

**Rebner, Diana EDUC:EX**

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**From:** Bernier.MLA, Mike <Mike.Bernier.MLA@leg.bc.ca>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 11, 2015 11:08 AM  
**To:** s.22  
**Cc:** Minister, EDUC EDUC:EX; Minister, AVED AVED:EX  
**Subject:** RE: Academic upgrading

Hello s.22

Thank you for contacting our office regarding this issue. Unfortunately we can only deal with constituent and non-ministerial issues at the Constituency Office. As this may also fall under Advanced Education, I have forwarded your message to both of the Minister's email at [EDUC.Minister@gov.bc.ca](mailto:EDUC.Minister@gov.bc.ca) and [AVED.Minister@gov.bc.ca](mailto:AVED.Minister@gov.bc.ca) to be addressed.

Thank you,

Cindy Fisher  
 Constituency Assistant  
 HON. Mike Bernier, MLA - Peace River South  
 103 1100 Alaska Avenue, Dawson Creek, BC, V1G 4V8  
 Phone: 250-782-3430  
 Toll Free: 1-855-582-3430  
 Fax: 250-782-6454

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

**From:** s.22  
**Sent:** September 10, 2015 10:49 PM  
**To:** s.22; Bernier.MLA, Mike <Mike.Bernier.MLA@leg.bc.ca>;  
[premier@gov.bc.ca](mailto:premier@gov.bc.ca); Fleming.MLA, Rob <Rob.Fleming.MLA@leg.bc.ca>  
**Subject:** Academic upgrading

I am writing this email to enquire about what I consider to be an adjust situation. Our s.22  
 s.22 who struggled through s.22 in high school. s. received extra assistance from teachers and we funded  
 special tuition for s.2 outside of school. Unfortunately s.22 high  
 school still awarded s.2 Standing Granted (ST) and with this s. was allowed to graduate s.22  
 Over past two years s. has been unsure of what career s. might like to follow. s. worked part time last year s.22  
 s.22 tried to register for the s.22 course s.22 but did not get  
 accepted due to s. weak mark in s.22  
 After giving this some consideration s. enquired about doing academic upgrading in s.22 college. s. sat  
 the s.22 assessment (at a cost of \$30) and was informed s. needs to do possibly two levels of s.22 upgrading at the  
 college in order to be eligible.

In order to apply for the s.22 course, S. has had to pay an application fee of \$39.41 and a registration fee of \$175 (I do understand the need for these fees). But the actual upgrading fee is now \$816 each (this is about 3 or 4 times the cost of many third level courses s.22 We understand that this upgrading was available free up to this year and cannot understand how a basic upgrading course can cost so much.

s.2 completed and submitted the Adult Upgrading Grant (AUG) and has been refused due to s.22 This means that before S. can even be accepted for a third level course s.22 is already having to pay out approx \$2000 s.22 in order to complete the adult upgrading.

We are a family who have always understood and valued the role of education in our society.

s.22 We have tried to encourage s.22 to become more independent. S. is now working part time making approx s.22 s.22 We are trying to teach s.2 to be responsible and contribute to living at home on a very small salary.

Our provincial and federal governments are suppose to be encouraging education and increase employment, without creating and developing barriers to getting ahead. Why has the provincial government introduced these fees (I understand up until this year these basic upgrading courses were free).

As a society we are suppose to encourage independence and promote education. Instead there is now a huge financial barrier for a young person, who wants to upgrade s. basic education in order to qualify to get into a trade and to better s.22

I am sending this email to government personnel in the hope that there is somebody that can maybe help address this concern. We look forward to hearing back from somebody with some advice with regard to what direction to take from here.

Thank you for your consideration.

s.22

**Rebner, Diana EDUC:EX**

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**From:** AVED Colleges and Skills Development Branch AVED:EX  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 23, 2015 2:45 PM  
**To:** s.22  
**Cc:** OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX; Minister, EDUC EDUC:EX; Minister, AVED AVED:EX  
**Subject:** Our Ref. 100562 - Re: Adult Basic Education

September 23, 2015  
 Our Ref. 100562

s.22

Dear s.22

Thank you for your correspondence of September 10, 2015, sent to the Honourable Christy Clark, Premier, and the Honourable Mike Bernier, Minister of Education, regarding Adult Basic Education (ABE). As post-secondary education is the responsibility of the Honourable Andrew Wilkinson, Minister of Advanced Education, your e-mail has been forwarded to me for response on behalf of Minister Wilkinson.

I appreciate that you have taken the time to share your concerns with the Government of British Columbia regarding adult upgrading.

Government remains committed to the provision and support of Adult Upgrading programs in the province. Institutions continue to receive base funding that supports programs such as ABE.

The decision to allow institutions to charge tuition for ABE courses as of January 1, 2015, was made to ensure that these programs remain sustainable and available to British Columbians. Public post-secondary institutions may only charge up to a maximum tuition cost of \$1,600 per semester of full-time studies, which is approximately the same cost as other full-time, post-secondary studies.

You indicated in your correspondence that s.22 received a Standing Granted grade on s. Transcript of Grades, and graduated from high school.

s.22 may be able to access tuition-free, foundation-level courses at the school district to develop s.22 skills further. Foundation courses cover several levels of English, Math, Science, Social Studies and Information Technology. For further information on tuition-free, foundation-level courses, you may wish to visit the [Already Graduated?](#) webpage on the Government's *Education and Training* website. As well, to find schools and school district contacts, you may wish to visit the [BC K-12 School and District Contact Information](#) webpage.

