



BOARD OF EDUCATION

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

April 2, 2015

The Honourable Christy Clark
Office of the Premier
PO Box 9041, STN PROV GOVT
Victoria, BC V8W 9E1

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

Dear Premier Clark and Minister Fassbender:

The Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) and its education partners express considerable concern regarding the recent funding announcement that includes province-wide administrative funding cuts of \$54 million over the next two years.

This funding reduction will result in administrative budget reductions of up to \$1.8 million in our school district. Add this reduction to increasing unfunded cost pressures and a structural deficit in excess of \$8 million and our school district will face difficulty providing the infrastructure necessary to support the needs of our students, our staff, and our community.

Over the past few years, we have made numerous challenging budget decisions that include eliminating administrative positions and supplies, finding operational efficiencies, and relocating programs. We have also been on the leading edge of participating in shared service initiatives in order to realize cost savings. We have made every effort to maintain a focus on the best possible outcome for our students. However, we will not be able to deliver ongoing administrative cuts without impacting the classroom and having a devastating impact on our overall district.

We request that you reconsider the administrative reductions in the funding of BC's education system and restore funding to a level that will adequately support our commitment to providing high quality educational programs and services to our students: the future of British Columbia.

Yours truly,

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

Edith Loring-Kuhanga
Board Chair

cc: Board of Education
Sherri Bell, Superintendent of Schools
Debra Laser, Secretary-Treasurer
GVSD Partner Groups
BC School Boards, c/o BCSTA
Greater Victoria MLAs
Local Media