



British Columbia  
School Trustees  
Association

May 31, 2022

**The Honourable  
Jennifer Whiteside**  
*Minister of Education  
and Child Care*  
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Victoria, B.C. V8W 9E2  
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**David M. Morton**  
*Chair and CEO*  
British Columbia  
Utilities Commission  
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**Chris O'Riley**  
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Dear Minister Whiteside, Chair Morton and President O'Riley,

**Subject: Climate Action – Remove BC Hydro Metering Caps**

At the British Columbia School Trustees Association's most recent annual general meeting, our membership, representing all 60 boards of education in B.C., passed the following resolution:

*"That BCSTA advocate directly to BC Hydro, the BC Utilities Commission, and the Ministry of Education and Child Care, to request the removal of BC Hydro's 100kW net metering caps in all public school facilities."*

School districts continue to emphasize the importance of planning for the future and lessening our sector's environmental impacts by working towards running facilities that exclusively use the energy produced from on-site renewable sources, such as solar panels. These actions are done in alignment with CleanBC goals and objectives.

While these goals are achievable, these efforts are hampered by BC Hydro's net metering caps, which only allow for 100 kilowatt systems. This limitation keeps school facilities from matching energy output to current needs, essentially eliminating the opportunity to decrease the carbon impact schools have on the environment.

We understand that BC Hydro is planning to review the net metering rate with the BC Utilities Commission, setting the stage for these critical concerns to be addressed. On behalf of all 60 of the province's boards of education, we implore BC Hydro, the BC Utilities Commission, and the Ministry of Education and Child Care to work together and recognize the value of removing these metering caps for all public school facilities.



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This action would bring us closer to a more environmentally friendly future and may address some aspects of the current climate crisis.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carolyn Broady". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**Carolyn Broady**  
*President*  
British Columbia School Trustees Association

Motion: A202210

Enclosure: Original motion rationale

CC: Christina Zacharuk, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Education and Child Care  
BCSTA member boards of education  
Suzanne Hoffman, CEO, BCSTA  
BCSTA Board of Directors  
Doug Allen, board chair, BC Hydro board of directors  
Anna Fung, Deputy Chair, Commissioner, British Columbia Utilities Commission

## 10. Climate Action – Remove BC Hydro Metering Caps

### Category: School Premises, Facilities, Services

<b>Motion #:</b>	10 : A202210	<b>Sponsor:</b>	SD 61 (Greater Victoria)
<b>Meeting:</b>	AGM 2022	<b>Action:</b>	<i>not specified</i>
<b>Category:</b>		<b>Outcome:</b>	Letter to be drafted (April 28)
<b>Disposition:</b>	Carried		

#### Motion as Adopted:

##### BE IT RESOLVED:

That BCSTA advocate directly to BC Hydro, the BC Utilities Commission, and the Ministry of Education and Child Care, to request the removal of BC Hydro's 100kW net metering caps in all public school facilities.

#### Motion as Presented:

##### BE IT RESOLVED:

That BCSTA advocate directly to BC Hydro, the BC Utilities Commission, and the Ministry of Education and Child Care, to request the removal of BC Hydro's 100kW net metering caps in all public school facilities.

#### Rationale:

As School Districts work to build net zero buildings which only use energy produced from on-site renewable energy, they are constrained in their efforts by BC Hydro's net metering caps which only allow for 100KW systems.

Solar, including photo-voltaic (PV) systems, is the primary viable means of achieving net zero buildings.

Adding enough rooftop PV to offset a building's equivalent annual energy requirements is only achievable with larger PV systems, however currently BC Hydro's net metering program only allows for 100kW systems. This creates a major barrier to building net zero schools and buildings and is in direct opposition to the province's CleanBC initiative.

BC Hydro is planning to review the net metering rate in an upcoming Rate Design Application with the BC Utilities Commission, which provides an excellent opportunity to advocate for changes which would support school district's in taking important steps towards addressing the climate emergency.

#### Reference(s):

[CleanBC: Roadmap to 2030](#)

[BC Hydro, RATE SCHEDULE 1289 – NET METERING SERVICE](#)

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