



British Columbia
School Trustees
Association

August 6, 2024

Sonia Furstenau

Leader

BC Green Party

Room 101, Parliament Buildings

Victoria B.C. V8V 1X4

sonia.furstenau.mla@leg.bc.ca

Dear Sonia Furstenau,

Subject: Committing to Funding for StrongStart BC Programs

On behalf of the membership of the British Columbia School Trustees Association (BCSTA), I am asking for your party's commitment to fully fund StrongStart BC programs, including Franc départment, as part of your platform ahead of the 2024 provincial election.

B.C.'s 60 boards of education have identified the urgent need to address these funding shortfalls, which hinder the operation of these critical early learning initiatives. Immediately following our annual general meeting, we met with Ministry of Education and Child Care staff in May to discuss the need for increased funding to ensure some of the youngest students who need additional support are provided with the early learning opportunities they need to succeed.

Since 2006/07, StrongStart has been a cornerstone of early childhood education in B.C., but funding from the Ministry of Education and Child Care has not increased substantially since 2012/13 despite rising operational costs. School districts subsidize these programs from their operating funds, which is unsustainable. These programs contribute significantly to young children's safety, mental health and overall well-being by providing safe and supportive learning environments. Due to a lack of federal funding, they also play a crucial role in meeting the needs of newcomer families as part of the settlement process. In short, they are vital to setting a foundation for success with learners and families across B.C.



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As the election approaches in October, emphasizing the importance of StrongStart BC programs and the need for appropriate funding in your campaign will resonate with voters across B.C. by signaling the value you place in public education and early learning initiatives.

Thank you for your attention and consideration.

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: A202421

CC: BCSTA member boards of education
Suzanne Hoffman, CEO, BCSTA
BCSTA Board of Directors