



MAILING ADDRESS: Box 47068, RPO City Square Vancouver, BC V5Z 4L6

OFFICE LOCATION: 3 West 3rd Avenue (at Ontario) Vancouver V5Y 3T8

PHONE: 604-558-2002 FAX: 604-648-8975 WWW.VACC.BC.CA

**VANCOUVER AREA
CYCLING
COALITION**

Metro Vancouver's Cycling Advocates



October 28, 2011

Ms. Patti Bacchus
Chair, Vancouver School Board

Dear Ms. Bacchus:

Re: Cycling Education in Schools

We are writing to encourage the Vancouver School Board to introduce cycling education to all students as part of the curriculum of all Vancouver schools.

The Vancouver Area Cycling Coalition works toward getting more people riding bicycles more often in Metro Vancouver. We do this through education, encouragement and advocating for better cycling infrastructure. In terms of education, we offer cycling safety courses to adults, families and school students.

We are encouraged that many students in Vancouver schools have received cycling education, but this has been neither consistent nor universal. Recently, the City of New Westminster has taken the bold step of providing cycling education to all grade 6/7 students in the district over the last 2 school years with 28 classes all together taking part. We would like to see a similar program at all schools in Metro Vancouver and hopefully in the entire province. We appreciate the effort that you have already taken in encouraging the City of Vancouver to take a role in convening Provincial and other stakeholders to realize an action plan to encourage youth cycling.

Cycling offers many benefits, especially in terms of health (both mental and physical). Research has shown that increased physical activity also enables children to perform better academically. By encouraging students to cycle, we will establish a skill which will help them throughout their entire lives, thereby leading to a healthier and happier population.

We encourage the Vancouver School Board to follow the lead of the City of New Westminster and make cycling education available to all school children.

Sincerely,

Heather, Harvey, Co-Chair, VACC Vancouver/UBC Committee.
heatherjharvey@gmail.com

Lisa Slakov, Co-Chair, VACC Vancouver/UBC Committee.
lslakov@telus.net