



British Columbia
School Trustees
Association

August 8, 2019

The Honourable Rob Fleming
Minister of Education
PO Box 9045, Stn Prov Govt
Victoria BC V8W 9E2

The Honourable Melanie Mark
*Minister of Advanced Education, Skills &
Training*
PO Box 9080 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria BC V8W 9E2

Dear Minister Rob Fleming and Minister Melanie Mark,

Subject: Eligibility Requirements for Teacher Training

At the most recent Annual General Meeting of the British Columbia School Trustees Association (BCSTA), our membership passed the following resolution requesting a thorough review of the eligibility requirements for postsecondary teacher education programs:

That BCSTA urge the Minister of Education and Minister of Advanced Education, Skills and Training to work with the BC Teachers' Council to undertake a full review of the eligibility requirements for postsecondary teacher education programs.

As indicated in the motion's rationale, applicants in rural communities are often not able to meet the standards for admission to a teacher education program. This includes candidates with undergraduate degrees who indicated that equivalent education was not considered acceptable in the admission process. There is clearly a gap in the present process, and we ask that your ministries work with the BCTC to review these requirements in an effort to improve the admission process for candidates from rural locations.

Thank you for considering the request outlined above. We look forward to any future dialogue on this important issue that you might consider. Your support in bringing the various provincial government ministries together in support of this important initiative is critical to the future overall success of our teacher training programs.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Stephanie Higginson", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Stephanie Higginson
President
British Columbia School Trustees Association

Enclosure: Original motion rationale

20. Eligibility Requirements for Teacher Training

Category: Teachers/Personnel and Employee Relations

Submitted for Consideration at: AGM 2019

Submitted by: SD 52 (Prince Rupert)

Motion as Adopted:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That BCSTA urge the Minister of Education and Minister of Advanced Education, Skills and Training to work with the BC Teachers' Council to undertake a full review of the eligibility requirements for postsecondary teacher education programs.

Motion as Presented:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That BCSTA urge the Minister of Education and Minister of Advanced Education, Skills and Training to work with the BC Teachers' Council to undertake a full review of the eligibility requirements for postsecondary teacher education programs.

Rationale:

This motion is needed because there are applicants in rural communities who could not meet the standards for admission to a planned local teacher education program. Even staff currently teaching with Letters of Permission could not meet the admission criteria. Discussion with some candidates, all of whom had at least an undergraduate degree, indicated that equivalent education was not considered acceptable in the admission process.

Reference(s):

[BC Teachers' Council](#)

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

This motion relates to Policy Statement 6.1.1P (Teacher Development).