



Parent Support Services
Society of BC

April 1, 2016

Schools For All

Parent Support Services Society of BC is a non-profit, volunteer-based society and registered charity founded in 1974, dedicated to protecting the safety and well-being of children and promoting healthy families through peer-based supports, education, advocacy and research. For more than 40 years, our province-wide network self-help groups have been providing parents (and others in a parenting role) with a safe environment in which they can talk about their children, parenting challenges, successes and failures, the stress or worries in their lives, receive support and parenting skills.

Several of our support circles operate in various languages, and serve the recent immigrant and refugee communities.

Through our work with these diverse families, PSS has heard concerns about children, particularly those with precarious immigration status, being excluded from accessing public education. We have heard that families are concerned that schools may share information about them and their children with immigration authorities. This adds stress, to lives of some of our most vulnerable families.

PSS has identified this as an emerging issue in the Lower Mainland.

Parent Support Services Society of BC is dedicated to providing services with respect, compassion, and accountability, and to championing the Canadian Charter of Rights and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. We support families and their rights in this way because we value inclusion, social justice, and collaboration. And we believe that, when we work together and learn from each other, these values can transform conflict into understanding; that understanding can transform hurt-filled households into healthy homes; and that healthy families can transform unjust societies into strong communities. That is why, at PSS, our goal is to build healthy communities, one family at a time.

Therefore, PSS believes that education is a human right and all students, regardless of their immigration status, should be entitled to attend public schools in BC.

It is our hope that BC school districts, and the Ministry of Education take the necessary steps to ensure that all students can attend school, and that families are made aware of their children's right to education.

Creating a world where children and families are nurtured, valued, and safe

www.parentsupportbc.ca

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