



British Columbia
School Trustees
Association

June 19, 2018

The Honourable Shane Simpson

Minister of Social Development & Poverty Reduction

PO Box 9058, Stn Prov Govt

Victoria, BC V8W 9E2

SUBJECT: Resources to meet the recommendations on reconciliation for Indigenous peoples

Dear Minister Simpson,

At the most recent Annual General Meeting of the BC School Trustees Association (BCSTA), our membership passed the following resolution regarding resources to support reconciliation and rights for Indigenous peoples:

That BCSTA request the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Finance, and the Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction ensure that additional resources are provided to school districts to fully meet the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action and the United Nations Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) that pertain to the K-12 education system.

Although considerable progress has been made in recent years toward recognizing the unique place of Indigenous peoples in our society, more needs to be done to ensure reconciliation is fulfilled and that the rights of these persons are fully recognized. BCSTA and its member boards of education are committed to fulfilling both of these goals within our mandate for the K-12 public education system. We do, however, need your support for additional resources within BC school districts to allow this to happen as soon as possible.

Additional funding directed at meeting these specific goals would be of considerable benefit to our members, the provision of other resources would also be of great value. The coordination of efforts across sectors and organizations, commitments of time, staffing and focus, as well as educational resources would also go a long way toward assisting school districts to fulfill our commitments. We are certainly open to discussing how best your ministry might contribute to a multi-sector approach toward achieving our common goals.

Achieving the needed outcomes identified in both the *Call to Action* and the *Declaration of Rights for Indigenous People* requires the combined and united efforts of all parties. Staff and students in schools across our province are prepared to do their part within the public education system, but we look to you and your colleagues to assist them with the resources necessary to move us ahead in the near future. Good intentions without the tools to do the job will not create the results we are all seeking. Please join with us in working to identify appropriate options and resources so that we may change the situation for Indigenous students and their families.

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

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G B Swan', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Gordon Swan

President

British Columbia School Trustees Association

Cc: Hon. Rob Fleming, *BC Minister of Education*
First Nations Education Steering Committee (FNESC)



16. Support for Aboriginal Students

Submitted by: *Northern Interior Branch*

BE IT RESOLVED:

That BCSTA request the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction ensure that additional resources are provided to school districts to fully meet the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's *Calls to Action* and the United Nations *Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (UNDRIP) that pertain to the K-12 education system.

Rationale:

Child poverty levels, the incidence of vulnerability and the relative number of children in care are particularly high in our Indigenous populations.

We recognize that additional funds are needed for school districts to fully meet the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's *Calls to Action* and the United Nations *Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*.

References:

- United Nations *Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (see Articles 14, 15 and 21)
- Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada: *Calls to Action* (see 62 and 63)

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

This motion relates to Policy Statement 8.1.3P (Targeted Funding for Aboriginal Education).