



British Columbia  
School Trustees  
Association

March 5, 2018

**The Honourable Rob Fleming**

*Minister of Education*

PO Box 9045, Stn Prov Govt

Victoria, BC V8W 9E2

Dear Minister Fleming,

**RE: Appreciation for seeking alternate solutions**

I am writing today to thank you for your message to trustees this past weekend at the Vancouver Island School Trustees Association (VISTA) meeting regarding collaborative solutions to the implementation of the new Medical Services Plan (MSP) Employers' Tax. Your expressed commitment to finding an alternative pathway through the transition phase and beyond resonated with both our member boards and our directors.

As I know you appreciate, Boards of Education understand they must do their fair share in terms of contributing to the benefits of their employees. We understand well that all levels of government have limited dollars to spend and that tough choices often have to be made. That being said, Boards believe they should be funded (and taxed) in an equitable and predictable manner, with the flexibility needed to ensure resources can be effectively directed to meet the needs of students. Your assistance to help us achieve the financial stability and flexibility we need to manage effective and focused school districts is critical.

The BC School Trustees Association is committed to working with you and your staff to find a reasonable and respectful solution to the MSP transition issue. Like you, we see great value in further collaboration on this and other financial matters of mutual interest. As co-governors of the K-12 public education system, school trustees are committed to creating the best learning opportunities possible for the students and communities of B.C. The foundation from which we work must, however, be solid and stable.

Thank you once again for your commitment to finding an alternate way forward on this significant issue for Boards of Education. It is sincerely appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "G B Swan".

**Gordon Swan**

*President*

BC School Trustees Association

cc: Scott MacDonald, Deputy Minister of Education  
BCSTA Member Boards of Education