

August 19, 2024

The Honourable Grace Lore
Minister of Children
and Family Development
PO Box 9057, Stn Prov Govt
Victoria B.C. V8W 9E2
mcf.minister@gov.bc.ca

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 Lore and Minister Singh,

Subject: Targeted Funding for Children in Care

At the British Columbia School Trustees Association's 2024 annual general meeting, our members, representing all 60 boards of education in B.C., passed the following resolution:

"That the BCSTA advocates to the Ministry of Education and Child Care and the Ministry of Children and Family Development for targeted funding for children in care."

Children in care face unique challenges that hinder their academic progress, and there is currently no specific funding to support them. While discussions on this need took place during the Ministry of Education and Child Care's funding model review, no action has followed. The *Room for Improvement: Toward Better Education Outcomes for Children in Care* report highlights the need for such funding, which has also been supported by Representative for Children and Youth Dr. Jennifer Charlesworth.

We recently met with the assistant deputy minister at the Ministry of Children and Family Development, Keith Godin, to discuss this motion. At that time, he shared that ongoing work is taking place regarding jurisdiction for Indigenous children and youth in care. While we understand identifying children in care can be challenging, addressing these issues will help children in care achieve their full potential. The recently released report, *Don't Look Away*, speaks directly to the K-12 systemic concerns and we are fully committed to supporting the five key areas for collective action. Additional targeted funding, as per our AGM motion, would support school districts in this work.



We look forward to your response and the opportunity to collaborate to provide better outcomes for some of these most vulnerable students.

Sincerely,

Carolyn Broady

President

British Columbia School Trustees Association

Motion: A202410

Enclosure: Motion rationale

CC: BCSTA member boards of education

Suzanne Hoffman, CEO, BCSTA BCSTA Board of Directors

Christina Zacharuk, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Education and Child Care