



British Columbia
School Trustees
Association

November 27, 2017

Christina Zacharuk

Chief Executive Officer

Public Sector Employers' Council

P.O. Box 9400, Stn Prov Govt

Victoria, BC V8W 9V1

Dear Ms. Zacharuk,

Re: BCSTA recommendations regarding BCPSEA future governance

Thank you for the opportunity for a follow-up meeting regarding our member input to the question of appropriate future governance of the BC Public Schools Employers Association (BCPSEA). Our discussion last week helped to clarify the importance of specific recommendations needed to form your final submission to the Minister of Finance. We are also cognizant of the tight timeline required to begin implementing changes this January for both BCPSEA and the other three public sector employers' associations.

Let me begin by emphasizing that the most important consideration for Boards of Education is the return of elected trustee representation to the board of BCPSEA. While we will offer a number of recommendations to you, the return of an elected trustees to our employers' association board as soon as possible is viewed as extremely positive.

While there should be a degree of consistency across the governance structures of all four of the public sector employers' association, it must also be recognized that public education is unique by the inclusion of elected trustees. There must be some allowance for this important difference to be reflected in the governance structures of BCPSEA.

Additionally, BCSTA would like to put forward several other recommendations to you for consideration in your final submission to the Minister of Finance. We recommend that:

1. The new board of BCPSEA be comprised of a majority of elected trustees in combination with appointed government representatives, with consideration of inclusion from the Ministry of Education, PSEC, as well as others as appropriate.
2. All members of the new BCPSEA board be elected (or appointed in the case of government representatives) to staggered, multi-year terms.
3. Trustee members of the board be elected on a regional basis (the same regions as, or similar to, the current BCPSEA trustee advisory committee), but through a process that allows all eligible members the opportunity to vote for all trustee representatives to the board.

4. The chair of the new BCPSEA board to be elected by the members of the board from within its direct membership, but also with consideration of consistency with the other employers' association.
5. All four public employer association boards be provided with regular mandatory governance and technical training directed at an identified skill and knowledge set appropriate to such board members.
6. The board be provided with the opportunity to interact formally with the other public sector employers' association boards and senior staff on a regular basis. This should include re-establishing regular meetings of the Public Sector Employers' Council.
7. Establishment of a Technical Advisory Committee comprised of sector and affiliated experts to advise both the association operations and the board as appropriate.

We understand that there may be numerous details or related decisions that would need to accompany the above recommendations should they be implemented. BCSTA remains committed to working with you to establish and implement all of the decisions and processes necessary to re-establish trustee governance at BCPSEA.

In closing, I would like to emphasize once again that our most important goal is the return of elected trustees to the governance of BCPSEA. While there may be a variety of opinions and numerous options as to how the elected representatives are chosen, the most important goal for us is the timely return of an elected board to the governance of BCPSEA.

Sincerely,



Gordon Swan

President

BC School Trustees Association

cc: Renzo del Negro – CEO, BCPSEA
Scott MacDonald – Deputy Minister of Education