



BOARD OF EDUCATION

SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 61 (GREATER VICTORIA)LUMBIA V8Z 1E8PHONE (250) 475-4112

June 11, 2013

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

Dear Minister Fassbender:

RE: School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) Needs Budget

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 truly deserve. For the 2013-2014 school year, the Greater Victoria School District is facing a structural deficit of \$8.3 million. This deficit has been growing due to the impact of declining enrolment and the fact that funding increases provided by the Ministry are not keeping pace with cost pressures.

Each department was asked to identify the priority needs that would be addressed with a 5% increase to their budget. The attached "Needs Budget" reflects how \$5.8 million would support the diverse learning needs of our students and the infrastructure of the school system.

Our district takes pride in the quality of the education programs that we are able to provide. The Province must increase its investment in education. Additional funding is needed to ensure that our students receive the best education possible in the 21st century.

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

Yours truly,

Peg Orchardton Board Chair

Cc Board of Trustees John Gaiptman, Superintendent of Schools

[attachment: Needs Budget](#)