



British Columbia
School Trustees
Association

September 1, 2017

The Honourable Melanie Mark

Minister of Advanced Education, Skills and Training
PO Box 9080 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC
V8W 9E2, Canada

Dear Minister Mark,

RE: Increased Educational Assistant Training Places at Post-Secondary Institutions

During the BC School Trustees Association's spring 2017 Annual General Meeting, our member Boards of Education passed a significant resolution calling for increased educational assistant training places at post-secondary institutions.

The motions passed by our membership follows:

That BCSTA advocate for the Ministry of Advanced Education to enhance and target funding to post-secondary institutions to increase the number of trained Educational Assistants and related para-professionals such as Autism Support Workers and Behaviour Support workers

Educational assistants and related para-professionals comprise an integral support system for students and teachers. We currently have a shortage of qualified personal, which is reflected throughout the province.

Post-secondary institutions are facing an issue where limited funding is throttling the development of these much needed educational assistants and para-professionals. Colleges are limited in their capacity to train, and on behalf of our member boards of education, I call on you to provide an increase in funding to these institutions, so that we may enhance the numbers of these needed professions in the system and provide BC's public schools with the resources required to ensure a successful learning environment for all students.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. We look forward to hearing from you regarding any possibilities or proposals that you may have surrounding this important concern.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "G B Swan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Gordon" and last name "Swan" clearly legible.

Gordon Swan

President

BC School Trustees Association

Enclosure

cc: Rob Fleming, Minister of Education
BCSTA Member Boards of Education

27. INCREASED EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANT TRAINING PLACES AT POST-SECONDARY INSTITUTIONS

SUBMITTED BY: SD 44 (North Vancouver)

BE IT RESOLVED:

That BCSTA advocate for the Ministry of Advanced Education to enhance and target funding to post-secondary institutions to increase the number of trained Educational Assistants and related para-professionals such as Autism Support Workers and Behaviour Support workers.

RATIONALE:

Educational Assistants and related para-professionals play an essential role in supporting students and classroom teachers. Presently there is an increasing shortage of qualified personnel throughout the province.

Local colleges that provide training for Educational Assistants and related paraprofessionals have a limited number of training seats and this currently does not meet the needs of the K-12 sector. The increasing number of identified K-12 students with a wide range of complex needs and who require assistance in the classroom, has resulted in a shortage of qualified Educational Assistants and related paraprofessionals.