



British Columbia
School Trustees
Association

November 07, 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: Request for the Minister of Education and Child Care's Support for Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion

During the British Columbia School Trustees Association's October 2023 Provincial Council meeting, our membership, which represents all 60 boards of education in B.C., passed the following resolution:

"That BCSTA urge the Honourable Rachna Singh, Minister of Education and Child Care to write a letter and release a statement committing to the values of equity, diversity, and inclusion in the BC school system, including the human rights of transgender and other 2SLGBTQ+ students and staff, as well as addressing the misinformation being disseminated publicly regarding SOGI 123 resources."

As noted in the enclosed motion rationale, our collective commitment to ensuring that all students, staff and families feel safe and welcome is under threat. Boards of education across the province have provided support for taking action to build bridges between community groups divided on concerns related to diversity, equity and inclusion through meetings, education, information and by collaborating with other K-12 sector leaders.

Our members now request that you provide a letter and statement to signal our joint commitment to preserving these values and to being champions for vulnerable and at-risk students. As noted by Trustee Margaret Reid of the Chilliwack School District during the debate of this motion, "We need action behind the words, but the words are important too. The words may not be heard by those doing harm, but they will be heard by those who are being harmed."



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Past efforts have certainly been appreciated, but more must be done to respond to the mounting pressure students, staff, caregivers and boards of education face. I look forward to your reply and extend an offer to support this work in any way possible.

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: P120239.3.2

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