



April 3, 2013

Ref: 165803/ 166357

Peg Orchardton, Chair
Board of Education
School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria)
556 Boleskine Road
Victoria BC V8Z 1E8

Dear ^{Peg}Ms. Orchardton:

I am writing further to your letters of February 20 and March 13, 2013, and our subsequent discussion on March 6, regarding the 2012/13 funding recalculation.

As we discussed, each year the Ministry holds back a portion of the preliminary operating grant allocation to ensure there are funds available in case school district estimates for student enrolment throughout the year are different than forecasted. Holdbacks are calculated by determining the difference between the Ministry estimate and districts' estimate of enrolment, plus a contingency amount.

In March 2012, the holdback was announced to be \$51.26 million. There were almost 3,000 fewer than estimated students enrolled in September, which added an unanticipated \$28 million to the holdback after the recalculation in fall 2012. In December, the Ministry allocated \$50.83 million to districts from the holdback, while reserving \$2.13 million for the BCPSEA. This left \$26 million to cover enrolment growth in the spring counts and any other budget pressures.

As well, the Ministry will be providing \$15.6 million of the holdback as a prepayment of the 2013/14 Annual Facility Grant (AFG). The total AFG for 2013/14 remains at \$110.5 million.

Final determination of the remainder of the holdback cannot be made until student enrolment figures are calculated at the end of May. Funds in the holdback are then allocated to cover the May enrolment growth in continuing education and distributed learning. I understand the Board's concerns regarding the holdback; however, at the end of June, any funds remaining are released to school districts.

I appreciated the opportunity to discuss this with you and thank you for your Board's dedication to the students of Greater Victoria.

Sincerely,

Don McRae
Minister

Ministry of
Education

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Minister

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