



October 22, 2019

Honourable Melanie Mark
Minister of Advanced Education and Skills Training
Parliament Buildings
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4

RE: Post-Secondary Education in Ridge Meadows

Dear Minister Mark,

As leaders of the cities of Maple Ridge and Pitt Meadows, School District 42, the Katzie and Kwantlen First Nations, and provincial and federal government representatives, we respectfully request the opportunity to work with you to assess the post-secondary education needs for young people in our communities.

Ridge Meadows is growing quickly, but our high school graduates are transitioning at a rate lower than the provincial average. They do not have the same opportunities afforded to students in neighbouring municipalities throughout the Lower Mainland. They face a choice between long and costly commutes, or paying to live away from home. As a result, too many promising local students in our communities choose not to pursue a post-secondary education.

We respectfully request that the Ministry act as a partner and consider a feasibility study to clearly establish what needs exist among parents and students, as well as local businesses and First Nations, for post-secondary opportunities in Ridge Meadows.

Like you, we know that post-secondary education is critical to the future of the next generation – as well as the well-being of our businesses and communities' prosperity and local quality of life. We also recognize that providing equitable access to education is vital to First Nations reconciliation.

We hope that you will join us in taking this step towards ensuring Ridge Meadows students can make the most of the promise that post-secondary education holds.

Sincerely,



Korleen Carreras
Chair, Maple Ridge-Pitt Meadows School District (SD42)



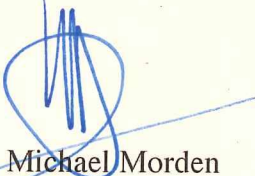
Grace George
Chief, Katzie First Nation



for Marilyn Gabriel
Chief, Kwantlen First Nation



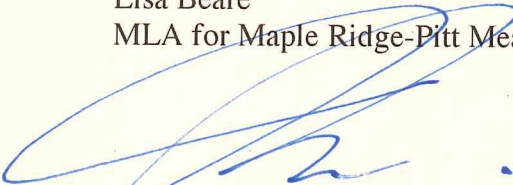
Bill Dingwall
Mayor, City of Pitt Meadows



Michael Morden
Mayor, City of Maple Ridge



Lisa Beare
MLA for Maple Ridge-Pitt Meadows



Bob D'Eith
MLA for Maple Ridge-Mission



Marc Dalton
MP Elect for Pitt Meadows-Maple Ridge