

Creating a Healthy Future for Our Children

A recap of DASH's 7th Annual Leadership Symposium

On Monday, May 6, 2013, we hosted our 7th Annual Healthy Schools Leadership Symposium at the SFU Harbour Centre in downtown Vancouver – and what an amazing day it was! Over 115 stakeholders attended the event from around the province, each of whom is committed to creating healthier schools and healthier learners.

The day kicked off with an incredibly passionate and moving address from the Vancouver City Manager, Dr. Penny Ballem, who spoke about the importance of leadership and honesty when working together to create healthy schools. Her message was loud and clear: at the end of the day we all have the same end goal in mind – to create a healthy future for our children – and we have to work together or we simply won't succeed. The Symposium was also a great opportunity to showcase some of the amazing work that has been taking place across the province in the area of healthy schools (for example, the Healthy Schools Network, the After School Sports Initiative, and the G.O. Days program). Just before lunch, BC's first ever Healthy Living Youth Council members shared some of their incredible work through an engaging and interactive poster session. It was so inspiring to see how enthusiastically these students have embraced their roles and worked towards improving health in their own schools and around the province!

After a fantastic lunch (which included a walk to the Olympic Cauldron), we all refocused to listen to Paige Fisher and Guy Le Masurier speak on how we can use different types of data (e.g., numbers and stories) to assess and compile evidence for the incredible work we are all doing. The theme of the day was “working together to create healthy schools,” and the content and the structure of the day allowed participants to do just that. The participants learned together, shared their stories and experiences, and connected on how we can best work together moving forward. All in all, the day was a huge success, and none of it could have been accomplished without the passion and commitment of all the attendees!

To view pictures of the events at the Symposium, please visit the DASH website [here](#).