



British Columbia
School Trustees
Association

October 5, 2017

The Honourable Carole James

Minister of Finance

PO Box 9048, Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2

Dear Minister James,

RE: Request for meeting to discuss funding for K-12 public education

It was a pleasure to speak with you at the recent Union of BC Municipalities convention and to begin a dialogue on funding for K-12 education in our province. I believe there are a number of areas of common interest where we might focus our joint efforts in order to achieve some significant advances toward ensuring all children in BC have access to high-quality education programs and facilities.

I would like to request to the opportunity to meet with you for the purpose of identifying areas where additional resourcing would make a significant difference within our schools and school districts. There are also a number of policy change options that might also be considered that can improve both the effectiveness and efficiency of current funding. Certainly, many of the objectives you have previously identified align with those of our association.

The BCSTA has been able to establish a strong working relationship with the Ministry of Education, and we would like to establish a similar positive connection with you and the Ministry of Finance. Your personal commitment to K-12 education has long been recognized and see you as a champion for the goals we share.

There are also many high priority initiatives set by the government that deserve careful consideration from organizations, such as ours, as they offer opportunities for collaboration. Many of these objectives match up with motions passed by BCSTA's member boards of education, and I would welcome the opportunity to establish some short and long-term plans based on these shared goals with you.

This planning structure would be open to other Ministries in related areas as well so that we may create the change needed to benefit BC's students. Planning for the future in such a fashion will allow us to work collaboratively with multiple groups who have a direct or indirect influence on BC's public education system, such as yours. By building these working relationships early, we can actively avoid misalignment and setbacks.

I look forward to meeting with you and beginning a dialogue on how we might better support BC's public education system and all of our province's children and youth.

Sincerely,



Gordon Swan

President

BC School Trustees Association

cc: The Honourable Rob Fleming, *Minister of Education*
Scott MacDonald, *Deputy Minister of Education*
Lori Wanamaker, *Deputy Minister of Finance*
BCSTA Member Boards of Education
BCSSA, BCASBO, BCPVPA