



## NORTH VANCOUVER SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 44

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January 20, 2009

The Honourable Shirley Bond  
Minister of Education  
PO Box 9045 STN Prov Govt  
Victoria BC V8W 9E2

Dear Minister Bond:

Subject: Addressing the Foundation Skills Assessment Controversy

The North Vancouver Board of Education recognizes the importance of a variety of student assessment practices and fully accepts its responsibility to administer, score and report legislated assessment programs in accordance with the *School Act*.

However, the ongoing controversy surrounding the administering of the Foundation Skills Assessment persists in detracting from our essential purpose of educating students. The issue strains relationships between everyone in the educational community striving to maintain a positive educational environment. The resulting controversy undermines the validity, reliability and usefulness of the FSA results. Moreover, it confuses the public on the important issue of accountability in public education, in which we firmly believe.

For these reasons, while we will honour and uphold our responsibilities as a school district, we ask that the Ministry actively establish a formal process to work towards the resolution of the FSA controversy. We would be more than willing to participate in this process and look forward to learning of your plans to facilitate a resolution to the current conflict.

Yours sincerely,

Jane Thornthwaite  
Chairperson  
Board of Education

JAT/ps

cc Board of Education of School District No. 44 (North Vancouver)  
Executive Committee  
North Vancouver Parent Advisory Council  
North Vancouver Teachers' Association  
Association of Elementary Administrators  
Secondary Study Group  
Canadian Union of Public Employees – Local 389  
British Columbia Boards of Education / British Columbia School Trustees' Association