



BOARD OF EDUCATION

SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 61 (GREATER VICTORIA)
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April 17, 2013

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

Dear Minister McRae:

The Greater Victoria Board of Education continually strives to maximize programs and services for students. However, a lack of adequate funding and the downloading of costs to individual school districts has impacted our ability to ensure that each of our students receives the education that they so truly deserve.

Our Board is supportive of a salary increase for all of our employees. We estimate that for the Greater Victoria School District there is a cost pressure of \$1.5 million annually for every 1.0% increase that is given to each of our employee groups. The public education sector is already faced with funding shortfalls as a result of the continued lack of funding to address known cost increases and general inflation. Over the years, the Greater Victoria Board of Education, as well as Boards of Education throughout the Province, has had to make numerous reductions and changes to programs and services to balance their budgets.

In order to maintain the quality of our programs, it is important that the Province provides full funding to school districts for all negotiated wage increases. Public education in British Columbia must not be further eroded by the continued lack of funding needed to address cost pressures.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "P Orchardton".

Peg Orchardton
Board Chair

cc Board of Education
BC Boards of Education, c/o BCSTA