



British Columbia
School Trustees
Association

March 16, 2018

The Honourable Rob Fleming

Minister of Education

PO Box 9045, Stn Prov Govt

Victoria, BC V8W 9E2

Dear Minister Fleming,

RE: A new Ministry of Education Strategic Plan for Aboriginal Education

Let me first begin by commending the day-to-day work of Deputy Minister Scott MacDonald and his team regarding Aboriginal Education. Not a meeting goes by without the Deputy Minister noting the need for equity of results for ALL students in BC as well as the shared responsibility with school districts to ensure our students of Aboriginal descent are provided realistic opportunities for success no matter where they reside or attend school. Initiatives such as the new equity scan for school districts will be of great assistance in making this happen.

I do, however, want to bring to your attention BCSTA's desire to see an overarching, long-range strategic plan for Aboriginal Education brought into place as soon as possible. In November 2015, the Office of the Auditor General for BC released its report on Aboriginal education for the province, and we all committed to fulfilling the identified goals, including a unified approach to addressing concerns and targets. While we applaud the current work being done at both the provincial and local levels, we believe Aboriginal students will be best served by a comprehensive plan that guides all parties both now and into the future. It is the long-range vision, unifying goals and accountability found in a well-focused strategic plan that our members are looking for.

BCSTA is committed to working with you and our other education partners to bring such a plan into place in the near future. We acknowledge the work already done in this regard as well as your desire to establish a fresh approach reflective of your government's commitments. Please call on us to work with you to ensure a visionary strategic plan for Aboriginal Education is launched as soon as reasonably possible.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Gordon Swan".

Gordon Swan

President

BC School Trustees Association

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