — we are in for exciting times in education in British Columbia in the next few years.'

It was something the delegates were well aware of, as they were in fact of the total contents of his address.

There were no new announcements, pronouncements or even hints of any Department policy changes. He did, however, assure his audience that education had a 'very, very high priority' with his government.

His address centered mostly on the deplorable economic condition of the province and the measures his government was obliged to take to correct them.

Teachers salaries were one item to be corrected. Not, however, by the Department of Education.

'With respect to your situation as teachers, I know that the decision of the provincial government to refer all public sector compensation agreements arising since October 14, 1975 to review by the Anti-Inflation Board is causing serious concern.

'I have met, on at least three occasions, with representatives of your Federation to discuss, among other things, the anti-inflation guidelines. Your

representatives have made an eloquent presentation on your behalf and I have listened with interest to what they have had to say.

'But, I must say to you as I did to them, that any decision the Anti-Inflation Board may make with regard to teachers' salaries or (those of) any other employees in the public sector, will be beyond the control of the Department of Education.'

Dr. McGeer said the government has initiated a comprehensive review of the structure and organization for negotiating wages and all forms of compensation in the public sector and the results will be announced 'in due course.'

Turning to the provincial learning assessment program that is now under way Dr. McGeer said, 'We have data about employment, inflation rates, gross national production and other matters which provide perspectives from which to make decisions. Surely it is even more important that we have reliable data on which to base educational decisions.'

By 1980, the Minister stated, objective data should be available to reply to claims and counter claims about students abilities to 'read, write, spell and compute.'

He emphasized that the provincial assessment program does not compete with, nor diminish, the role of individual school districts, schools or teachers who are engaged in an assessment program of their own.

The government, he said, has a 'keen interest in professional development. While virtually all the money in the Department of Education is given away to school districts, and all secondary educational facilities, a small amount — one-half percent — is held by the Department ear-marked for this purpose.'

From page 3

Integrated PE

Ian Andrews felt policy regarding integrated sports should be flexible enough so that every teacher and student might interpret it in the light of their own individual circumstances.

The thrust however, was from the supporters of integrated physical activities programs. They saw their resolutions as a way to change an 'elitist' program policy into an effective program to develop lifetime abilities in sports.

Integration will cause a re-evaluation of sports programs', according to Pearl Lynn of North Vancouver. She suggested physical activities might be directed toward such sports as swimming, skating, skiing and bowling.

'How many 50 year old adults play football, rugby or soccer?' she asked.

Linda Shuto held that if safety were a factor in any

sport than no one should be participating — boys or girls.

Julia Goulden, Burnaby, said 'sexism is sexism — if it is undesirable in the curriculum it is also undesirable in clubs...'

In putting forth recommendations the task force contended that 'the current emphasis on competition and team sports in physical activity programs fosters selectivity and elitism, and does not provide for the adequate acquisition and development of lifetime physical fitness skills.'

They also stated that 'the vast majority of B.C. students are denied the opportunity to participate in extra-curricular sports activities and are encouraged to become passive spectators through the emphasis on elitist athletic programs. A disproportionate amount of time, funding and coaching expertise is spent on a few gifted athletes at the expense of the majority of students.'



There are always moments of high emotion at an AGM — and so it was when Frances Worledge received the highest recognition her colleagues can bestow as winner of the Fergusson Award. Jim MacFarlan, Executive, presents her with the beautiful handmade scroll.

Fergusson Award winner

Frances Worledge — an OCT

A teacher termed 'a senior statesperson in the forums of the B.C. Teachers' Federation' is this year's winner of the highest honor teachers can bestow on a colleague.

Frances Worledge, a well-known Vancouver elementary teacher, received the G. A. Fergusson Award in recognition of her contribution to education in the province, at the BCTF's Annual General Meeting.

Jim MacFarlan, BCTF past president, says she has a 'fairness' which children respect and accept. 'She has empathy and genuinely a great love for children,' he adds.

Miss Worledge often refers to herself as an OCT — ordinary classroom teacher — 'and I am proud to think that I am an OCT if she is one,' MacFarlan says.

MacFarlan describes Miss Worledge, who he has known for 17 years, as a person who debates and speaks on issues with 'conviction, sincerity, integrity, honesty and tenacity.'

Miss Worledge tried to decline the award saying it should go to VESTA, but, in the end, MacFarlan had the last word quoting the constitution and she gracefully relented.

The Fergusson Memorial Award was established to honor the memory of G. A. Fergusson who, at the time of his death in January 1928, had long been looked upon as one of the most outstanding teachers in British Columbia. His judgments and opinions were respected and his fairmindedness won him the absolute confidence of all with whom he came in contact.

Frances Worledge, according to her colleagues, has been totally immersed in education for the past 15 years. 'Her chief concern has always been the welfare of children, and a visit to her classroom is a rewarding experience,' says Al Paterson, president of the Vancouver Elementary School Teachers' Association.

Miss Worledge is actively involved in professional activities at both the principal and local level. She served on the BCTF Executive Committee from 1965 to 1973, rising to the office of First Vice-President. Currently she is active as a Geographical Representative and as a member of the School Staffing Committee, and the Profes-

sional Development Advisory Committee.

At the local level, Miss Worledge has been involved in virtually all aspects of her association. She has been president, 1964-65, agreements spokesperson, and professional development chairperson. She is an active member of the Vancouver School Board's task force on English.

'She is a totally dedicated professional teacher,' says Paterson. 'Her interests for pupils and teacher welfare are reflected in the long hours she spends on their behalf.'

Vancouver elementary teachers were one of the first groups of teachers to broaden their scope to include such activities as presentations on school board budgets, briefs on various educational trends and programs, major professional development programs, and demands for participation in the decision-making process. Frances Worledge is recognized as a pioneer in broadening the scope of teachers' activities.

'Frances fought to make the local professional organization truly professional, in demanding a role in determining the future of education and in demanding the right to influence the determination of more than just the salaries paid to teachers,' says the local president, Al Paterson.

Frances Worledge played the major role in winning the first learning conditions contract in the province for VESTA.

Says Paterson, 'It is not often said that one individual has left a mark on a system the size of Vancouver's, but Frances Worledge has through her efforts within the professional organization in concert with her colleagues.'

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