



Outlook

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## BCCPAC at Budget 2025

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From BCCPAC <info@bccpac.bc.ca>

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The BC government tabled the 2025 provincial budget yesterday, describing it as a measured plan to protect jobs and the public services people rely on while preparing the economy for the unpredictable impacts of tariffs imposed by the United States.

President Laura Ward and Executive Director Tracy Humphreys were invited to the BC Budget 2025 lockup with government and partner groups, and attended the Premier's speech on newly imposed US tariffs and BC's response, as well as having the opportunity to review information and details before the Budget Speech given by Minister of Finance Brenda Bailey.

For K-12 education, the budget maintains stable funding aligned with projected enrolment growth, ensuring schools can continue to operate without reductions in core funding. While there are no additional investments beyond what was already planned, stability in education funding is still valuable for families and school communities. Parents, guardians, and caregivers rely on a predictable, well-supported public education system to ensure students receive the services they need.

Key information:

- Budget increases are related to projected increases in student enrolment.

- The government's election platform had included plans for Education Assistants in K-3 classrooms and increased school counselors, but specific funding for these initiatives is not included in this budget.
- The Ministry of Infrastructure now oversees all school capital funding, including both budget and staff responsibilities. The same teams that previously worked with school districts under the Ministry of Education and Child Care continue to do so, now within this new structure. The goal is to coordinate capital planning across government ministries to ensure resources are allocated efficiently based on provincial infrastructure needs.
- Already-announced investments in school building projects and prefabricated classroom additions are moving forward. There are no new school capital project announcements at this time but there is a continued budget for future projects.
- The budget focuses on protecting core services, including health, education, and social development, while managing financial pressures in an uncertain global economy.

BCCPAC continues to advocate for member priorities such as stronger support for students with disabilities and diverse abilities, Indigenous parent leadership and self-determination, workforce solutions for teachers and EAs, accessible and inclusive school infrastructure, and expanded anti-racism initiatives. There is no doubt that it is disappointing to see that long-awaited improvements will take even longer. Schools and districts continue to face difficult budget decisions, and some have been managing reductions for years.

However, BCCPAC recognizes the difficult work that went into developing Budget 2025, particularly in the face of economic uncertainty and the broader challenges posed by US-imposed tariffs. The province has taken a thoughtful and proactive approach, working with other provinces and the federal government to navigate these pressures. As communities across BC and beyond prepare for the challenges ahead, there is a shared understanding of the importance of protecting the most impacted people and maintaining strong public services. BCCPAC remains committed to monitoring developments and advocating for the needs of students and families.

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**BCCPAC**

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