



# Vancouver Board of Education

School District No. 39

BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES

1580 West Broadway

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November 24, 2009

Honourable Margaret MacDiarmid  
Minister of Education  
PO Box 9045, Stn Prov Govt  
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2

Honourable Murray Coell  
Minister of Labour  
PO Box 9063, Stn Prov Govt  
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2

Honourable Ben Stewart  
Minister of Citizens' Services  
PO Box 9068, Stn Prov Govt  
Victoria, BC V8W9E2

Dear Ministers MacDiarmid, Coell, and Stewart:

Re: Carbon Neutral Commitment and SMARTTool

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SMARTTool is an online tool developed by the Ministry of Labour and Ministry of Citizen's Services in order to provide Public Sector Organizations (PSO) a solution for calculating and reporting on Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions and GHG offset requirements. It embodies the methodological requirements of the 'Greenhouse Gas Reductions Targets Act' (GGRTA or Bill 44) and the Carbon Neutral Government Regulation and can also calculate the carbon-tax rebate.

Given that there was no Annual Facilities Grant (AFG) for our school district, meeting the carbon neutral commitment and potential investment in other climate change initiatives have become increasingly difficult. Furthermore, the 'Climate Action Charter' we signed (Mar/09) or the Ministry of Education's 'Climate Action Q&As' (Mar/09) did not indicate any costs associated with using SMARTTool - the Vancouver School District was not informed of such a cost until the Fall of 2009.

Without the AFG, our carbon offset payments of approx. \$600,000 and cost for using SMARTTool of \$45,000 (for the first year) introduces a substantial financial burden for the Vancouver School District. As such, the Board of Trustees for the School Board request that the requirements to calculate and report carbon emissions and purchase carbon offsets be postponed until the AFG is fully reinstated and funding is provided to ease the above costs.

Your timely response to this matter is much appreciated and we look forward to your reply.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P Bacchus'.

Patti Bacchus  
Chairperson

cc: Vancouver Board of Trustees  
Laurie Anderson, Interim Superintendent of Schools  
Brenda Ng, Secretary-Treasurer Board of School Trustees:

Patti Bacchus - Chairperson  
Jane Bouey - Vice-Chairperson  
Allan Blakey Ken Clement Ken Denike  
Carol Gibson Sharon Gregson Mike Lombardi  
Allan Wong