

December 17, 2015

The Honourable Mike Bernier  
Minister of Education  
P.O. Box 9045, Stn Prov Govt  
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2

Dear Minister Bernier:

Re: School Calendar Regulation changes

On behalf of the North Vancouver School District, the North Vancouver Board of Education, the North Vancouver Parent Advisory Council, the North Vancouver Teachers' Association, the Canadian Union of Public Employees Local 389, and the North Vancouver Administrators' Association, we write to express our concern for the impact of the School Calendar change on vulnerable families and the need for inter-Ministerial communication.

There is a general understanding and acceptance of the changes to the School Calendar Regulation to address the need for essential training related to the implementation of the breadth of changes to the BC Curriculum. However, the implications of the additional time required for parents to provide for the care and supervision of their children appears to have received little consideration or communication, especially between the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Children and Family Development.

The need for additional care and supervision of children is particularly pronounced for those families with children with special needs, who will be more directly impacted. We respectfully request that inter-Ministerial communication be established to determine the impacts on families when calendar changes are being contemplated, and to make adjustments, where necessary, to better accommodate the needs of families. Adjustments to Supported Child Development funding by the Ministry of Children and Family Development could assist families in responding to these changes over the next three school years.

Thank you for your consideration of our concerns and suggestions for improved communications between Ministries for the benefit of children and families.

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Sincerely,

NORTH VANCOUVER  
BOARD OF EDUCATION

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Board Chair

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SCHOOL DISTRICT

John Lewis  
Superintendent of Schools

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CANADIAN UNION OF PUBLIC  
EMPLOYEES LOCAL 389

Cindy McQueen  
President

NORTH VANCOUVER  
TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION

Carolyn Pena  
President

cc Honourable Minister Stephanie Cadieux, Children and Family Development  
MLA Jane Thornthwaite  
MLA Naomi Yamomoto  
MLA Ralph Sultan  
Board of Education, School District No. 44 (North Vancouver)