



British Columbia
School Trustees
Association

August 21, 2023

The Honourable Rachna Singh
Minister of Education and Child Care
PO Box 9045, Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, B.C. V8W 9E2
ecc.minister@gov.bc.ca

Dear Minister Singh,

Subject: Annual Facilities Grant Funding to Meet Clean BC Goals

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 ask the Ministry of Education and Child Care to increase the Annual Facilities Grant so that school districts may be better able to achieve climate change and energy efficient standards as set out in the Provincial Government's CleanBC Plan."

While our membership has noted that the current Annual Facilities Grant (AFG) does not adequately address upgrades to ageing school facilities that will allow them to reach targets set out by government as our part of the global effort to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, we recently met with Assistant Deputy Minister Chris Brown to discuss this matter in advance of writing to you.

It was shared with us during our meeting that the AFG has been increased and the additional funds can be used towards CleanBC priorities. While this additional funding is appreciated, our members continue to express that the AFG remains inadequate in addressing concerns related to ageing buildings and achieving CleanBC goals. Through my direct discussions with board chairs and discussions with our members during our various gatherings, it is consistently expressed that our association must advocate for increasing this essential funding if we are to meet the needs of school districts and the students they serve throughout B.C.

We are thankful for your staff's support and for their response to this urgent need and other related priorities, including continued funding for electric buses, which Deputy Minister Brown also mentioned. We also understand the Carbon Neutral Capital Program will be sustained for facilities, adding further ability for school districts to contribute toward a brighter future for our province.



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I look forward to pursuing the objectives outlined in the CleanBC plan as part of our efforts to support student learning and success. While much work needs to be done, we appreciate what your ministry staff have done as well as their ongoing future plans. Please provide us with any additional information or assistance you may have to offer as we continue to address these priorities as co-governors of B.C.'s public education system.

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: A202334

Enclosure: Original motion rationale

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