



June 19, 2024

To: Rachna Singh, Minister of Education and Child Care
Katrine Conroy, Minister of Finance
Ravi Kahlon, MLA Delta North
Ian Paton, MLA Delta South
David Eby, Premier of British Columbia
Kevin Falcon, BC United Party
Sonia Furnstenau, BC Green Party
John Rustad, Conservative Party of British Columbia

Dear Elected Officials,

Consideration for Increased Funding in Public Education

I am writing to you on behalf of the Delta Board of Education to express our deep concern regarding the current state of funding for public education within our province.

Education is key to ensuring a future-ready society, and it is our collective responsibility to ensure that every child has access to quality education where they are nurtured and given the opportunity to soar. Unfortunately, despite our best efforts, we believe the lack of a fully funded public education system is having an increasingly negative impact on the success and well-being of students and staff in our district.

Although this year's Operating Grant was the highest received by the district to date, it has not addressed the full impact of inflation and other costs, including increases to absence-related costs, EI, WorkSafe, benefit premium rates and overall benefit rate increases. As a result, the current education funding formula leaves the Delta School District at a significant disadvantage.

This year, as in recent years, the district covered the funding shortfall by making several operational reductions and using other, one-time sources of funding to ensure the least possible negative impact on students. However, we know year after year of such reductions are having an impact on our school community. The need for more funding in the public education system was the key theme arising from our recent public budget consultation process. Through an online survey, rightsholders and community stakeholders identified the following as priority areas for funding:

- Targeted support for students with diverse learning needs to ensure they experience an inclusive and safe learning environment where both their educational and social needs are met, enabling them to be fully participating members of the school community. This includes funding for more education assistants (EAs) to alleviate the pressure on teachers and help address behavioural issues in the classroom. More than 48% of survey respondents identified this as an area requiring more funding.

- Academic support for reading, writing and arithmetic, as well as exposure to STEM, art, music and physical education, to enable all students to reach their potential.
- Support to address the increasing mental health challenges among youth and staff.
- Access to modern resources including technology and library materials to help prepare students for the future.
- Up-to-date resources, in-service training and professional development opportunities for educators and other school staff.

We believe changes to the funding model and level of funding are required to ensure that all districts receive adequate financial support to empower youth with the best education possible. The future of B.C. lies in the hands of our youth. An investment in education is an investment in the future prosperity of our province. As a result, we urge you to make a fully funded public education system your priority.

We are open to discussing this matter further and are willing to collaborate on finding solutions that will benefit our educational system. We look forward to your response and are hopeful for your support in this crucial matter.

Thank you for your time and consideration.
Sincerely,



Val Windsor
Chair, Delta Board of Education

cc:

John Pavao, Delta Principals and Vice Principals Association
Jennifer Rak, Chair, Delta District Parent Advisory Council (DPAC)
Susan Yao, President, Delta Teachers' Association
Daun Frederickson, President, CUPE 1091