

April 24, 2015

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

Dear Minister Fassbender:

Re: Bill 11 and local boards of education

In support of BC School Trustees Association (BCSTA) President Teresa Rezanoff's letter of April 20, 2015, the North Vancouver Board of Education echoes the BCSTA in demanding an immediate review of the intent of Bill 11 legislation. We further ask for the removal or amendment of all sections in the Bill that reduce the autonomy of local school boards.

The value of local representatives who understand and respond to local issues and needs should not be underestimated. In the spirit of the Co-Governance Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry and the BCSTA we believe that local boards, through the BCSTA, should be provided with an opportunity to recommend amendments to the Bill prior to its final adoption. Further, we request the formation of a *Management Partners Working Group* to participate in the development of any subsequent regulations.

Aspects of Bill 11 need to be changed to reflect accountability and better supports for students. We recognize your response to President Rezanoff, dated April 22, 2015, indicating a commitment on behalf of the Ministry of Education to work closely with trustees in the development of regulations and strategies. The North Vancouver Board of Education supports the open, transparent and collaborative working relationship between the Ministry and the BCSTA that the Memorandum of Understanding outlines. However, we believe the lack of collaboration on Bill 11 to date undermines this approach.

It is unfortunate that boards of education must continually speak out in a reactive manner to the actions of government. Our preference would be to work with the Ministry of Education in a proactive and collaborative manner. If Bill 11 is adopted, we ask that a process for input and response be established immediately to demonstrate how boards, through the BCSTA, will be involved in the development of related regulations and strategies. This must-needed step would demonstrate to boards across the province that there are opportunities to have meaningful dialogue and co-govern effectively to better support students.

Yours truly,
NORTH VANCOUVER BOARD OF EDUCATION



Cyndi Gerlach
Chair

cc Dave Byng, Deputy Minister
Board of Education, School District No. 44 (North Vancouver)
John Lewis, Superintendent of Schools
Georgia Allison, Secretary Treasurer & CFO
All Boards of Education (via BCSTA)