

*****BC YOUTH PLAN EVENT TO RALLY PEERS AGAINST EDUCATIONAL CUTS***
*****Youth Fight to Preserve Their Educational Experience on June 1 @ VAG*******

(VANCOUVER, BC) British Columbian teenagers are calling on their fellow students to stand up for education, and rally against the \$18.7 million being cut province wide. The event will be on June 1st, 2010 and run from 4pm – 6pm at the Vancouver Art Gallery fore court.

Students are outraged by news that the Vancouver School Board will be forced to extend school days, shorten the school year, lay off staff, and close down schools. Rising Above Poverty founder and rally organizer, Abdeslam Boubia, an 18 year old student activist and education advocate, says students are worried ESL and special needs support, as well as music, applied skills, and fine arts course will all suffer. “With courses being cut, schools being closed, and teachers being laid off, our already crowded classrooms are being pushed to the verge of becoming fire hazards.”

All those opposed to these sweeping cuts are asked to wear blue to the rally. The color blue signifies freedom and strength for new beginnings, which is exactly what organizers feel is in jeopardy when government refuses to invest in education. Organizers will also be wearing the names of teachers who have lost their jobs due to budget cuts.

“The Ministry has made this look like a Vancouver problem in the media, when every school district is suffering” says the organizer, announcing a partnership with Read My Lips Live and Hearts in Action Enterprises, two social media firms to help engage youth province-wide. The rally will be web-casted live to inspire youth in their own communities to take action.

Boubia urges all young people and education advocates to spread the word “Nobody has a greater stake in public education than the youth, who are at the mercy of government. We may not have a vote, but on June 1st we will show them that we matter too.”

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