



British Columbia
School Trustees
Association

July 12, 2023

Honourable Selina Robinson

Minister of Post Secondary Education and Future Skills

PO Box 9080 Stn Prov Govt

Victoria, B.C. V8W9E2

psfs.minister@gov.bc.ca

Dear Minister Robinson,

Subject: B.C. Loan Forgiveness Program/Certified Teachers

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 urge the Provincial Government and the Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills to expand the BC Loan Forgiveness Program to include all certified teachers working with children at publicly funded facilities throughout BC."

The current shortage of teachers has led to an unsustainable reliance on hiring uncertified teachers to fill urgent needs, and we must find ways to incentivize more post-secondary students to pursue a career in teaching. The B.C. Loan Forgiveness Program has the potential to be leveraged in the struggle boards of education across the province face regarding recruitment and retention as we look to bolster the number of teachers our province produces to match the ever-growing demand for their services.

We are requesting that the current eligibility be expanded to include all certified teachers who work with children at publicly funded facilities in the province, as there is a well-documented shortage that must be rapidly addressed.

As this is a matter that touches the entirety of our province, I am also copying Premier David Eby and Assistant Deputy Minister and Executive Financial Officer Jason Butler in the hopes that we can all work together to encourage individuals to pursue a rewarding career in teaching.



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I look forward to your response and invite you to meet with our board so we may discuss this initiative, which has been given voice by the province's boards of education and the students they serve.

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: A202323

Enclosure: Original motion rationale

CC: David Eby, Premier of British Columbia
Jason Butler, Assistant Deputy Minister and Executive Financial Officer
BCSTA member boards of education
Suzanne Hoffman, CEO, BCSTA
BCSTA Board of Directors