



Board of Education

School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria)
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Chair: Nicole Duncan Vice-Chair: Karin Kwan
Trustees: Natalie Baillaut, Angela Carmichael, Mavis David,
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March 31, 2023

Honourable Rachna Singh
Minister of Education and Child Care
Parliament Buildings
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4

educ.minister@gov.bc.ca

ATTENTION: Honourable Rachna Singh, Minister of Education and Child Care

Dear Minister Singh:

RE: Indigenous Graduation Course Requirement- Implementation Funding

On 27 February 2023, the Board of Education of School District No.61 (Greater Victoria) unanimously passed the following motion:

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) direct the Chair to write a letter to the Ministry of Education and childcare advocating for the funding to allow teachers time to plan, collaborate and learn together, as well as provide the resources, to deliver the new Indigenous Grad requirements (courses) successfully.

Our Board is very pleased to see the Province answer calls to introduce an Indigenous Graduation Course requirement which honours a number of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action related to education, and responds to some of the commitments made in the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act and the BC Tripartite Education Agreement. We are keen to see the successful implementation of this new requirement in the 2023-2024 school year. To this end, we are minded that additional funding to allow teachers time to plan, collaborate and learn together, and to provide the resources necessary to deliver the new Indigenous-focused graduation courses would help us to ensure that these courses are successfully implemented.

We are committed to successfully implementing the new Indigenous Graduation Course Requirement. For example, our District has offered each high school a \$2000 inquiry grant to support collaboration time, co-planning and purchasing resources. Further we offered a full day

of professional development for all educators with a specific focus on social studies courses that meet the new Indigenous-focused graduation course requirement, in addition to offering two after-school sessions for all secondary school department heads focused on supporting the new Indigenous-focused graduation course requirement. However, like many school districts in our Province, it has become increasingly difficult to find sufficient funds for release time and resources to support this important investment in collaboration and professional learning.

On behalf of the Board of Education, I write to ask you to commit to providing school districts with additional funding to support the implementation of the new Indigenous Graduation Course Requirement. We look forward to hearing from you regarding our request for additional funding to support this important step forward.

Sincerely,



Nicole Duncan
Chair, Board of Education

cc: Board of Education, School District No. 61
Deb Whitten, Superintendent, School District No. 61
Katrina Stride, Secretary-Treasurer, School District No. 61
Jane Massy, President CUPE 947, School District No. 61
Ilda Turcotte, President GVTA, School District No. 61
Tracy Humphreys, President VCPAC, School District No. 61
Brenna O'Connor, President VPVPA, School District No. 61
Jeanette Alexander, President ASA, School District No. 61