

## Sauder, Kit EDUC:EX

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**From:** Phillips, Emily <Emily.Phillips@leg.bc.ca>  
**Sent:** February-03-14 2:04 PM  
**To:** Sauder, Kit EDUC:EX  
**Subject:** Meeting w/Dan Ashton and Ron Shongruden  
**Attachments:** 00480-25 Minister of Innovation.docx

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

Hi Kit

I hope all is well!

Dan Ashton is seeking a meeting for a constituent of his, Ron Shongruden, with Minister Fassbender. Dan and Ron already had a meeting with Minister Wilkinson, but it looks like they are seeking an additional meeting with your Minister.  
Please see the attached letter, I'm not sure how you want to proceed?

Let me know what you suggest.

Thanks very much,  
Emily

Emily Phillips | BC Government Caucus  
[Emily.phillips@leg.bc.ca](mailto:Emily.phillips@leg.bc.ca) | 250-356-1690 | fax 250-952-7263  
Legislative Assistant to:  
MLA Dan Ashton, Penticton  
MLA Michelle Stilwell, Parksville-Qualicum  
MLA Jackie Tegart, Fraser Nicola

---

**From:** Ashton.MLA, Dan  
**Sent:** February-03-14 1:56 PM  
**To:** Phillips, Emily  
**Subject:** FW: Meeting January 10, 2014

FYI  
Dick

---

**From:** Shongruden, Ron [<mailto:RShongruden@summer.com>]  
**Sent:** January 20, 2014 10:01 AM  
**To:** Wilkinson.MLA, Andrew; Ashton.MLA, Dan  
**Subject:** Meeting January 10, 2014

Dear Andrew Wilkinson and Dan Ashton,

Thank you for scheduling a meeting with us in such a timely manner. I have enclosed a letter that summarizes the meeting and gives us an action plan where we can hopefully work together for everyone's benefit.

Kind regards,

Ron Shongrunden  
Director of Business Development and Technology  
School District #67 (Okanagan Skaha)  
[rs@summer.com](mailto:rs@summer.com)  
250-770-7705

## Sauder, Kit EDUC:EX

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**From:** Gibbs, Cathy <Cathy.Gibbs@leg.bc.ca>  
**Sent:** February-04-14 10:20 AM  
**To:** Sauder, Kit EDUC:EX  
**Subject:** Meeting Request

**Follow Up Flag:** Flag for follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

Good Morning Kit,

I am writing on behalf of Ministers Polak and Coleman to request a meeting with Minister Fassbender to discuss issues relating to School District 35 in Langley. This is a follow-up to a meeting the the Schoold District hosted on January 31, 2014 with Min. Coleman, Min. Polak, Mayor Schaffer, and Mayor Froese to discuss concerns of the School District.

Please let me know when time can be arranged for such a meeting.

Thank you,

Cathy Gibbs, Constituency Assistant  
To Mary Polak, MLA  
Langley  
102 – 20611 Fraser Highway  
Langley, BC V3A 6N6  
604-514-8206  
[Cathy.gibbs@leg.bc.ca](mailto:Cathy.gibbs@leg.bc.ca)

## Sauder, Kit EDUC:EX

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**From:** Quigley, Janta <Janta.Quigley@leg.bc.ca>  
**Sent:** February-04-14 11:51 AM  
**To:** Sauder, Kit EDUC:EX  
**Subject:** FW: Student outcomes

Kit,

I know you're stupid busy, but at least now we have a specific question-

Support for the first bullet: Student success rates have increased and on major international assessments, British Columbia students rank among the very best in the world.

Thanks so much once again for your help, and for putting this on your to do list!

