

---

## FACTSHEET

February 1, 2010

Ministry of Education  
Government of British Columbia

### ***B.C. Supports Vulnerable Students***

- The 'Downtown Eastside' is within the Vancouver School District (No. 39).
- An estimated \$1.19 million of School District No. 39's CommunityLINK dollars supported vulnerable students in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside (DTES) in 2008.
- Programs and support offered in the DTES through CommunityLINK funding include:
  - Lunch programs
  - Breakfast programs
  - Reading/Literacy programs
  - Youth and family support workers
  - Peer helper programs
  - Outdoor education programs
  - Conflict resolution programs
- The DTES is home to five StrongStart BC and other Early Learning programs in the following schools:
  - Florence Nightingale Elementary
  - Britannia Community Elementary
  - Tillicum Community Annex
  - Mount Pleasant Elementary
  - Queen Alexandra Elementary
- StrongStart BC centres offer preschool aged children quality early learning experiences. These centres offer play-based early learning opportunities and demonstrate to parents and caregivers how to enhance their child's development. The program emphasizes learning through play, language and positive social interactions.
- Although not located in the DTES, Eric Hamber Secondary School within the Vancouver School District offers *Total Education* – a district-wide senior secondary alternative program providing students with teaching methods recognizing individual learning styles and life experiences. Youth and Family Workers are available to provide further support to students and their families/caregivers – and to liaise with social agencies.

## WEB RESOURCES

- Strongstart BC: Links to information regarding our early learning programs  
[http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/early\\_learning/strongstart\\_bc/](http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/early_learning/strongstart_bc/)
- Links to information about the CommunityLINK program  
<http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/communitylink/>
- Information about the *Total Education* program through the Vancouver School District  
<http://www.vsb.bc.ca/schools/total-education-program>

## MEDIA COVERAGE

- *Rocky Mountain gets StrongStart B.C. Outreach Program*, Kootenay News Advisory, October 9, 2009  
[http://www.bclocalnews.com/kootenay\\_rockies/kootenayadvertiser/community/63870437.html](http://www.bclocalnews.com/kootenay_rockies/kootenayadvertiser/community/63870437.html)
- *Funding boost triples size of Langley's StrongStart BC program*, canada.com, June 24, 2008  
<http://www.canada.com/langleyadvance/news/story.html?id=4fda8428-925c-4905-9617-986f79ff5ab7>

- 30 -

**For assistance or more information:**  
**Public Affairs Bureau**  
Ministry of Education  
250 356-5963