



# News Release

June 25, 2008

## **Subsidies for summer school courses extended: Most elementary programs now free**

Discussions between the Ministry of Education and the Surrey School District have clarified the scope of summer school courses that qualify for ministry funding, resulting in the district now being able to offer additional summer school courses for free to qualifying students (B.C. residents who are Canadian citizens, permanent residents or refugees).

Most of the newly-qualifying courses are shorter, “part time” courses aimed at elementary school-aged children. Costs for the courses were \$150 or \$175. The courses, such as “Getting ready for Grade 1” and “Reading and Writing for Grade 6”, are largely aimed at preparing younger students for improving academic skills.

“The district is thrilled to be able to make our summer school programs more broadly accessible,” says Continuing Education assistant superintendent Dave Paul. “We encourage parents to consider enrolling their child as soon as possible as the first sessions get underway July 7.”

The district had originally charged for the courses with the understanding that to qualify for ministry funding, summer school courses were required to involve a minimum of 40 hours in instruction. A survey of summer school programs resulted in funding clarification.

Refunds are being processed for an estimated 500 registrations received prior to the clarification. Refunds will be issued by cheque.

An up-to-date course listing is available on line to identify summer school courses available free, as well as the cost for non-subsidized courses. Visit [www.sd36.bc.ca](http://www.sd36.bc.ca) and click on “Summer School”.

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