



Vancouver Board of Education

School District No. 39

BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES

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March 4, 2013

Don McRae, Minister of Education
Province of BC
Ministry of Education
PO Box 9045, Stn Prov Govt
Victoria BC V8W 9E2

Dear Minister McRae,

Re: Adult Education Funding to Independent Schools

We are writing to express our concern about the Ministry's announcement that funding will be made available to independent schools as of September 2013 for non-graduated adult students working towards a BC graduation credential.

Over the past year, public school boards have faced increasing challenges in their efforts to offer adult programming for graduated and non-graduated adult students. The funding changes for the Education Guarantee have negatively affected overall enrollment levels in adult education programs, which has resulted in fewer courses being available to non-graduated adult students as well.

The Vancouver School District has a long-established adult education program which serves a wide range of non-graduated and graduated adult students, and the district is well-positioned to support more students. We are encouraged to hear that the Ministry of Education has found additional financial resources to support adult student programming. Providing funding to build upon existing programs, where there already is expertise and experience in working with adult learners, would be a more thoughtful investment than dispersing funds to independent schools where this programming is not currently provided.

We respectfully request that the Minister of Education rescind the recent decision to provide funding to private and/or independent schools for adult education programs for non-graduated adults, and that any available funding be redirected to adult education programs provided by public school boards.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Patti Bacchus'.

Patti Bacchus
Chairperson of the Board

c: VBE Trustees

Steve Cardwell, Superintendent of Schools

Rick Krowchuk, Secretary Treasurer

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