



British Columbia
School Trustees
Association

June 15, 2018

The Honourable Jane Philpott
Minister of Indigenous Services Canada
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

SUBJECT: Support for matching federal funding of K-12 education

Dear Minister Philpott,

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

'That BCSTA advocate to Indigenous Services Canada to request that Indigenous bands receive an amount in education dollars that matches the average student full-time equivalent (FTE) educational cost in each school district.'

Our members believe very strongly that students attending federally-funded First Nations schools deserve the same level of financial support as those attending provincially funded public schools. Consistent underfunding of federally-supported K-12 schools on reserves across Canada have put these students and their communities at a significant disadvantage when compared with other children and youth in BC, as well as other provinces.

We are aware of the current negotiations between the federal, provincial and First Nations governments around education funding and jurisdiction, and would support any initiative to 'level the playing field' for band-run schools across Canada. While there is a complex and varied history as to how this discrepancy built up over the years, resolution to the current situation is our primary goal. The time to act is now.

BCSTA supports the need to ensure the success of ALL students in our province, whether they are receiving their education in public schools or through other options. Our motion was passed in the spirit of ensuring individual children and youth across BC and the rest of Canada have equal opportunities for success no matter where they attend school. We must ensure some of our most vulnerable students are served equitably by a system that is currently unbalanced.

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

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gordon Swan", is written over a horizontal line.

Gordon Swan
President
British Columbia School Trustees Association

Cc: BC First Nations Education Steering Committee
Rob Fleming, *BC Minister of Education*
Canadian School Boards Association

32. Equity in Indigenous Funding

Submitted by: *Thompson Okanagan Branch*

BE IT RESOLVED:

That BCSTA advocate to Indigenous Services Canada to request that Indigenous bands receive an amount in education dollars that matches the average student full-time equivalent (FTE) educational cost in each school district.

Rationale:

This motion is needed because, under the current system, some bands that have Local Education Agreements with school districts are getting billed by those school districts for more money than the bands receive from the federal government for on-reserve students.

The provincial government funding received by boards of education is reduced by a per-student amount for each student identified on the nominal roll as a status person living on-reserve. Boards then invoice bands for the difference between the per-student amount for non-status students and the per-student amount the province provides for status students. In some cases, Indigenous bands are receiving per-student funding amounts from the federal government that are less than the per-student amount being invoiced by boards of education. When this situation occurs, either bands will pay more to boards than they receive from the federal government; or the boards will receive less funding for status students than the per-pupil funding the provincial government provides for students in general.

References:

- [2017/2018 Interim Operating Grants](#)
- [Ministry of Education Policy – K-12 Funding - General](#)

This is an action motion and does not change or contradict any existing Foundational or Policy Statement.