



British Columbia
School Trustees
Association

February 3, 2021

The Honourable Anne Kang
*Minister of Advanced Education,
Skills and Training*
PO Box 9080 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2

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

Dear Minister Kang and Minister Whiteside,

Subject: Funding for Trades

At the October 24, 2020 meeting of the BCSTA Provincial Council, representing all 60 boards of education in our province, our members passed the following motion:

“That BCSTA advocate for the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Advanced Education to provide funding for all students under the age of 19 years who have graduated from secondary school to enable them to continue the trades program in which they were enrolled prior to graduation.”

It has been identified by our membership that a lack of funding after secondary school graduation is a barrier for students who wish to complete the trades programs they began in secondary school.

In the past, districts were encouraged to enrol trades students in Grade 13 and the Ministry of Education provided funding for Youth Apprentices. However, the Industry Training Authority (ITA) recently changed the definition of Youth Apprentices, resulting in graduated students under 19 years of age no longer being eligible to receive funding from the ministry to complete their trades programs.

On behalf of our membership, we ask that both the Ministry of Advanced Education, Skill and Training, and the Ministry of Education collaborate to address this learning opportunity gap. Working in trades is a desirable career opportunity for many of B.C.'s young people, and we must lessen barriers to entry and navigate this changing landscape together.

Your support in ensuring students can continue their apprenticeship in trades will keep students from missing out on potential career options and opportunities as they exit the K-12 public school system.



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Thank you for considering the request outlined above. We look forward to having a future dialogue on this critical issue with your ministries and are ready to contribute to finding a solution.

Sincerely,

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

Stephanie Higginson

President

British Columbia School Trustees Association

Motion: P120209.4

CC: Deputy Minister of Education Scott MacDonald
BCSTA member boards of education