

BOARDS OF EDUCATION

SCHOOL DISTRICTS OF SAANICH, SOOKE AND GREATER VICTORIA

April 20, 2012

The Honourable George Abbott
Minister of Education
P.O. Box 9045, Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, British Columbia
V8W 9E2

Dear Minister Abbott:

The Chair of the Greater Victoria School District No. 61, Ms. Peg Orcherton, the Chair of the Sooke School District No. 62, Ms. Wendy Hobbs and the Chair of the Saanich School District No. 63, Mr. Wayne Hunter, attended the Ministerial Meeting on April 2, 2012. At that meeting, we learned about the buildup to Bill 22 and the desired effects on education that Bill 22 is expected to achieve.

Minister Abbott, Bill 22 has been controversial. Clearly there has been a lot of negative response to Bill 22, especially from our teachers' unions. We appreciate the fact that you acknowledged the pushback that you have received to Bill 22 but heard you and your Superintendent of Achievement state that Bill 22 will create a better learning environment with more dollars being spent to improve the learning situation for our vulnerable students.

Ms. Orcherton, the Board Chair of Greater Victoria School District rose during your session and spoke about accountability and process, asking if there would be an annual review of Bill 22. Minister Abbott, your response indicated that an annual review would probably be very wise and prudent. We are now sending this letter with the hope that you can assure us that there will be a public review of Bill 22 and that this review will be incorporated into the Bill 22 Regulations to occur on an annual basis. Further, we respectfully request that you consult with Boards of Education regarding a terms of reference for this review.

The Board of Education of Sooke, Saanich and Greater Victoria look forward to your response.

Respectfully submitted,



Wendy Hobbs
Board Chair
Sooke School District



Wayne Hunter
Board Chair
Saanich School District



Peg Orcherton
Board Chair
Greater Victoria School District

cc John Gaipman, Superintendent of Schools, Greater Victoria School District No. 61
Jim Cambridge, Superintendent of Schools, Sooke School District No. 62
Keven Elder, Superintendent of Schools, Saanich School District No. 63