Janta

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Letnick, Norm  
**Sent:** February-04-14 11:49 AM  
**To:** Quigley, Janta  
**Subject:** Re: Student outcomes

Thank you. Please ask for the details on bullet 1

On 2014-02-04, at 11:45 AM, "Quigley, Janta" <[Janta.Quigley@leg.bc.ca](mailto:Janta.Quigley@leg.bc.ca)> wrote:

- > Did the news release that just came out help? See below
- >
- > Janta
- >
- > \* Student success rates have increased and on major international assessments, British Columbia students rank among the very best in the world.
- > \* Over the past 13 years, we've increased annual funding by \$1 billion, even while student enrolment has declined by an unprecedented 9.4 per cent.
- > \* Academic research and experts agree student achievement is not about class-size and composition, but about raising the bar on teacher quality and student engagement.
- > \* That's why we created the \$210 Million Learning Improvement Fund to work with teachers to do their job better. Just last year, the fund was used to hire 500 more teachers, 400 new special education assistants, extend hours for 7400 special education assistants and give teachers more professional development.
- > \* We've increased supports for students with special needs, including a 36 per cent increase in the number of full-time education assistants.
- > \* On class sizes: average class sizes are near historical lows of 19.3 students for kindergarten, 21.5 for grades 1 to 3, 25.7 for grades 4 to 7, and 23.0 for grades 8 to 12. To put that in perspective, in 1970 the average class size was 42.
- > \* Over the past eight years, the number of classes with more than 30 students has dropped by 88 per cent. Less than two per cent of classrooms have more than 30 students, and of these, the vast majority are in subjects like band, drama and gym where larger numbers are beneficial and intentional.

> \* Schools aren't assembly lines, and rigid formulas are no way to manage teacher workload. How would decreasing the size of some gym classes help student success in reading or math?

> \* In fact, at 18 to one, the full-time equivalent student-teacher ratio is exactly the same today as it was before the disputed changes to the collective agreement were made in 2002. It is just that we manage classrooms far more effectively today.

>

> -----Original Message-----

> From: Letnick, Norm

> Sent: February-04-14 10:37 AM

> To: Quigley, Janta

> Subject: Re: Student outcomes

>

> Caucus.....ask his ministry if they have any stats on the question.

>

>

>

> On 2014-02-04, at 10:35 AM, "Quigley, Janta" <[Janta.Quigley@leg.bc.ca](mailto:Janta.Quigley@leg.bc.ca)> wrote:

>

>> And where did he say it/ what source can I refer to to get context?

>>

>> Janta

>>

>> -----Original Message-----

>> From: Letnick, Norm

>> Sent: February-04-14 10:35 AM

>> To: Quigley, Janta

>> Subject: Re: Student outcomes

>>

>> MPF says our outcomes are better.....I want more details please.

>>

>>

>>

>> On 2014-02-04, at 10:33 AM, "Quigley, Janta" <[Janta.Quigley@leg.bc.ca](mailto:Janta.Quigley@leg.bc.ca)> wrote:

>>

>>> Can you give me some context about the specific question you're answering and the type of information you're looking for?

>>>

>>> Janta

>>>

>>> -----Original Message-----

>>> From: Letnick, Norm

>>> Sent: February-04-14 10:32 AM

>>> To: Quigley, Janta

>>> Subject: Student outcomes

>>>

>>> Can I please have a comparison between outcomes now vs 2001 to help me make the case that they are better?

>>>

>>>

## Sauder, Kit EDUC:EX

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**From:** Morris, Kirsty L <Kirsty.Morris@leg.bc.ca>  
**Sent:** February-05-14 1:09 PM  
**To:** Sauder, Kit EDUC:EX  
**Cc:** Bower, Maryanne LASS:EX  
**Subject:** Decoda

Hi Kit

We spoke last week regarding information that both MLAs Lake and Stone had requested regarding Decoda. You mentioned that we should be receiving some bullets on Monday to enable us to respond to letters received in the CO. I am just following up with you today, as neither myself or Maryanne (from Todd's office) have received anything to date.

Regards

Kirsty.

