



## Meeting Note Advice to Minister

**Date:** February 11, 2021

**Cliff #:** 120935

**Prepared for:** Honourable Anne Kang, Minister of Advanced Education and Skills Training

**Date, Time of Meeting and Location:**

- February 18, 2021, 11:30 am to 12:00 pm
- Meeting to be held over MS Teams.

**Attendees:**

- Ravi Parmar, Chair, Sooke School District 62 (SD62)
- Scott Stinson, Superintendent of Schools/CEO, SD62
- Nicola Lemmer, ADM, Post-Secondary Policy and Programs, Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Training (AEST)

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**Issues:**

- In January 2021, the SD62 Chair wrote Minister Kang expressing an interest to meet to discuss educational issues, including the West Shore Post-Secondary Expansion (see Attachment 1).

**Background:**

- The West Shore (including Langford, Colwood, Metchosin, and the Highlands) is one of the fastest growing regions in Canada and demand for closer post-secondary access is projected to grow.
- Current direct transition rate of high school graduates to post-secondary institutions in SD62 is lower than the provincial average (59% vs. 69%, respectively).
- In March 2018, Royal Roads University (RRU) received \$250,000 to develop a report in collaboration with partners including First Nations, Camosun College (CAM), University of Victoria (UVic), and school districts.
  - The 200-page report, *Assessing Post-Secondary Needs in the West Shore: Responding to Growing Demand*, recommended development of a business plan to expand post-secondary options on the West Shore.
- In March 2019, RRU received government funding of \$1.5 million to develop a comprehensive business plan to be submitted to AEST.

s.12; s.13

s.12; s.13

**Discussion:**

- With the onset of COVID-19, RRU indicated that the West Shore post-secondary campus project was put on hold.
- Since that time, RRU, CAM, UVic and other public post-secondary institutions have rapidly shifted delivery in education and training programs to remote and online methods.

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s.12; s.13; s.17

**Suggested Response / Key Message:**

- *Thank you for the opportunity to meet today to discuss educational needs in the West Shore.*

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- *My Ministry looks forward to reviewing this revised concept and working with RRU and educational partners in the West Shore to discuss next steps.*

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**Attachment:** Attachment 1 – Letter from SD62 Chair to Minister Anne Kang

**Contact:** Nicola Lemmer, ADM, Post-Secondary Policy and Programs, (778) 698-9768



**SOOKE 62**  
**SCHOOLS**  
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January 21, 2021

The Honourable Anne Kang  
Minister of Advanced Education and Skills Training  
PO Box 9045 Stn. Prov. Govt.  
Victoria, BC. V8W 9E2

Dear Minister Kang,

On behalf of the Board of Education for the Sooke School District, I wanted to take this opportunity to warmly congratulate you on your appointment as Minister of Advanced Education and Skills Training for the Province of British Columbia.

Our Board is very supportive of the commitments Premier Horgan has outlined in your mandate letter. We look forward to working together in a collaborative manner to meet the educational needs of students in our district and across the province. As one of the fastest growing districts in BC with students underrepresented in post-secondary education, we look forward to continuing progress to establish an additional post-secondary campus in the West Shore area.

As you are no doubt aware, the work being done amongst the south Island post-secondary institutions and the school district to provide an enhanced post-secondary presence on the Westshore has been a positive move forward for the community. In addition to the exciting prospect of a campus to support our graduates in fulfilling their study and career aspirations, it has also strengthened the working relationship amongst our organizations. Government's commitment to the initial phases of this work has been received positively by our community. We are committed to assisting in any way we can to support this project moving forward. The visible presence of a viable post-secondary option in the community will increase the ability for students to seamlessly transition from our schools into higher learning opportunities.

We are excited to continue our work together and look forward to assisting in any way we can. Please don't hesitate to reach out at any time. We will be pleased to share with you any initiatives that we undertake that connect to your work provincially. Please consider an open invitation from the Board to discuss important educational issues that align with your Ministry.

Sincerely,

Ravi Parmar  
Board Chair

Trustees: Bob Beckett, Wendy Hobbs, Bob Phillips, Dianna Seaton, Margot Swinburnson, Allison Watson

Copy:

John Horgan, MLA  
Mitzi Dean, MLA  
Jennifer Whiteside, Minister of Education  
Phillip Steenkamp, President of Royal Roads University  
Sheri Bell, President of Camosun College  
Kevin Hall, President of the University of Victoria  
Stewart Young, City of Langford