



British Columbia  
School Trustees  
Association

August 21, 2024

**The Honourable Mike Farnworth**

*Minister of Public Safety  
and Solicitor General*  
PO Box 9010, Stn Prov Govt  
Victoria B.C. V8W 9E2  
pssg.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 Farnworth and Minister Singh,

**Subject: Funding for Programs at Provincial Correctional Centres**

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

*"That the BCSTA request the Minister of Education and Child Care and the Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General provide an update on the review of the funding and resources, and next steps in supporting learners in our provincial correctional centres."*

The resolution is similar to a previous resolution passed at BCSTA's October 2020 Provincial Council meeting, and we understand that both the Ministry of Education and Child Care and the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General continue to appreciate the need to support learners in correctional centres.

Vulnerable and at-risk groups, including individuals in correctional centres, stand to greatly benefit from education. Unfortunately, the current course-registration funding model is inherently unsuited to the realities of correctional centres where the year-round population changes daily and teachers are additionally dealing with barriers. These challenges include mental health issues, addictions, victims of abuse, learning disabilities, impulse and anger control, residential school experiences, intergenerational trauma and a history of failure in school. This results in a challenging system that is chronically under-resourced.

During the debate of this motion, Maple Ridge-Pitt Meadows Chair Elaine Yamamoto emphasized that "It cannot be expected that funding be taken from operating funds as only nine districts have correctional facilities, but they carry the load for the full province." As part of our recent meetings with the Ministry of Education and Child Care staff to follow up on resolutions stemming from our 2024 AGM, we came to understand that while funding is unfortunately limited, discussions between your ministries have taken place, and strategies are taking shape to address this growing need.



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While a response at this time is not required, given the update provided during our recent meetings, we will continue to monitor the situation in the future and advocate for this important need when the opportunity arises as we seek to bring hope for a brighter future for these individuals. Should updates become available, we request that you provide us with information to share with our membership as soon as 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: A202413

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