

School District No. 44 (North Vancouver)
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Secretary Treasurer

Reference: 122013

MAR 11 2010

Susan Skinner, Chair
Board of Education
School District No. 44 (North Vancouver)
721 Chesterfield Ave
North Vancouver BC V7M 2M5

Dear Ms. Skinner:

Thank you for your letter of October 22, 2009, addressed to my colleague, the Honourable Dr. Margaret MacDiarmid, Minister of Education, regarding the use of SMARTTool to meet your school district's greenhouse gas reporting requirements. I am following up with Minister MacDiarmid's request in January that I respond on her behalf. I apologize for the delay in responding.

As I am sure you will agree, 2010 is an important year in BC: we will become the first jurisdiction in North America to demonstrate leadership by taking action across our entire public sector to become carbon neutral. This is a legislated requirement, and the emission reporting function is the backbone of this important initiative. As such, Shared Services BC (SSBC) is unable to support your request to delay the implementation of SMARTTool. The Ministry of Environment has mandated its use to ensure efficiency and consistency in reporting across government while reducing the likelihood of estimation errors and future audit and verification requirements. However, steps are being taken to address the concerns underlying your request, for example the cost of measurement and reporting.

Current SMARTTool costs for public sector organizations are related to the deployment of an enterprise-scale application within a narrow window of time to 130 organizations that, in addition to school districts, include health authorities, Crown corporations, universities and colleges. Once deployment is complete, SMARTTool costs will decline significantly. I also understand that the carbon tax rebates, which school districts receive under the Climate Action Revenue Incentive Program, were intended to support school district preparations for their carbon neutral commitments.

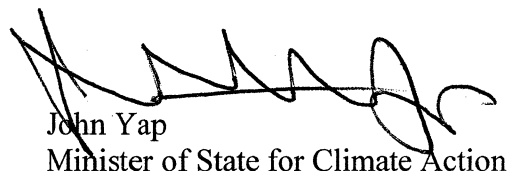
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With respect to data collection and input, SMARTTool offers a high degree of flexibility. SSBC is working with each district to get them up and running within SMARTTool at a level of detail that makes sense for them, balancing the effort of data collection with the management value of more detailed reporting. SSBC has also begun discussions with BC Hydro and Terasen Gas to explore opportunities for electronic data transfer that would offer further increase in efficiencies relating to data collection.

We have worked and will continue to work with all provincial public sector organizations to find solutions to concerns that arise through the deployment and operation of SMARTTool. We are confident that we can work together to ensure it is a useful and cost effective tool that will help provincial public sector organizations meet their carbon neutral requirements. Through improved energy management, upgrades to facilities and energy conservation behaviour changes, we hope to achieve significant operational costs savings across the public sector while demonstrating leadership for future generations.

Thank you again for taking the time to write.

Yours truly,



John Yap
Minister of State for Climate Action

pc: Honourable Dr. Margaret MacDiarmid, Minister of Education
Honourable Ben Stewart, Minister of Citizens' Services
Ralph Sultan, MLA, West Vancouver – Capilano
Jane Thornthwaite, MLA, North Vancouver – Seymour
Honourable Naomi Yamamoto, MLA, North Vancouver – Lonsdale
John Lewis, Superintendent of Schools