

# IT'S TIME FOR CHANGE



## METRO WEST ZONE MEETING

This year's Metro West Zone Meeting, Tuesday, April 4, 2017, was attended by Sharon Yeadon and Jenni Lynnea. Many interesting topics were discussed, a delicious lunch was served, and each branch had time to share summaries of what their 2016-2017 year has brought in terms of successes, challenges, and points of interest. We were left with a message from the BCTF and BCRTA: May 9, Election Day, make our votes count for education. We can make a difference for all BC kids.

- Parents are paying more for their children's education, K - college
- BC's Educational Funding has dropped about \$300 million per year
- Teaching positions were lost, classes got larger and kids stopped getting the extra supports they needed
- BC schools lost more than 1,694 specialist teacher positions.
- Since 2002, 257 public schools have been closed and many more are in a state of disrepair.

- BC's private schools get massive government subsidies--\$358 million dollars in public funding just in the past year--a 92% increase in the last 10 years.
- One in five BC children are growing up poor and start the day hungry. Most of the support for these children comes from churches, stores, local teachers, local unions, generous parent groups, and teens. Where is our government in this equation? [You might read the Vancouver Sun article, Feb. 21, 2017, page A6: Teenager's food drive gives students fuel on weekend.]
- One in three of BC's Indigenous children is living off-reserve and half of those living on-reserve are growing up in poverty.
- Between 2007 and 2016, 914 BC children died and 2,957 suffered critical injuries while in government care.

- Change is possible! #FundBCschools

It's time to take action for vulnerable children. When we vote this May, let us, as members of the NWRTA consider both seniors' issues and educational issues. Let's raise the issue of poverty at our local levels. Let us not be silent about things that matter. For more information and source material for all the stats, go to [BCTF.ca/TheNumbersTellTheStory](http://BCTF.ca/TheNumbersTellTheStory) You can download the 2017 platform for each party by just using GOOGLE or another search for each one. It's worth a read!

**BOTTOM LINE: Be informed, please VOTE!!**