



January 8, 2026

Ref: 314900

Sherri Bell, Official Trustee
School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria)
Email: sbell@sd61.bc.ca

Dear Sherri Bell:

Thank you for your letter of September 26, 2025, which included a Trustee Electoral Area Variation Proposal (the Proposal) for School District No. 61 (SD 61). The proposal requests to establish seven trustee electoral areas (TEAs) for SD 61, while maintaining the current nine trustee seats.

I would like to recognize the work done by SD 61 to develop this Proposal, following calls from the community to consider creating multiple TEAs in the District to improve local representation.

The Proposal is in alignment with and includes all information required by the Ministry of Education and Child Care's [Trustee Variation Guidelines](#) (the Guidelines). I would like to acknowledge that, in developing the Proposal, SD 61 formed a Task Force, which included representation from municipalities and First Nations within the District. Additionally, I would like to acknowledge that SD 61 facilitated public consultation on the Proposal, both in person and online.

While the Proposal would represent a departure from the principle of representation by population, it would improve equity of representation in the District by creating smaller TEAs around First Nations and around the Districts' smaller municipalities. This will result in more effective representation for residents of these areas who have historically been underrepresented. The Ministry sees the Proposal's enhanced representation as an opportunity to advance the objectives in the Framework for Enhancing Student Learning within the District, including improving outcomes for Indigenous students and closing the gap in equity of outcomes for Indigenous learners.

Moreover, the Proposal reflects evidence of broad community support from municipalities, First Nations and the public for the creation of seven TEAs in SD 61.

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Recognizing the robust process undertaken by SD 61, the broad community support and the improved equity of representation, I am approving the Proposal. The formal TEA Variation will be reflected in an updated Ministerial Order, which will be shared with SD 61 in the coming weeks. The TEA variation will be in place for the 2026 trustee elections.

If you have any questions or require further information, please contact Kiersten Fisher by email at Kiersten.Fisher@gov.bc.ca.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lisa Beare". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Lisa" and last name "Beare" clearly distinguishable.

Lisa Beare
Minister

cc: Kiersten Fisher, Executive Director, Workforce Accountability and Governance Division