



Vancouver Board of Education

School District No. 39

BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES

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December 18, 2014

By email and original letter by mail

The Honourable Peter Fassbender
Minister of Education
PO Box 9045, Stn Prov Govt,
Victoria BC V8W 9E2

Dear Minister Fassbender:

Re: Reversal of Funding Changes for Upgrading Courses for Graduated Adults

On December 15th, 2014, the Board received notification from the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Advanced Education about changes to provincial funding for adult upgrading courses.

This announcement will make it very challenging for more than a thousand adult learners in Vancouver who need to upgrade their courses so that they can meet pre-requisite requirements to access post-secondary programs. Most of these adult students do not have adequate financial resources to pay hundreds of dollars in tuition fees to upgrade while trying to provide the basic necessities of living both for themselves and their families.

This funding announcement indicated there would be a tuition free pathway to high school graduation; however it creates a substantive barrier for adult learners to access post-secondary programming in the K-12 system and further erodes equity and access to education and career opportunities. Further in our view this decision undermines the BC's Skills for Jobs Blueprint.

On December 15, 2014, the Vancouver Board of Education passed an urgent motion to request that government immediately reverse their announced cuts related to the funding for Graduated Adult programming and to reinstate the eligibility of all academic courses for the purposes of upgrading.

Sincerely,

Christopher Richardson
Chairperson

cc: Honourable Christy Clark, Premier of BC
All BC MLAs
All BC Public School Boards
All VBE Stakeholder Groups
Gregor Robertson, Vancouver Mayor
Vancouver City Council Members
VBE Trustees
Steve Cardwell, Superintendent of Schools
Rick Krowchuk, Secretary Treasurer

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