



Institute for
Public Education/British Columbia

August 23, 2024

The Honourable David Eby, MLA
Premier of British Columbia
Office of the Premier
Victoria, BC

Dear Premier Eby,

I am writing to you once again on behalf of the Institute for Public Education BC (IPE/BC), an independent, non-profit organization committed to strengthening public education for all British Columbians. We wish to express our profound disappointment with the response from your office and the Ministry of Education and Child Care to our concerns regarding the declining financial support for public education in British Columbia.

In our initial correspondence dated June 25, 2024, we detailed our growing concerns about the relative level of funding for public education in BC, which continues to fall behind other Canadian provinces. We provided concrete data illustrating this decline and emphasized the critical need for increased investment in our public education system. This is not just a matter of statistics—it is about the future of our children, our communities, and the long-term prosperity of our province.

However, the response we received from the Deputy Minister of Education and Child Care failed to address our concerns adequately (Ref 300329). While we appreciate the effort to provide detailed information on inter-jurisdictional comparisons and the acknowledgment of inflationary pressures, the letter fell short of offering any concrete solutions or commitments to address the funding shortfall that we highlighted.

The Ministry's reliance on the Program for International Student Assessment (PISA) results to justify current funding levels is particularly concerning. Adequate funding is critical to addressing teacher shortages, enhancing recruitment and retention, and ensuring that all students—especially those from marginalized communities—receive the support they need to thrive. While BC may perform well in certain areas, this does not negate the significant challenges our public education system faces due to chronic underfunding. Educational outcomes are indeed important, but they are not the sole indicator of a healthy education system.

Moreover, we find it troubling that the K-12 Public Education Funding Review completed in 2018 has not led to meaningful changes in the funding model. The decision to pause the implementation of the remaining recommendations from the Funding Model Review due to the COVID-19 pandemic is understandable; however, the ongoing delay in addressing these critical issues only exacerbates the challenges faced by our public schools.

We urge you, Premier Eby, to take immediate and decisive action to increase funding for public education in British Columbia. The data is clear: without significant investment, our public education system will continue to deteriorate, to the detriment of all students, educators, and communities in our province.

We remain committed to advocating for a strong, accessible, and well-funded public education system in British Columbia. We hope that you will reconsider the government's position and take the necessary steps to ensure that our public schools receive the funding they need to provide high-quality education for all students.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Dr. Steve Cardwell

Chairperson, Institute for Public Education BC

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<https://instituteforpubliceducation.org/>

- c. Honourable Lisa Beare, Minister of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills
- Honourable Mitzi Dean, Minister of State for Child Care
- Honourable Rachna Singh, Minister of Education and Child Care

Rohan Arul-pragasam, President BCSSA
Dr. Shannon Behan, President BCPVPA
Carolyn Broady, President BCSTA
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Dr. Allyson Jule, Chairperson ABCDE
Bonnie McBride, President BCCPAC
Tyrone McNeil, President FNEC
Dr. Monica Prendergast, President CUFA BC
Karen Ranaletta, President CUPE BC
Alan Rice, President BCASBO

It is with deep gratitude and respect, that I am learning and unlearning on the ancestral and unceded lands of the hən̓q̓əmin̓əm̓ speaking people of the x̱w̱məθkʷəy̱əm (Musqueam), Sḵwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish) and səliłwətał (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.
