

Board of Education

Greater Victoria School District No. 61
556 Boleskine Road, Victoria, BC V8Z 1E8
Phone (250) 475-4162 Fax (250) 475-4112



September 26, 2025

Honourable Lisa Beare
Minister of Education and Child Care
PO Box 9045 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2
Via Email: c/o ECC.Minister@gov.bc.ca

RE: Request for Trustee Variation Order

Dear Minister Beare,

In October 2024, the Greater Victoria School District Board of Education received a letter from the Township of Esquimalt with a request to consider multiple trustee electoral areas. Subsequently, as the Official Trustee, I received a similar letter in March 2025 from the Township of Esquimalt and am aware of letters of support sent to the Ministry from other local municipalities and First Nations.

A Task Force was formed inclusive of representatives from the Greater Victoria School District; Esquimalt Nation and Songhees Nation; municipalities of Esquimalt, Highlands, Oak Bay, Saanich, Victoria, and View Royal; and the Capital Regional District. The Task Force met four times over four months to discuss a potential proposal for multiple trustee electoral areas within the Greater Victoria School District. In addition, meetings were conducted with each First Nation to hear their views. The collective discussions resulted in a proposed variation to the existing 'at large' electoral model.

The proposed variation encompasses seven trustee electoral areas. There are no proposed changes to the number of trustees, which will remain at nine and be distributed amongst the electoral areas as follows: Esquimalt Nation (1), Songhees Nation (1), View Royal / Highlands (1), Oak Bay (1), Esquimalt (1), Saanich (2), and Victoria (2).

The proposed variation was shared with the public with the launch of an online feedback form and during an in-person consultation session co-hosted by the Task Force.

Pursuant to Section 30 (4) of the *School Act*, please consider making a variation order to reflect the proposed changes above and in the enclosed *Trustee Electoral Area Variation Proposal* prior to the next school trustee election to be held on October 17, 2026.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Sherri Bell'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name 'Sherri' and the last name 'Bell' clearly distinguishable.

Sherri Bell
Official Trustee, Board of Education
Greater Victoria School District

Enclosure:

Trustee Electoral Area Variation Proposal

The Greater Victoria School District wishes to recognize and acknowledge the Esquimalt and Songhees Nations, on whose traditional territories, we live, we learn, and we do our work.