Kirsty L Morris | Constituency Assistant

*Terry Lake, MLA Kamloops - North Thompson  
Minister of Health*

Email: [kirsty.morris@leg.bc.ca](mailto:kirsty.morris@leg.bc.ca)  
Phone #: [250-554-5413](tel:250-554-5413) Fax #: [250-554-5417](tel:250-554-5417)  
Toll Free #: [1-888-299-0805](tel:1-888-299-0805)  
Website: [www.terrylakemla.bc.ca](http://www.terrylakemla.bc.ca)



Please consider the environment before printing this

## Sauder, Kit EDUC:EX

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**From:** Morris, Kirsty L <Kirsty.Morris@leg.bc.ca>  
**Sent:** February-05-14 2:14 PM  
**To:** Sauder, Kit EDUC:EX; Bower, Maryanne LASS:EX  
**Subject:** RE: Decoda

Thank you Kit!

Kirsty L Morris | Constituency Assistant

*Terry Lake, MLA Kamloops - North Thompson  
Minister of Health*

Email: [kirsty.morris@leg.bc.ca](mailto:kirsty.morris@leg.bc.ca)  
Phone #: [250-554-5413](tel:250-554-5413) Fax #: [250-554-5417](tel:250-554-5417)  
Toll Free #: [1-888-299-0805](tel:1-888-299-0805)  
Website: [www.terrylakemla.bc.ca](http://www.terrylakemla.bc.ca)



Please consider the environment before printing this

Not Responsive

Not Responsive

---

**From:** Morris, Kirsty L [<mailto:Kirsty.Morris@leg.bc.ca>]  
**Sent:** February-05-14 1:09 PM  
**To:** Sauder, Kit EDUC:EX  
**Cc:** Bower, Maryanne LASS:EX  
**Subject:** Decoda

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Regards

Kirsty



Kirsty L Morris | Constituency Assistant

***Terry Lake, MLA Kamloops - North Thompson  
Minister of Health***

Email: [kirsty.morris@leg.bc.ca](mailto:kirsty.morris@leg.bc.ca)

Phone #: [250-554-5413](tel:250-554-5413) Fax #: [250-554-5417](tel:250-554-5417)

Toll Free #: [1-888-299-0805](tel:1-888-299-0805)

Website: [www.terrylakemla.bc.ca](http://www.terrylakemla.bc.ca)



Please consider the environment before printing this

## Sauder, Kit EDUC:EX

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**From:** Reid.MLA, Linda <Linda.Reid.MLA@leg.bc.ca>  
**Sent:** February-12-14 4:20 PM  
**To:** Sauder, Kit EDUC:EX  
**Subject:** FW: Dealing fairly and within the law

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

Hi Kit,

I have received a couple of these types of emails. Any suggestions on a reply?

Thanks,

*Laurie Sewell*

CA to the Hon. Linda Reid,  
MLA for Richmond East &  
Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of British Columbia  
Vice-Chair of the Canadian Region of CWP  
130-8040 Garden City Road  
Richmond, BC V6Y 1K3  
604.775.0891

**From** s.22  
**Sent:** February 8, 2014 3:17 PM  
**To:** Reid.MLA, Linda  
**Subject:** Dealing fairly and within the law

To my MLA,

Nothing's more important than giving our kids a quality education. But too many children are still in crowded classrooms, and are receiving less of the one-on-one attention they need.

Now the BC Supreme Court has reconfirmed that Premier Christy Clark's legislation is unconstitutional, and our teachers' contractual guarantees for smaller classes and more specialist teachers must be restored. Please, respect the court ruling and reach a fair deal with teachers that provides better support for our kids.

Please do not support the continued squandering of tax dollars in the defense of a political agenda that has become indefensible. Respect the rule of law; to do otherwise will further demonstrate the contempt that the current Liberal government has for unionized employees and taxpayers.

Sincerely,

s.22

Not Responsive

---

**From:** Reid.MLA, Linda [<mailto:Linda.Reid.MLA@leg.bc.ca>]  
**Sent:** February-12-14 4:20 PM  
**To:** Sauder, Kit EDUC:EX  
**Subject:** FW: Dealing fairly and within the law

Hi Kit,

I have received a couple of these types of emails. Any suggestions on a reply?

