



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**

December 15, 2015

The Honourable Michael de Jong
Minister of Finance
PO Box 9045
STN PROV GOVT
Victoria, BC
V8W 9E2

Dear Minister de Jong:

Re: Report of the Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services

The Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) has reviewed the recommendations of the Report on the Budget 2016 Consultations published in November 2015 by the Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services. We were pleased to find that the Standing Committee recognizes some of the significant challenges facing the BC K-12 education system.

The specific recommendations for the K-12 system include:

- 1. Provide adequate capital funding to school districts for facility improvements, seismic upgrades and additional schools in rapidly-growing communities.*
- 2. Provide stable, sustainable and adequate funding to enable school districts to fulfill their responsibility to continue to provide access to quality public education, with recognition of the increased costs that school districts have incurred.*
- 3. Review the Ministry of Education funding formula for programs and services, as well as administrative staff compensation levels to ensure adequate and competitive compensation.*

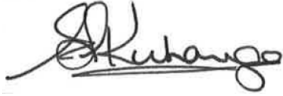
Standing Committee findings have identified K-12 education as an area of focus for providing adequate operational and capital funding to ensure a strong public education system.

At our December 14, 2015 Regular Board meeting 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 Finance, copying the Minister of Education, requesting that the Minister of Finance heed the recommendations from the First Report of the Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services and increase the funding to K-12 education in the 2016 Budget.

The Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) respectfully requests that the Honourable Minister of Finance support all three of the recommendations of the Standing Committee's report and commit the resources necessary to provide school districts with the tools and facilities needed to provide high quality public education to BC's youth.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Edith Loring-Kuhanga', written in a cursive style.

Edith Loring-Kuhanga
Board Chair

Cc: Board of Education
The Honourable Mike Bernier, Minister of Education
All BC School Boards, c/o BCSTA
Greater Victoria Teachers' Association
GVSD Unions and Associations
Piet Langstraat, Superintendent of Schools
Debra Laser, Secretary-Treasurer