



November 3, 2021
Our Ref. 122994

Carmen Cho
Board Chair
Vancouver School Board
1580 West Broadway
Vancouver BC V6J 5K8

Email Address: c/o: mmyuen@vsb.bc.ca

Dear Carmen Cho:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Vancouver School Board's request for increased enrolment in teacher education programs. I apologize for the delayed response.

We understand your concerns regarding labour market demands and the difficulty to recruit teachers across British Columbia. The Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Training (AEST) and the Ministry of Education work in partnership to address issues related to teacher education.

Our ongoing commitment is reflected in the increasing annual number of students graduating from post-secondary programs who are eligible for new teacher certification with the Ministry of Education's Teacher Regulation Branch. Each year there are approximately 1,500 potential new teachers graduating from British Columbia universities and between the years 2017/18 and 2019/20, there was a 5% increase in the number of new teachers eligible to apply for teacher certification. Since 2019, targeted investments have also been made to increase the number of seats for French, Indigenous and special education teacher education programs at British Columbia's public post-secondary institutions.

While AEST provides funding for public post-secondary institutions, under the *University Act* and the *College and Institute Act*, institutions are responsible for the management and administration of their institutions, including matters relating to faculty, program priorities, and course delivery; consequently, Government does not intervene in these matters.

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Similarly, the Ministry of Education's BC Teachers' Council holds authority to approve British Columbia's teacher education programs and establish minimum educational requirements, including approved delivery methods and course content. Specific questions regarding the requirements and standards for British Columbia's post-secondary teacher education programs should be directed to the BC Teachers' Council at: BCTC@gov.bc.ca.

As recognized in your letter, my Ministry continues to work closely at the provincial level with key partners to support the development and delivery of programs that both respond to student needs and meet community labour market demands.

I gratefully acknowledge our shared concerns and am committed to continuing to work with educational partners to ensure the continued growth and development of teacher training programs, including funded student seats to meet regional workforce and individual learner needs.

Thank you again for your awareness and correspondence, and for bringing this matter to my attention.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Anne Kang", with a long, sweeping horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Honourable Anne Kang
Minister