



August 15, 2019

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

**The Honourable George Heyman**  
*Minister of Environment and Climate  
Change Strategy*  
PO Box 9063  
Victoria BC V8W9E2

Dear Minister Rob Fleming and Minister George Heyman,

**Subject: Implementing CleanBC Plan in School Districts**

At the most recent Annual General Meeting of the British Columbia School Trustees Association (BCSTA), our membership passed the following resolutions focused on the implementation of CleanBC's plans in School Districts:

That BCSTA urge the Minister of Education and Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy to uphold the mandated standards set by CleanBC by implementing aligned capital funding for new school construction and the retrofitting of district buildings and facilities; and,

That BCSTA request the Ministries develop and provide, in a timely manner, operational guidelines to help school districts to meet CleanBC's 2032 standards to reduce emissions.

Support in the way of funding for new school construction and the retrofitting of current buildings, as well as operation guidelines, will do much to aid districts in meeting the goals outlined in CleanBC's report. The full report indicates that changes must be made in short order if we are to achieve the targets set by CleanBC, which specifically mentions public education buildings are to reduce emissions by 50% by 2030. As stated in the accompanying rationale, "Receiving targeted capital revenue that reflects the cost of reducing emissions for new and retrofit builds, along with operational guidelines, allows BC school districts to uphold the required CleanBC mandated standards."

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 any future success.

Sincerely,

**Stephanie Higginson**  
*President*  
British Columbia School Trustees Association

Enclosure: Original motion rationale

## 28. Implementing CleanBC Plan in School Districts

### Category: School Premises, Facilities, Services

**Submitted for Consideration at:** AGM 2019

**Submitted by:** Vancouver Island Branch *and* SD 62 (Sooke)

**Motion as Adopted:**

**BE IT RESOLVED:**

That BCSTA urge the Minister of Education and Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy to uphold the mandated standards set by CleanBC by implementing aligned capital funding for new school construction and the retrofitting of district buildings and facilities; and,

That BCSTA request the Ministries develop and provide, in a timely manner, operational guidelines to help school districts to meet CleanBC's 2032 standards to reduce emissions.

**Motion as Presented:**

**BE IT RESOLVED:**

That BCSTA urge the Minister of Education and Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy to uphold the mandated standards set by CleanBC by implementing aligned capital funding for new school construction and the retrofitting of district buildings and facilities; and,

That BCSTA request the Ministries develop and provide, in a timely manner, operational guidelines to help school districts to meet CleanBC's 2032 standards to reduce emissions.

**Rationale:**

In 2018 the BC government initiated the CleanBC action report stating they aim to have "...every building more efficient by improving the BC Building Code and increasing efficiency standards – until every new building is "net-zero energy ready" by the year 2032." CleanBC specifically addresses the public school sector with setting a goal for public buildings to reduce emissions by 50% by 2030.

CleanBC's climate change accountability process outlines that ministries are to "reflect commitment to CleanBC funded and approved policies and programs and implement funded and approved policies and programs" in their annual service plans.

With BC schools occupying the majority of infrastructure in the province by owning one of the largest amounts of public buildings, school districts hold a significant responsibility in meeting the standards set by CleanBC. Receiving targeted capital revenue that reflects the cost of reducing emissions for new and retrofit builds, along with operational guidelines, allows BC school districts to uphold the required CleanBC-mandated standards.

"We are not on track to meet our goals if we don't change the way we use energy across key sectors" – CleanBC, full report.

**Reference(s):**

[Government of British Columbia: CleanBC – Our Nature, Our Power, Our Future](#)

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