



BOARD OF EDUCATION

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**SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 61 (GREATER VICTORIA)
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January 22, 2015

The Honourable Peter Fassbender
Minister of Education
PO Box 9045, STN PROV GOVT
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2

Dear Minister Fassbender:

On December 4, 2014, a public announcement was made to eliminate funding for at least 20 upgrading courses for graduated adults in the K-12 sector. This decision was made unilaterally without consulting school boards throughout the province. Based on Greater Victoria's 2013-2014 enrolment figures, the new funding policy will reduce funding for graduated adult programs by an estimated \$199,000 and impact approximately 300 vulnerable students who will no longer have access to tuition-free upgrading courses.

For many of these learners, the financial barriers created by the Ministry's decision will prevent them from obtaining the necessary upgrading to access post-secondary education or to obtain meaningful long term employment. Charging tuition for adult upgrading will create significant hardship and barriers for our most vulnerable adult populations seeking the skills to create a better future for themselves and their families.

At our Board Meeting held on Monday, January 19, 2015, the following motion was passed:

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) direct the Chair to write a letter to the Minister of Education calling upon him to reverse his December 4, 2014 decision to stop funding graduated adult upgrading courses through the Province's K-12 public school system.

The Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) respectfully requests that the Honourable Minister of Education immediately reverses the decision to stop funding upgrading courses for graduated adults in the K-12 public school system and recommit to affordable and accessible education for all British Columbians, regardless of socio economic status.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Edith Loring-Kuhanga".

Edith Loring-Kuhanga
Board Chair

cc: Board of Education
All BC School Boards, c/o BCSTA
GVSD Unions and Associations
Sherri Bell, Superintendent of Schools
Debra Laser, Secretary-Treasurer