



May 28, 2015

Ref: 181150

Edith Loring-Kuhanga, Chair
Board of Education
School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria)
Email: eloring@sd61.bc.ca

Dear Ms. Loring-Kuhanga:

Thank you for your letter of April 2, 2015, regarding administrative savings.

I would like to assure you and your Board that the Government of the Province of British Columbia remains committed to its budget targets and three-year fiscal plan. It is important to recognize that education was one of only a very few areas to receive a significant funding increase in *Budget 2015*. It is a mark of the government's strong commitment to education that *Budget 2015* delivered an additional \$421 million for public schools alone, including a 33 percent increase to the Learning Improvement Fund. K–12 education received the largest funding increase next to health services.

Total funding to school districts will exceed \$5 billion for the 2015/16 school year—an increase of 31 percent since 2000/01. That is \$1.2 billion more per year going to public schools after a period where enrolment went down by more than 75,000 students. Over this period, measures of student achievement have improved and the K–12 system continues to deliver some of the best educational outcomes in the world.

I appreciate your Board's perspective, and recognize Greater Victoria School District's accomplishments to date that demonstrate its resourcefulness and innovation in reducing costs locally.

I also acknowledge that finding efficiencies is not always easy, but the savings expectations are reasonable, realistic and similar to what the Province has seen in the health and post-secondary sectors. The K–12 education sector has already made good progress in savings efforts to date, particularly through shared services implementation, and I am confident that school districts have the expertise to identify new administrative and structural savings without impacting classroom instruction. The Ministry of Education will continue to work closely with all school districts to support these efforts.

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If you require further information, please contact Deborah Fayad, Assistant Deputy Minister, Resource Management Division, at: Deborah.Fayad@gov.bc.ca or 250-356-2588.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter Fassbender', written on a light-colored background.

Peter Fassbender
Minister

pc: Honourable Christy Clark, Premier