Thanks,

*Laurie Sewell*

CA to the Hon. Linda Reid,  
MLA for Richmond East &  
Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of British Columbia  
Vice-Chair of the Canadian Region of CWP  
130-8040 Garden City Road  
Richmond, BC V6Y 1K3  
604.775.0891

**From:** s.22  
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**To:** Reid.MLA, Linda  
**Subject:** Dealing fairly and within the law

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Please do not support the continued squandering of tax dollars in the defense of a political agenda that has become indefensible. Respect the rule of law; to do otherwise will further demonstrate the contempt that the current Liberal government has for unionized employees and taxpayers.

Sincerely,

s.22

Not Responsive

---

**From:** Bing, MLA, Doug [mailto:Doug.Bing.MLA@leg.bc.ca]  
**Sent:** February-13-14 10:12 AM  
**To:** Sauder, Kit EDUC:EX  
**Subject:** FW: Speak out – and let the BC government know you want better support for kids, and a fair deal for teachers

Hi Kit,

I am assuming that the minister's office will respond to this email. I have sent them an email already confirming receipt etc. Could you cc us on the response?/

Hope your day is going great.

*Cheryl Rohlie*

Constituency Assistant to  
MLA, Dr. Doug Bing  
Maple Ridge-Pitt Meadows  
604 465-9299  
FAX 604 465-9294

---

**From:** s.22  
**Sent:** February 12, 2014 9:22 PM  
**To:** Bing, MLA, Doug; EDUC, Minister I EDUC:EX  
**Subject:** Speak out – and let the BC government know you want better support for kids, and a fair deal for teachers

To the Minister of Education and my MLA,

s.22

## Sauder, Kit EDUC:EX

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**From:** deJong.MLA, Mike <Mike.deJong.MLA@leg.bc.ca>  
**Sent:** February-18-14 2:52 PM  
**To:** Sauder, Kit EDUC:EX  
**Subject:** FW: Home school funding

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

-----Original Message-----

**From:** s.22  
**Sent:** February 14, 2014 7:19 PM  
**To:** deJong.MLA, Mike  
**Subject:** Fw: Home school funding

Mark rushton - please respond

Your lack of response would seem to indicate a lack of concern.

s.22

Please excuse the brevity of this email I am responding from my BB.

---

**From:** s.22  
**Sent:** Friday, January 24, 2014 12:15:11 PM  
**To:** deJong.MLA, Mike  
**Subject:** RE: Home school funding

thanks

-----Original Message-----

**From:** deJong.MLA, Mike [mailto:Mike.deJong.MLA@leg.bc.ca]  
**Sent:** Friday, January 24, 2014 12:13 PM  
**To:** s.22  
**Subject:** RE: Home school funding

Dear s.22

Minister de Jong asked that I look into the question you have raised . When I receive accurate information relating to this matter I will provide that to you.

Mark Rushton, Communications/Community Relations Assistant to Michael de Jong, MLA Abbotsford West

-----Original Message-----

**From:** s.22  
**Sent:** January 23, 2014 3:47 PM

To: deJong.MLA, Mike  
Subject: Home school funding

Good afternoon

s.22

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This message, including any documents attached, may contain privileged and confidential information intended for the recipient only. Any unauthorized use, copying or disclosure is prohibited. If you have received this message in error, please notify the sender by email and delete or destroy all copies of this message. We use reasonable safeguards to protect all information collected, used, retained and disclosed in the course of conducting business; however, email may be vulnerable to interception by unauthorized parties. We discourage you from emailing personal or sensitive information. If you provided your email to us, or if you contacted us by email, we accept this as your consent to communicate with you by email. If you do not wish for us to communicate with you by email, please notify us at your earliest convenience.

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Avant d'imprimer ce courriel, pensez à l'environnement.

Ce message, y compris tout document qui y est annexé, peut contenir des renseignements confidentiels et privés destinés exclusivement à son destinataire. Toute utilisation, copie ou divulgation non autorisée est strictement interdite. Si vous avez reçu ce message par erreur, veuillez en aviser immédiatement l'expéditeur par courriel et détruire ou supprimer toutes les copies existantes de ce message. Nous prenons des mesures de protection raisonnables pour protéger toute information recueillie, utilisée, conservée et divulguée dans le cadre de nos affaires; cependant, un courriel est susceptible d'être intercepté par des tiers non autorisés. Nous vous déconseillons de communiquer par courriel des renseignements personnels ou sensibles.

