



Vancouver Board of Education

School District No. 39

BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES

1580 West Broadway

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September 30, 2009

Hon. Dr. Margaret MacDiarmid
Minister of Education and Minister Responsible
For Early Learning and Literacy
PO Box 9045, Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC
V8W 9E2

Dear Minister MacDiarmid:

Re: **Provincial Holdback Funds**

On June 30, 2009 the Ministry of Education provided school districts with the remaining funds from the provincial operating grant holdback for 2008/2009. It has been a longstanding practice by the Ministry of Education to fully distribute the funding for school districts which is budgeted and approved each year by the Legislative Assembly as part of the Budget Estimates.

The Vancouver Board of Education (VBE) received \$404,000 on June 30, 2009 as part of this process and reported these funds on the 2008/2009 financial statements. These funds were planned to be used to assist in funding future operating budget expenditures.

The Board of Trustees for the VBE was surprised and disappointed when school districts were advised on August 27, 2009 that the Province would be retracting the holdback funds which had already been distributed. The VBE was already projecting a significant funding shortfall for 2010/2011. The withdrawal of the \$404,000 in provincial holdback funds will only make a bad financial situation worse.

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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

We would request that the Province immediately reinstate the loss of provincial holdback funds for 2008/2009 in order to reduce the impact on our projected funding shortfall.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "P Bacchus".

Patti Bacchus
Chairperson

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