



British Columbia
School Trustees
Association

July 12, 2023

Chris Brown

Assistant Deputy Minister
Ministry of Education and Child Care
PO Box 9151 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria B.C. V8W9H1
chris.brown@gov.bc.ca

Dear Assistant Deputy Minister Brown,

Subject: Ministry of Education and Child Care Funding Support for Technology

At the British Columbia School Trustees Association's 2023 annual general meeting, our members, representing all 60 boards of education in B.C., passed the following resolution:

"That BCSTA requests that the Ministry of Education and Child Care provides support for School Boards to effectively deliver public education in the technological age by adding technology to the Five-Year Capital Plan allowable expenditures and providing additional ongoing funding to support these costs."

I am thankful that you and members of your team made the time to discuss the concern identified above in advance of this letter. The meeting on May 31 was insightful and informative and clarified some of our questions. As we discussed, technological advances are a constant challenge and continue to put pressure on school districts as they seek to improve access while already ensuring resources are prioritized to support student learning. These concerns are detailed in the enclosed motion's rationale.

As you will recall, during our meeting we discussed how the Annual Facilities Grant (AFG), which has been increased by \$30 million and made more flexible, can address limited technology concerns, such as infrastructure upgrades. We appreciate this added flexibility around using the AFG to address some of the concerns of our membership and understand that technology upgrades cannot be included in five-year capital plans as requested in the resolution. BCSTA will work with boards of education across the province to share this information while also advising, where applicable, how to leverage new builds.



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At this time, we ask that you provide any other potential resources, grants or avenues to assist boards in alleviating this financial strain in relation to this funding request, as access to technology in the classroom directly impacts learning experiences and outcomes.

We look forward to continuing to work together,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Carolyn Broady". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Carolyn" and last name "Broady" clearly distinguishable.

Carolyn Broady

President

British Columbia School Trustees Association

Motion: A202312

Enclosure: Original motion rationale

CC: Christina Zacharuk, Deputy Minister of Education and Child Care
BCSTA member boards of education
Suzanne Hoffman, CEO, BCSTA
BCSTA Board of Directors