



BOARD OF EDUCATION

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**SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 61 (GREATER VICTORIA)
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PHONE (250) 475-4106 FAX (250) 475-4112**

July 18, 2016

The Honourable Mike Bernier
Minister of Education
The Honourable Mike De Jong
Minister of Finance
PO Box 9045, STN PROV GOVT
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2

RE: School District No. 61 Exempt Staff Compensation

Dear Ministers Bernier and De Jong,

We are writing in regard to the recent exempt staff compensation. The Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) would like to acknowledge the work of BCPSEA, PSEC and the government for providing interim compensation relief for our exempt staff. We recognize the need for future increases to ensure that we are competitive and reward our current employees in a manner equivalent to their peers in other sectors.

Our Board must also express, however, our grave concerns about the lack of funding associated with this increase. Our Board has worked diligently to budget in a manner that allows us to put the maximum amount of resources in front of students in a sustainable fashion. Further, as a District we have created a strategic plan that focuses on learner success, supporting aboriginal students, vulnerable learners, encouraging community engagement, and focusing on exemplary governance. To support our ambitious plan, we need to be able to resource it.

Unfunded liabilities, such as exempt staff compensation, impact our ability to address our goals, which we believe align with the goals of the Ministry of Education, including the new curriculum. Although we are committed to being positive partners in education with you, our relationship continues to be strained when the Ministry of Education downloads further costs to our district. We are requesting that the interim relief exempt compensation as well as future increases be fully funded. If you need further information with respect to this request or would like further information on the District's strategic plan, please do not hesitate to contact me. Thank you.

Yours sincerely,

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

Edith Loring-Kuhanga
Board Chair

Cc: Board of Education
All BC School Boards, c/o BCSTA
Piet Langstraat, Superintendent of Schools
Mark Walsh, Secretary-Treasurer