



BOARD OF EDUCATION

*Chair: Edith Loring-Kuhanga Vice-Chair: Tom Ferris
Trustees: Elaine Leonard, Diane McNally, Deborah Nohr, Peg Orcherton
Rob Paynter, Jordan Watters, Ann Whiteaker*

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

January 31, 2018

via email: educ.minister@gov.bc.ca

The Honourable Rob Fleming
Minister of Education
PO Box 9045, STN PROV GOVT
Victoria, B.C. V8W 9E2

Re: Classroom Enhancement Fund – Capital Program

Dear Minister Fleming,

I am writing in regards to the Classroom Enhancement Fund (the “CEF”) capital program. First of all I want to acknowledge the Ministry and our own staff for the incredible work that they have accomplished in a very short period of time with respect to the CEF capital. As you may be aware, our District physically added approximately 90 new classrooms from March of last year. Without the support of the Ministry to expedite approvals, this would not have been possible.

As you are also likely aware, our class composition within the restored language is very restrictive. We are limited to 2 students with diverse learning needs in a classroom. Unfortunately, this language makes facilities planning difficult. As new designations occur, cohorts of students move through the system and students move from school to school which impacts the physical space of our schools annually. As we proceed with registration for September 2018, we are already seeing an impact. In addition, our CEF requests for last year was based on what we were confident we could deliver within a short timeframe.

Given these realities, we already know that we may be facing space challenges associated with the restored language. In fact, Oaklands and Quadra elementary schools may require additional space due to the restored language. While the Board examined re-opening Richmond, that particular site is of high seismic risk. Therefore, we are writing to request that a second round of CEF applications and funding be open. If this process is done expeditiously, we anticipate that we can build new learning studios to deliver great long term learning spaces for our students.

Without support for such funding for the Greater Victoria School District, we will be facing unfunded space pressures directly related to the restored language. With the Ministry of Education’s commitment to fully funding the restored language, we hope that capital continues to be part of that commitment.

Thank you very much for your consideration and commitment to public education.

Sincerely,

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

Edith Loring-Kuhanga
Board Chair
Greater Victoria School District

Cc: Board of Education
Piet Langstraat, Superintendent of Schools
Mark Walsh, Secretary-Treasurer