



Vancouver Island School Trustees' Association (VISTA)

c/o School District 69 (Qualicum); PO Box 430; Parksville, BC; V9P 2G5

March 16, 2018

Honourable Rob Fleming
Minister of Education
1020 Hillside Avenue
Victoria, BC V8T 2A3

via e-mail: EDUC.Correspondence@gov.bc.ca

Dear Minister Fleming:

On behalf of the members of the Vancouver Island School Trustees' Association (VISTA) I want to thank you very much for attending the VISTA 2018 Spring Conference in Victoria on March 2nd.

VISTA members appreciated hearing from you on the budget and the various education issues that are so important to Boards of Education in knowing how best to support their districts to enhance student learning. Trustees also greatly appreciated your taking questions at the end of your remarks.

During the business meeting portion of the conference held on Saturday, March 3rd, trustees passed the following motion:

THAT the President of the Vancouver Island School Trustees' Association be requested to write a letter to the Minister of Education to express grave concern over the imposition of the payroll tax on school districts and;

THAT, as per the Minister's invitation on March 2nd, express Boards' interest to work with the Ministry of Education to find a quick resolution to ensure no education dollars are used for such a tax and;

THAT the Ministry of Education work to ensure school districts are exempt from the payroll tax.

As you have already heard from our provincial organization, this payroll tax will have substantial financial implications for districts who have been struggling for the past 10 years to maintain excellent learning environments for students with inadequate funding by the previous government. You have always been a strong advocate for public education and we urge you to work with BC Boards of Education to ensure that school districts are exempt from this new tax so that no education dollars have to be redirected to cover that cost.

Sincerely,

Eve Flynn, President

cc: VISTA Members
Gordon Swan, President, BCSTA

SD61 (Greater Victoria)
SD62 (Sooke)
SD63 (Saanich)
SD64 (Gulf Islands)
SD68 (Nanaimo-Ladysmith)
SD69 (Qualicum)

SD70 (Alberni)
SD71 (Comox Valley)
SD72 (Campbell River)
SD79 (Cowichan Valley)
SD84 (Vancouver Island West)
SD85 (Vancouver Island North)