



September 30, 2016

The Honourable Mike Bernier
Minister of Education
PO Box 9045, Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC V8V 9E2

RE: Consistent expectations and effects for all school districts

Dear Minister Bernier,

In follow-up to discussions earlier this week, we are writing on behalf of the members of BCSTA, BCSSA and BCASBO to reiterate our joint concerns and request for consistent expectations and effects arising from Ministry of Education and broader government decisions. We do appreciate your willingness to both hear our concerns and to discuss the need for greater stability moving forward.

Whether you are a board or the senior staff of a small rural school district or a large metro school district, you should be able to expect consistent and equitable application of Ministry policy decisions and School Act requirements. Knowing the direction and expectations of government as well as being able to rely on the knowledge that every school district will be treated equitably are key to creating confidence and trust in our mutual roles as governors and leaders of the public education system.

Conversely, occasions where there is a perceived inconsistency or application of a differing set of standards creates distrust and a lack of stability for everyone concerned. While we may differ somewhat in our opinion as to what the expectations and responsibilities of each party might be, we strongly agree that transparent and fair application of all of the 'rules' to everyone is vitally important.

Boards of education and senior staff rely on a knowledge of the parameters under which we are to operate as well as confidence in the consistent application of those expectations and responsibilities in order to best lead our school districts. Just as parents, students and staff expect predictability and reliability from us, we look to government for the same. Inequities, perceived or real, in the way in which we are treated or see our colleagues treated breaks down the trust and consistency we require to perform our roles properly.

Your willingness to discuss our concerns and to consider how best to move forward is appreciated. Just as trustees and staff members are faced with many varied and difficult

decisions, we appreciate that you and your colleagues deal with the same. We expect to be held accountable for the decisions we make for the greater good of our students and the education system that serves them. Belief that we, individually and collectively, are all 'doing the right things for the right reasons' will serve us all well in the end and ensure continued public confidence in our education system.

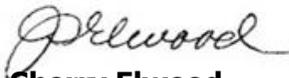
Thank you for your consideration of this significant issue for BC school districts.

Sincerely,



Teresa Rezansoff
President
BCSTA

cc: Dave Byng, Deputy Minister of Education
BC School Trustees Association – Member Boards of Education
BC School Superintendents' Association – members
BC Association of School Business Officials - members



Sherry Elwood
President
BCSSA



Kelvin Stretch
President
BCASBO