



# BCTF

**British Columbia Teachers' Federation** A Union of Professionals  
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March 8, 2018

Honourable Rob Fleming  
Minister of Education  
Parliament Buildings  
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4

Dear Minister Fleming:

On behalf of the 43,000 members of the BC Teachers' Federation, I am writing to express our support for the elimination of the MSP. The BCTF, like other organizations, has long been calling for the elimination of the MSP, and overall we support the government's plan to eliminate the MSP and move to a fairer Employers Health Tax.

Many good employers in the public sector and private sector have been paying their employees' MSP premiums, but families without that coverage struggled under years of increases under the previous government. School districts struggled with MSP in the past too when the BC Liberal government would increase the rate and not fund the difference.

So what we need now is the new government to fund the difference between the old MSP and the new payroll tax. The key here for the government to act fast and provide the certainty to school districts that the extra cost (if any) will be covered.

Next week, the Ministry of Education will tell school districts what their block funding grant will be for the 2018–19 school year—which includes six months of 2019 when there is the 50% MSP rate and the new Employers Health Tax. Boards of education will be setting their budgets, as required by law, by April 30 of this year. So, there is only about six weeks to get this sorted out.

I know the last thing this new government wants to do is repeat mistakes of the past—like downloading unfunded costs to school district. Given the underfunding by the previous government, further unfunded costs only lead to cuts to services for students. While we appreciate that the move from the MSP to the Employers Health Tax will have implications across all public services, given the timing of boards of education approving budgets for the 2018–19 school year, it is important for government to provide the certainty school districts need to keep improving after so many years of BC Liberal cuts.

Yours truly,



Glen Hansman  
President

GH:vw:tfeu

pc: Carole James, Minister of Finance and Deputy Premier