## Sauder, Kit EDUC:EX

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**From:** Comrie, Brittany <Brittany.Comrie@leg.bc.ca>  
**Sent:** February-04-14 10:13 AM  
**To:** Minister, EDUC EDUC:EX; Sauder, Kit EDUC:EX  
**Subject:** FW: Seriously disappointed

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Hi Kit - this is the same constituent emailing again - can you please copy our office on a response from the Ministry as soon as possible?

-----Original Message-----

**From:** s.22  
**Sent:** February 4, 2014 10:06 AM  
**To:** Fassbender.MLA, Peter  
**Subject:** Seriously disappointed

Dear Minister Fassbender

s.22



## Sauder, Kit EDUC:EX

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**From:** Sewell, Laurie <Laurie.Sewell@leg.bc.ca>  
**Sent:** February-21-14 9:27 AM  
**To:** Sauder, Kit EDUC:EX  
**Subject:** Clarification re: BCTF and Government ongoing issue  
**Importance:** High

Hi Kit,

I am hoping you can help. Linda and John Yap are meeting with the Richmond School Trustees regarding the ongoing legal issue between the Government and the BCTF and how it is going to affect them.

What Linda would like to know before this meeting takes place at 3:00pm today is the following:

*Do they expect districts to make any accommodations now or does "before the courts" put any changes on hold?*

Thanks!

**Laurie Sewell**

CA to the Hon. Linda Reid,  
MLA for Richmond East &  
Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of British Columbia  
Vice-Chair of the Canadian Region of CWP  
130-8040 Garden City Road  
Richmond, BC V6Y 1K3  
604.775.0891

## Sauder, Kit EDUC:EX

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**From:** Yamamoto.MLA, Naomi <Naomi.Yamamoto.MLA@leg.bc.ca>  
**Sent:** February-27-14 4:32 PM  
**To:** Sauder, Kit EDUC:EX.  
**Subject:** FW: Private schools and French immersion

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Please respond to constituent and copy [Naomi.yamamoto.mla@leg.bc.ca](mailto:Naomi.yamamoto.mla@leg.bc.ca) on your reply. Many thanks!

Regards,

**Matthew Naylor** | Constituency Assistant  
Honourable Naomi Yamamoto, MLA  
North Vancouver - Lonsdale  
5 - 221 West Esplanade  
North Vancouver, B.C.  
P: 604.981.0033 | F: 604.981.0044  
[www.naomiyamamoto.mla.bc.ca](http://www.naomiyamamoto.mla.bc.ca)

**From:** s.22  
**Sent:** February 25, 2014 11:15 AM  
**To:** Fassbender.MLA, Peter; Yamamoto.MLA, Naomi  
**Subject:** Private schools and French immersion

s.22

## Mino, Lise MTIC:EX

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**From:** Thomson.MLA, Steve LASS:EX  
**Sent:** February-04-14 9:10 AM  
**To:** s.22  
**Cc:** Minister, EDUC EDUC:EX  
**Subject:** Court Decision Re:Class Size/Education

Good Morning s.22

MLA Thomson is currently out of the office and during his absence it is my responsibility to monitor his email account. Steve thanks you for letting him know your concerns and thoughts regarding the BCTF court decision and he has asked me to forward your email to the Ministry of Education for their review and response.

*Jennifer Newman, Constituency Assistant to*  
Steve Thomson, MLA  
Kelowna Mission  
Tel: 250.712.3620  
Fax: 250.712.3626

[www.stevethomsonmla.bc.ca](http://www.stevethomsonmla.bc.ca)



Please consider the environment before printing this e-mail

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**From:** s.22  
**Sent:** February 2, 2014 8:52 AM  
**To:** Thomson.MLA, Steve  
**Subject:** Court Decision Re:Class Size/Education

Dear MLA Thomson:

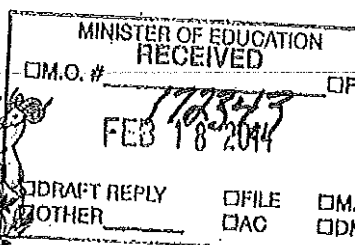
It has been shown that your government used negotiations with the teachers as a way of winning votes in an election. The result shows that B.C. citizens will vote for a party that hurts public education. I fear that our citizens do not cherish education. We must commit to enhancing opportunity. Our youth are challenged to compete in the modern world of skills, knowledge and expertise. Show leadership: guide our communities to an understanding of the importance of education. You have been elected to do what is right not what wins elections.

