



British Columbia
School Trustees
Association

November 30, 2017

The Honourable Selina Robinson
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
PO Box 9056, STN PROV GOVT.
Victoria BC
V8W 9E2

Dear Minister Robinson

RE: Local Elections Campaign Financing Amendment Act, 2017

The British Columbia School Trustees Association (BCSTA) serves and supports all 60 of BC's public boards of education in their key work of improving student achievement.

As with municipal and regional district elections, the *Local Elections Campaign Financing Act* applies to school trustee elections. We have been monitoring the progress of the *Local Elections Campaign Financing Amendment Act, 2017* (Bill 15) through the Legislature and are writing to request that you consult with our organization before finalizing the regulation that you plan to develop to address the amount that local election candidates may contribute to their own campaigns. Consulting with our organization will help you to develop a regulation that is informed by our experience and unique insight into school trustee elections.

Bill 15 restricts local elections candidates to contributing no more than \$1,200 to their own campaigns. Your comments in the Legislature on November 23, 2017 indicate that your "intention would be to recommend a regulation that provides for candidates to make an additional campaign contribution of up to \$1,200 in 2018 to their own campaign, with that being in addition to the regular contribution limit of \$1,200, bringing the total in those circumstances to \$2,400 for 2018." (*Hansard*, November 23, 2017). We would like the opportunity to consult with BCSTA members and discuss this matter with you before the regulation is developed.

Working together, we can share our unique insight into school trustee elections and help you achieve your stated objective of "support[ing] fair election campaigns that are free of the influence of wealthy donors and are accessible to everyone" (*Hansard*, October 30, 2017).

We look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G B Swan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the letters "G", "B", and "Swan" clearly distinguishable.

Gordon Swan
President
BC School Trustees Association

cc: Hon. Rob Fleming, Minister of Education
Scott MacDonald, Deputy Minister of Education
BCSTA Member Boards of Education