



British Columbia
School Trustees
Association

August 8, 2017

The Honourable Rob Fleming
Minister of Education
PO Box 9045, Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2

RE: By-Elections in School District No. 83 (North Okanagan-Shuswap)

Dear Minister Fleming,

On October 29, 2016, a motion urging government to hold by-elections to restore democratically elected boards of education in Vancouver (School District 39) and North Okanagan-Shuswap (School District 83) was passed at the British Columbia School Trustees Association's Provincial Council meeting. We last wrote the Ministry of Education regarding this on November 1, 2016. Since that time, we have seen significant changes, both at the local and provincial levels, and it is now time to revisit this important topic of concern.

We strongly agreed with Premier John Horgan's recent announcement, in which he stated that the "people of Vancouver deserve representatives they can go to to make sure that their kids are getting the education that they deserve." We were greatly encouraged to witness your government's swift follow-up to these comments, with the announcement that a by-election will be held on October 14, 2017 in order to restore a democratically elected board in Vancouver.

However, as evidenced in previously referenced motion, important outliers still remain, and this omission has left us puzzled. On behalf of the BCSTA, and our membership, we call on you to set a date for by-elections in the North Okanagan-Shuswap district so that we may see parity across the province. I further request that these by-elections not be postponed to the general election, set for October of 2018.

Thank you for your consideration of our request. We firmly believe that communities are best served by democratically elected, local boards of education, and request that you act on this imbalance as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Gordon Swan".

Gordon Swan
President
BC School Trustees Association

cc: BCSTA Member Boards of Education
BCSTA Board of Directors
Deputy Minister of Education, Scott MacDonald