Respectfully,

Legislative Office:  
Room 276 Parliament Buildings  
Victoria BC V8V 1X4  
Phone: 250-952-7270  
Fax: 250-387-9100



Province of  
British Columbia



**Laurie Throness, MLA**  
**Chilliwack-Hope**  
*Parliamentary Secretary to the  
Minister of Justice and Attorney  
General for Corrections*

Constituency Office:  
10-7300 Vedder Road  
Chilliwack BC V2R 4G6  
Phone: 604-858-5299  
Fax: 604-858-5290

February 14, 2014

Hon. Peter Fassbender  
Minister of Education  
Legislative Buildings  
Victoria, BC  
V8V 1X4

Dear Minister:

Further to our recent conversation about the issue of the \$600 cap to be allocated to parents who enroll their children in both public and private Distance Learning, I am enclosing letters from parents protesting the cap.

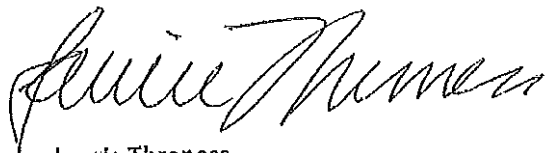
I want to point out that the BC Government is uniquely responsible for the effective and flexible policy of Distance Learning. Parents are very happy with the results, and the popularity of the program is increasing. As a supporter of parental choice, I support the policy that allows parents to ask their DL teacher to hire a third party provider as long as provincial learning outcomes are met. This offers the dual advantages of immediate service instead of waiting for service in the public system, and enabling students to obtain third-party certifications (for example, a lifeguard qualification) which are unavailable in the public system.

One purpose of Distance Learning is to provide more parental choice. Most parents have been receiving about \$1,000 annually from their DL school, which they manage through their DL teacher. I agree that parents should not be able to expend DL funds unsupervised by their DL teacher, as teachers have oversight for the DL student's entire learning strategy. But because of complaints from some DL schools regarding competition for students, this amount is being capped for everyone at \$600. On the face of it, it appears that the Ministry, without consulting parents, has decided to reduce parental choice. This could in turn reduce the advantages of Distance Learning.

I am enclosing copies of the letters that were sent to me on this matter, and I would ask that you respond to them directly, explaining the rationale for the policy and showing how parental choice, flexibility, and learning outcomes will be maintained given the change in policy.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Laurie Throness".

Laurie Throness

encl.

c: encl.

**FW: Ministry of Education changes to DL resource allowances**

Throness.MLA, Laurie

Sent: January 23, 2014 3:00 PM

To: Throness, Laurie

Cc: Dents, Sheila

From: s.22

Sent: January 23, 2014 2:16 PM

To: Throness.MLA, Laurie

Subject: Ministry of Education changes to DL resource allowances

Hi Laurie,

I am in receipt of a copy of a letter from the Ministry of Education , s.22 In regards to funding for DL students, and I would like to express my concerns about the contents of this letter and the direction that is being proposed in it.

s.22

In brief, it seems that the Ministry's letter centres on two points:

- a) Seeing a problem with the status quo (i.e. competition), and
- b) Mandating a solution

I'm not trying to be overly critical, but I question both of these points. There is a richness of choice available in K-12 education in BC today. There are public schools and independent schools, traditional classroom settings and work-at-your-own-pace-and-place arrangements. In the public stream, there are choices as some schools offer different specialty programming or opportunities than others do (sports, drama, traditional, etc). In the independent school stream there are similar choices, as well as choices based on faith and belief. In the DL/home-schooling stream there are choices involving level of independence, curriculum, balance of individual and group instruction, and level of involvement of the over-seeing school, allowing parents to really match the child's education to the child. It sounds like the Ministry has singled out one aspect of the overall package of choices that exists in the DL stream (amount of funding available), labelled it "competition" (as if that's a bad thing), and is determined to exterminate competition in DL education delivery by controlling this one aspect.

