

June 25, 2019

Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services  
Room 224, Parliament Buildings  
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4  
Attention: Mr. Bob D'Eith, MLA and Chair

Dear Committee Members:

**RE: Budget 2020 Consultations**

Maple Ridge – Pitt Meadows School District No. 42 meets the learning needs of approximately 15,000 students of all ages in Maple Ridge and Pitt Meadows, and is defined by its determination to keep student learning and growth at the heart of all its decisions.

We wish to express our support for the submissions you received from the BC School Trustees Association, other Boards of Education, and our education partners. We also support the standing committee's previous recommendations that education funding fully address the increased costs faced by school districts throughout the province year over year.

Previously, this Board has suggested there is a need for government to work more closely with local boards of education through the BCSTA, the BC Association of School Business Officials and the BC School Superintendents Association to build an education budget from the ground up that truly reflects the needs of the system. In 2018, the independent Funding Model Review Panel recommended to government that:

*The Ministry should identify net cost pressures and new program expenditures and, as part of the annual provincial budgeting process, bring them forward to Treasury Board for consideration when the total quantum of public education funding is being set. (Recommendation 18)*

We hope that your committee will reinforce this recommendation with government by recommending its implementation as part of the regular budget building process.

For 2020/21, the Ministry of Education is considering the implementation of the new Funding Formula for school districts. In this context, we would like to reiterate our recommendation that the implementation of a new formula should be accompanied by an increase in the overall quantum of funding for education. If the overall funding for education stays the same, the implementation of a new formula will only reallocate funding and some districts will be receiving lower funding in the future, which will negatively impact services in those school districts.

We suggest that the select standing committee recommends that sufficient funding be allocated to education to ensure that no school district will receive less funding per pupil due to the implementation of a new funding formula.

Finally, while we recognize the significant investment this government has already made related to capital infrastructure, childcare, mental health and addiction, we recommend that this investment be continued and where possible increased in the future. In particular, we would like to see an increased investment towards the maintenance of existing facilities. For too long school districts have not received adequate funding and the deferred maintenance costs continue to accumulate while the condition of our schools continues to deteriorate.

We look forward to contributing in any way we can to the further discussion of these matters and thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,



Korleen Carreras, Chairperson  
Board of Education

Cc:

The Board of Education, School District No. 42 (Maple Ridge-Pitt Meadows)  
The Honourable Rob Fleming, Minister of Education  
The Honourable Carole James, Minister of Finance  
The Honourable Lisa Beare, Minister of Tourism and Culture  
Ms. Sylvia Russell, Superintendent of Schools  
Ms. Flavia Coughlan, Secretary Treasurer  
Ms. Catharine Watkins, President, Maple Ridge Principals' and Vice Principals' Association  
Ms. Suzanne Hall, President, Maple Ridge Teachers' Association  
Ms. Leslie Franklin, President, CUPE Local 703  
Mr. Chris Schultz, Chairperson, District Parent Advisory Council  
Student Voice  
Ms. Stephanie Higginson, President, BCSTA  
Ms. Patti Dundas, President, BCASBO  
Mr. Chris Van der Mark, President, BCSSA