

*Two letters to the Vancouver Sun on
the scandal around private colleges in BC and the
Chinese government's intervention*

in December 2006:

RE: Government controls would hurt private ESL schools: Minister

Advanced Education Minister Murray Coell is taking up an ESL vocabulary lesson. He's teaching international students that greed is good and reasonable standards are bad. When even the broader private school agency and the free-enterprise-oriented Progress Board are saying ESL schools should be regulated it's completely irresponsible for Minister Coell to continue to allow these so-called schools or colleges to operate unethically. Imagine our outrage if Canadian young people and their parents were being sucked in by such schools in a country or state that purported to be "advanced" the way BC does. Obviously, ethical, well-run private schools can survive and profit in a regulated environment. Many have done so in BC. Their good name and the good name of all post-secondary education in BC will continue to be stained by the inevitable scandals that Minister Coell seems to find tolerable and acceptable.

~Frank Cosco

in January 2007:

RE: Avoid Canadian Schools, China warns students

What a difference a Chinese respective makes! On Dec 11 the Sun reported Minister Coell responding to his own government's Progress Board with a "rebuff." They said there should be re-regulation of private schools, Minister Coell said controls would impair their ability to compete. Now with the Chinese government weighing in, he's prepared to consider re-regulation. The Minister is not naive on these matters, he's been getting advice to re-regulate for years. His government's blind slashing of regulations has made matters worse and helped hurt the international reputation of all BC institutions. Hopefully, we won't have to continue to depend on guidance on governance from the Chinese Ministry.

~Frank Cosco