



July 6, 2012

Ref: 159779

Patti Bacchus, Chair
Board of Education
School District No. 39 (Vancouver)
1580 West Broadway
Vancouver BC V6J 5K8

Dear Ms. Bacchus:

Thank you for your letter dated May 25, 2012, addressed to the Honourable Christy Clark, Premier, and me, regarding your concerns about changes to the Education Guarantee Program and the impact this will have on adult education in the Vancouver School District.

The Ministry introduced changes to the Education Guarantee Program on May 1, 2012, to improve completion rates and ensure that funding is focused where it is needed most. The Ministry will continue to fund all courses leading to graduation for adult learners who have not graduated. In addition, the Ministry will continue to fund the core academic courses typically required for entrance into college or university programs to support graduated adults who want to upgrade their skills or credentials.

Funding for graduated adults in various courses that are not typically required for entrance into college or university programs will no longer be provided. Many of these courses had very low completion rates and this change was necessary to provide sustainable funding to graduated adults looking to upgrade in core academic courses.

On June 8, 2012, James Gorman, Deputy Minister, sent a follow-up letter announcing the reinstatement of several courses under the Education Guarantee Program. A full list which includes these additional courses is attached.

The Deputy Minister also announced the development of a formal Education Guarantee review process that will include district and Ministry participants. One of the purposes of the review process is to consider the impact of the new policy on adult education programs and recommend changes based on evidence.

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Again, thank you for taking the time to write.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in purple ink that reads "George Abbott". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "G".

George Abbott
Minister

Attachment: Courses Funded Under the Education Guarantee

pc: Honourable Christy Clark, Premier