



JUL 04 2018



President Gordon Swan



British Columbia School Trustees Association

4th floor- 1580 West Broadway



VANCOUVER BC V6J 5K9

Dear President Swan:

Thank you for your letter of June 15, 2018 addressed to Minister Philpott regarding federal funding for First Nation schools.

We appreciate the interest expressed by your organization in the education of First Nation students. The Government of Canada believes every First Nation child should get the best start in life, and is committed to working in partnership with First Nations in supporting their goals for a high culturally responsive education system that improves outcomes.

At a national level, Indigenous Services Canada has worked diligently with the Assembly of First Nations and its Chiefs Committee on Education including representation from British Columbia First Nations to co-develop a proposed new policy framework for First Nations elementary and secondary education. It aims to fundamentally improve the way Indigenous Services Canada funds elementary and secondary education, while supporting regional and local diversity and respecting the principle of First Nations control of First Nations education.

As one such regional approach, the Department has been participating in discussions with the First Nations Education Steering Committee and the province of British Columbia to renew the 2012 Tripartite Education Framework Agreement. This agreement supports First Nation students in the provision of quality education programs and services that meet provincial standards, enables student transitions between on-reserve and provincial schools without academic penalty. This includes a new enhanced funding formula for First Nations schools that is based on the provincial funding mode with specific enhancements to address the unique needs of First Nations schools.

Thank you again for your interest in First Nation education.

Sincerely,

Shannon Nix
Director General, Education Branch
Education Social Development Programs and Partnerships
Indigenous Services Canada

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

