



# BOARD OF EDUCATION

SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 61 (GREATER VICTORIA)  
556 BOLESKINE ROAD, VICTORIA, BC V8Z 1E8  
PHONE (250) 475-4106 FAX (250) 475-4112

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March 13, 2013

Via email: [educ.minister@gov.bc.ca](mailto:educ.minister@gov.bc.ca)

The Honourable Don McRae,  
Minister of Education  
PO Box 9045 Stn Prov Govt  
Victoria, BC  
V8W 9E2

Dear Minister McRae:

On behalf of John Gaipman, our Superintendent of Schools, Debra Laser, our Secretary-Treasurer and myself, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for meeting with us on March 6, 2013.

I want to thank you for hosting us a second time. It was noted that you invited us to return in another month if we had questions or needed clarification and, on behalf of the Board of Education, I want you to know that your open-door policy with the Greater Victoria School District is valued.

As you mentioned, this was a meeting filled with difficult subject matters. You heard our concerns regarding the release of hold-back funds and the timing that is associated with the release of hold-back funds. We reiterated our concern about the cost of the Teachers' Pension Plan premium increase being offloaded onto school districts. We talked about the concern regarding the source of funding for teacher and support staff wage increases. We spoke about the adequacy of the block funding amount and the need to change the formula that is used to allocate funding. Many other issues were also discussed and although we didn't come to agreement, we do appreciate your willingness to hear how necessary it is that education receives more money than it is presently receiving.

Once again, I want to thank you for meeting with us and the offer of a subsequent meeting, if necessary, prior to the writ being dropped.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "P. Orchardton".

Peg Orchardton  
Board Chair

cc Board of Education