

June 17, 2026

Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services  
Parliamentary Committees Office  
Room 224, Parliament Buildings  
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4  
**Email:** [FinanceCommittee@leg.bc.ca](mailto:FinanceCommittee@leg.bc.ca)  
**Submitted via:** [LABC Consultation Portal](#)

Dear Committee Members:

**RE: Provincial Budget 2027 Consultation Opportunity**

The Board of Education of School District No. 42 (Maple Ridge-Pitt Meadows) appreciates the opportunity to contribute to the 2027 Provincial Budget consultation.

Our Board's advocacy priorities are informed not only by our operational experience, but also by extensive local public engagement. Feedback from our recent budget consultation confirms strong alignment between community priorities and the areas outlined below, particularly with respect to ensuring funding reflects actual costs, addressing growth and space pressures, and providing fair and modernized support for students with diverse needs.

Despite the critical role of public education in supporting healthy communities and a strong economy, current funding levels continue to fall short of the actual costs required to deliver services. As a result, school districts are required to absorb ongoing structural and inflationary pressures, limiting our ability to sustain core programs and supports.

To ensure all B.C. students can thrive, we recommend that the provincial government prioritize the following three areas:

**1. Make K–12 Public Education a Provincial Budget Priority**

School districts require stable and predictable operating funding that reflects the real cost of delivering public education. Current funding levels do not keep pace with inflationary pressures across supplies, services, employee benefits, and other non-salary expenses. In addition, districts continue to face increasing costs associated with collective agreements and benefit plans that are not fully funded.

Key Recommendations:

- Increase operational funding to reflect actual cost pressures, including inflation across supplies, services, and non-salary expenses.
- Fully fund the cost of collective agreement increases, including rising extended health and dental benefit premiums.
- Ensure funding models are responsive to changing cost structures and local operational realities.

## 2. Modernize and Strengthen Funding for Students with Diverse Needs

Funding models intended to support vulnerable learners require modernization to ensure they are equitable, flexible, and responsive to current student needs. In particular, CommunityLINK funding does not adequately reflect the level or distribution of need across school districts and does not provide sufficient flexibility to respond to local conditions.

The Board has previously identified the need for a more equitable and transparent funding model for vulnerable students. Current approaches do not ensure consistent access to supports and create inequities across districts.

Key Recommendations:

- Modernize special purpose funding, including CommunityLINK, to establish a more equitable and needs-based allocation model.
- Provide stable and flexible funding that enables districts to deploy supports where they are most needed.
- Ensure funding models reflect the full range of student vulnerability, including socio-economic factors and changing community needs.

## 3. Invest in Capital, Technology, and Infrastructure

School districts are experiencing sustained pressures related to student growth, aging facilities, and the increasing role of technology in teaching and learning. Capital funding must address both physical infrastructure and the full scope of technology required to operate modern school systems.

In growing districts such as ours, capital funding has not kept pace with enrolment growth and the need for additional learning space, including appropriate, adequately sized alternative learning and support spaces required to meet the needs of diverse learners. At the same time, expectations for technology in classrooms continue to expand, while funding for both classroom tools and underlying infrastructure remains insufficient.

Technology infrastructure extends beyond visible classroom devices and includes networks, servers, cybersecurity, and other foundational systems required for safe and effective operations. There is currently a lack of clarity regarding provincial expectations for technology in schools, and districts do not have sufficient resources to meet emerging requirements.

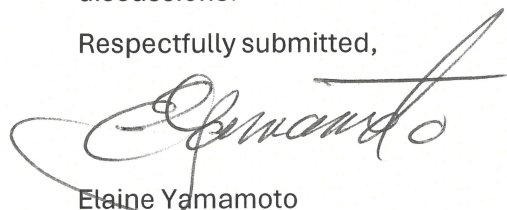
Key Recommendations:

- Increase capital funding to address enrolment growth and space pressures, including ensuring modular additions are funded to meet the same provincial area standards for both classroom and ancillary space as new school construction, as well as to support the renewal of aging facilities.
- Establish clearer provincial expectations for technology in classrooms and school operations.
- Provide dedicated funding for both classroom technology and core technology infrastructure, including networks, servers, and cybersecurity.
- Increase capital and technology funding to reflect current expectations for learning environments and core infrastructure, including modern school design, digital connectivity, and system security.

The Board of Education of School District No. 42 appreciates the Committee's consideration of these recommendations. The Provincial Budget 2027 presents an important opportunity to align funding with actual costs, address inequities in support for vulnerable students, and invest in the infrastructure required to sustain high-quality public education across the province.

We would welcome the opportunity to provide further information or participate in future discussions.

Respectfully submitted,



Elaine Yamamoto  
Chairperson  
Board of Education

cc: The Board of Education of School District No. 42 (Maple Ridge-Pitt Meadows)  
The Honourable Lisa Beare, Minister of Education and Child Care and MLA Maple Ridge-Pitt Meadows  
The Honourable Bowinn Ma, Minister of Infrastructure  
The Honourable Brenda Bailey, Minister of Finance  
The Honourable Diana Gibson, Minister of Citizen Services  
Lawrence Mok, MLA Maple Ridge East  
Teresa Downs, Superintendent of Schools  
Richard Rennie, Secretary Treasurer  
Martin Dmitrieff, President, Maple Ridge Teachers' Association  
Jason Franklin, President, CUPE Local 703  
Trish Coft, Chairperson, District Parent Advisory Council  
Tracy Loffler, President, BCSTA