My training tells me to look for the data when claims are made, and I would be very interested to see the data behind the statement that "many DL schools...offer up to \$1,200 in 'resource/service credits' for enrolled students...Other DL schools do not provide any third-party and resource funds". Which schools are we talking about, are these schools comparable, and is the dollar allowance the only difference between them? Does arbitrarily capping the resource allocation amount solve a real problem, or does it just force parents to be more like other people in how their children are educated? This money is not given to the parents, it is a funding allowance that allows the parent to craft an educational experience that best suits the needs, level, and interests of their child. (In opposition to the traditional classroom experience in which all children are taught the same thing, at an average level and pace).

As far as the efficacy of the mandated solution, I wonder if it will really make a difference at the end of the day

**FW: Changes to distance education**

Throness.MLA, Laurle

Sent: January 9, 2014 11:16 AM

To: Throness, Laurle

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**From:** s.22  
**Sent:** January 8, 2014 9:14 PM  
**To:** Throness.MLA, Laurle  
**Subject:** Changes to distance education

Mr Throness,  
It has come to my attention that the Ministry of Education is making changes and placing new regulations on how distance education schools allow parents to spend grant funds to access services and educational opportunities.

s.22

s.22 When you restrict access to services for children in the name of "leveling the playing field" (as per the memo I read this evening) who is that REALLY hurting - the kids of course. Our school is based in a different city and has no courses available at this time - it is great to say that third party providers now have a cap and schools can just offer more courses but what about those people who live too far away to access ANY courses their school would offer, what about those in remote communities, what about those who are homebound for any number of reasons that had the service providers coming to them?

It is indeed a SAD time to be a child in British Columbia. I wish s.22 could go attend a cookie cutter school and get all the art and music and drama classes that every other child is entitled to have in our Province ... that will never be a reality for our family so now we are going to be forced to lose even more by losing \$400 in much needed funding to pay for all the enriching parts of their learning experience.

All Distance Education students are supervised by qualified teachers - our teachers in consultation with families work very hard to put in place appropriate learning plans. Teacher's and individual schools have been managing excellent, world class, Distance Education programs for many years and meddling with something that is working so well for thousands of children is just wrong.

I URGE you to ask the Minister of Education to reconsider this plan to "level the playing field" before it becomes a race to the bottom. Cutting \$400 per student doesn't "level" anything!

Sincerely,

s.22

**FW: Homeschool Funding Issue**

Throness.MLA, Laurle

Sent: January 10, 2014 12:01 PM

To: Throness, Laurle

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**From** s.22  
**Sent:** January 10, 2014 11:39 AM  
**To:** Throness.MLA, Laurle  
**Subject:** Homeschool Funding Issue

An Open Letter to Laurie Throness,

My name is s.22 I've just been made aware that our provincial government is going to cap the amount that parents can receive per child at \$600 per year. This is a very bad idea.

We made the decision to homeschool because we as parents wanted a greater say in our childrens' education. Giving more money to the DL schools takes away too much of our influence as parents and defeats the purpose for which many people choose to homeschool in the first place. We have no problem being accountable to a school for our childrens' education, but we know our children better than the school ever will, and we see each child's individual gifts and talents on a daily basis. The school isn't there every day educating our children, we are. How can a DL school possibly create enough programs to give opportunities to every individual child that will suit their gifts? It's not possible.

Only the parents can meet these needs in the form of music lessons, drama classes, dance lessons, competitive sports, and many, many more opportunities for learning and development that are out there. DL schools will not provide these opportunities for learning, and thousands of children will be left without the chance to participate if any money is taken away from them. This can not happen.

