



British Columbia
School Trustees
Association

Monday, August 25, 2025

The Honourable Lisa Beare
Minister of Education and Child Care
PO Box 9045, Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2

Sent via email to: ECC.Minister@gov.bc.ca

RE: Support to school districts when mandating non-traditional education programs and initiatives

Good day, Minister,

The British Columbia School Trustees Association is a champion of good governance practices among school boards, providing exceptional professional development and working with partners to ensure the success of every student across British Columbia. As the sole nonpartisan organization representing democratically and locally elected boards of education, BCSTA has been a steadfast champion for good governance in public education for 120 years.

We were grateful that you were able to join us at BCSTA AGM 2025 in April of this year. During the business portion of our event, members passed a motion requesting the Ministry of Education and Child Care coordinate with the appropriate ministries and professional organizations to provide support to school districts when mandating non-traditional education programs and initiatives.

Over the past decade, the responsibilities assigned to school districts and administrators have significantly increased or expanded in scope, without a corresponding increase in the resources needed to accommodate the growing list of duties. Districts recognize the need for initiatives/programs that keep pace with the changing needs of students in these dynamic times. There are questions about the efficacy of placing all responsibility onto school districts, which do not always have the knowledge or skill sets to provide the best experience for students.

To maximize the effectiveness of new and expanded programs and initiatives, we request that ECC collaborate with other ministries and professional organizations that possess the best expertise to achieve the desired outcomes. We also ask that ECC provide guidance to districts on best practices to support these collaborations.

For example, new health initiatives, such as proposed naloxone training, should be coordinated with the Ministry of Health and/or regional health authorities to provide professional support. Oversight of the program/initiative will remain with the school district.



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Funding these expanded responsibilities and using the expertise found in ministries across our province, in our communities, will ensure students receive the best training and education for items that fall outside traditional curricular guidelines.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tracy Loffler", is positioned above the printed name.

Tracy Loffler

President

British Columbia School Trustees Association

CC: BCSTA Board of Directors
Trevor Davies, CEO