



June 12, 2018

The Honourable Selina Robison
Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing
PO Box 9056 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, B.C. V8W 9E2

Dear Minister Robison,

Re: Proposal to reduce the voting age in school trustee elections to 16 years of age

At the most recent Annual General Meeting of the BC School Trustees Association (BCSTA), our membership passed the following resolution:

‘That BCSTA advocate for the provincial government to amend the School Act by changing the voting age of electors from 18 years of age to 16 years of age for school trustee elections.’

Our members believe very strongly that engagement of youth throughout the province is critical to both supporting the growth of involved and contributing citizens, and ensuring all students find success within our school system. Toward this end, we need to ensure our youth have real opportunities to be a part of the decision-making process that oversees their education. A logical and proactive step in this direction would be to enable them to be a part of the school trustee election process in their local communities.

While we realize any change will have to be after this October’s local elections, we would like to encourage you and your government to pass the necessary legislation well before the next scheduled elections in 2022.

Representatives of BCSTA would be happy to meet with you and your staff at any time to discuss our proposed changes. I have attached a copy of the member rationale from the original motion as background to the proposal. We understand there may be questions, though, regarding both the rationale behind our proposal and the necessary changes required to allow youth ages 16 and 17 to vote for school trustees.

Thank you for considering our request and we look forward to any future dialogue on this important proposal that you might consider.

Yours truly,

Gordon Swan
President – BCSTA

cc Premier John Horgan
Minister of Education Rob Fleming