This decision shows a serious lack of understanding of what Distance Education really is, and how it can benefit children. Since when are the rights of schools to be competitive with each other more important than the rights of children to have equal opportunities to learn? If you take this money away, thousands of parents will not be able to afford lessons for their children.

The real victims in a decision like this will be the children.

I urge you to take the appropriate action and reverse this decision. In fact I hope you will consider making more money available to parents to provide even greater opportunities for learning for our children.

Thank you for taking the time to read this.

Sincerely,

s.22



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East Annex, Parliament Buildings  
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10 - 7300 Vedder Road  
Chilliwack, B.C. V2R 4G6  
Phone: 604 858-5299  
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website: [www.lauriethronessmla.ca](http://www.lauriethronessmla.ca)  
e-mail: [laurie.throness.mla@leg.bc.ca](mailto:laurie.throness.mla@leg.bc.ca)



**Province of  
British Columbia  
Legislative Assembly**



Laurie Throness, M.L.A.  
Chilliwack-Hope

MINISTER OF EDUCATION		
RECEIVED		
□ M.O. #	172551	□ FYI
FEB 26 2014		
□ DRAFT REPLY	□ FILE	□ MA
□ OTHER	□ DAC	□ DM

February 26, 2014

Hon. Peter Fassbender  
Minister of Education  
Legislative Buildings  
Victoria, BC  
V8V 1X4

Dear Minister:

I am enclosing two letters I recently received which I found to be quite inspiring; and I'm sure you will as well. They are stories of young people with disabilities who, with the help of friends and parents, and empowered by Ministry funding, were able to thrive.

These two young people were not receiving the help they needed in the public system. In one case, the public school was letting a student pass from grade to grade without actually learning anything, and in the other, services were simply unavailable in the public system. It was not until these children were removed from the public system and enrolled in a private Distance Learning environment that they were able to overcome the obstacles they faced.

In both cases, Distance Learning proved to be extremely beneficial for these young people, because an annual amount of some \$18,300 follows a disabled student wherever he/she chooses to enroll. Because of this generous funding, a great deal of third-party assistance was able to be focused on these individuals, enabling them to surmount their learning disabilities.

Because the amount is so generous, I could foresee a time when the public system might seek to reduce Distance Learning options in order to retain the significant funding that follows students with disabilities. I simply wish to note the very positive outcomes that Distance Learning has enabled in these cases, and I hope that you will be able to allay any concerns of my constituents in this regard by affirming the Ministry's support for the continuing nature of the present arrangement.

Thank you for your considering this important matter, replying directly to my constituents, and sending a copy to me.

Sincerely,

Laurie Throness

Mr Throness,

I am writing to you to share my thoughts on Special Needs Grant Funding for Distance  
Education.

s.22

s.22

Not Responsive

**From:** Bing.MLA, Doug [mailto:Doug.Bing.MLA@leg.bc.ca]  
**Sent:** January-29-14 2:37 PM  
**To:** Sauder, Kit EDUC:EX  
**Subject:** FW: New submission from s.22 via contact form

Hi Kit

Please reply to this constituent if there is an official reply prepared.

Thanks,

*Gay Conn*

Constituency Assistant to  
MLA, Dr. Doug Bing  
#104 – 20130 Lougheed Highway  
Maple Ridge BC V2X 2P7  
604 465-9299  
[www.dougbingmla.ca](http://www.dougbingmla.ca)

**From:** s.22  
**Sent:** January 29, 2014 2:38 PM  
**To:** Bing.MLA, Doug  
**Subject:** New submission from s.22 via contact form

**Name:**

s.22

**Email:**

s.22

**Phone:**

**Message:**

Recent Court Ruling regarding BC Teacher's Contract

1. I am not a teacher

2. After 12 years of dealing with contract disputes through our court system, 3 rulings from the courts on illegal action by our government (1 for the nurses & 2 for the teachers) why is the government not giving our court and legal system the respect it deserves and accept their responsibility as the courts have ruled? The stripping of contracts from any employer is illegal in a democratic society. It seems that due process has been followed and the issues were taken to the judicial system to make a legal ruling. How can today's government, after 12 years and 3 judgements later, still not take responsibility for their actions?