If you have any questions about foundation-level courses and programs offered in school districts, please contact an Academic Advisor through the [Academic & Career Advising](#) webpage on the Government of British Columbia's LearnNowBC website. If you have any questions about ABE courses at a public post-secondary institution, please contact Ms. Tegan Tang, Education Officer, Colleges and Skills Development Branch, Ministry of Advanced Education, at [Tegan.Tang@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Tegan.Tang@gov.bc.ca) or at (250) 356-9733.

I hope this information is of assistance to you, and I wish s.22 well as s. pursues s. goals for the future.

Sincerely,

Nicola Lemmer  
Executive Director  
Colleges and Skills Development Branch  
Ministry of Advanced Education

pc: Honourable Christy Clark, Premier  
Honourable Mike Bernier, Minister of Education  
Honourable Andrew Wilkinson, Minister of Advanced Education

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

From: s.22

Sent: September 10, 2015 10:49 PM

To: s.22

Bernier.MLA, Mike <Mike.Bernier.MLA@leg.bc.ca>;

premier@gov.bc.ca; Fleming.MLA, Rob <Rob.Fleming.MLA@leg.bc.ca>

Subject: Academic upgrading

I am writing this email to enquire about what I consider to be an adjust situation. Our s.22 who struggled through s.22 in high school. s. received extra assistance from teachers and we funded special tuition for s.2 outside of school. Unfortunately s.22 s.22 high school still awarded s.2 Standing Granted (ST) and with this s.2 was allowed to graduate in s.22 Over past two years s.22 has been unsure of what career s.22 might like to follow. s.22 worked part time last year i s.22 tried to register for the s.22 course s.22 but did not get accepted due to s.22 weak mark in s.22 After giving this some consideration s.22 enquired about doing academic upgrading in s.22 college. s.22 sat the s.22 assessment (at a cost of \$30) and was informed s.22 needs to do possibly two levels of s.22 upgrading at the college in order to be eligible. In order to apply for the s.22 course, s.22 has had to pay an application fee of \$39.41 and a registration fee of \$175 (I do understand the need for these fees). But the actual upgrading fee is now \$816 each (this is about 3 or 4 times the cost of many third level courses s.22 We understand that this upgrading was available free up to this year and cannot understand how a basic upgrading course can cost so much. s.22 completed and submitted the Adult Upgrading Grant (AUG) and has been refused due to s.22 This means that before s.22 can even be accepted for a third level course (e.g. s.22 is already having to pay out approx \$2000 s.22 in order to complete the adult upgrading.

We are a family who have always understood and valued the role of education in our society. s.22

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I am sending this email to government personnel in the hope that there is somebody that can maybe help address this concern. We look forward to hearing back from somebody with some advice with regard to what direction to take from here.

Thank you for your consideration.  
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**Rebner, Diana EDUC:EX**

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**From:** s.22  
**Sent:** Friday, September 25, 2015 8:29 AM  
**To:** AVED Colleges and Skills Development Branch AVED:EX  
**Cc:** OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX; Minister, EDUC EDUC:EX; Minister, AVED AVED:EX; Tang, Tegan AVED:EX; Corrigan.MLA, Kathy LASS:EX; John Boraas; s.22  
**Subject:** Re: Our Ref. 100562 - Re: Adult Basic Education

Dear Ms Lemmer & Minister Wilkinson

Firstly thanks for responding to my email from the 10th September, but unfortunately it did not address the main points of my concern.

It was only due to the fact that s.22 required s.22 upgrading that I became aware of this change in provincial funding, but it has resulted in me becoming quite concerned in principle that the ministry has made these changes and removed the funding that was previously in place.

Your response does not answer the question as to why a government that should support and encourage education and thereby also support future employment and success, would remove the vital funding required to help facilitate this.

I do not agree with the statement from your email that Government remains committed to the provision and support of Adult Upgrading programs in the province, when the government has made such a drastic reduction in funding to these programs (over 3 million dollar cut at Camosun College I understand).

I take issue with the wording of the statement that 'The decision to allow institutions to charge tuition for ABE courses' when what the government has actually done is taken away the funding that was previously available. I also do not think it is appropriate that you apparently find it acceptable (from your email) that students who are still trying to achieve their basic level of secondary school education in order to have the appropriate admission requirements for the third level, should be paying the equivalent (per term) as a third level student (as other full-time, post-secondary studies).

Furthermore the cost of many adult upgrading courses (approx \$800) is much higher than many third level courses (\$200 or \$300). This puts a huge financial burden on these students before they have even had the chance to commence a third level course. Many of the students may not have been able to achieve the appropriate second level course through the typical channels for a variety of reasons (family circumstances, learning difficulties, illness etc).

You indicate in your email that these same courses are available at local school districts. I had already investigated s.22 taking the same courses through the local school district s.22 and was informed that these were no longer being offered free, due to the changes in financial support from the ministry for Adult Upgrading and that there would be approximately a \$500 charge for s.2 to do the course through their district. These same courses are not being offered free, for students that have graduated.

I was also informed by the district that due to this change in funding they had lost two teachers within the Adult Education program. I do not find this very supportive of Adult Upgrading.

As previously indicated I find the response from your ministry office quite unacceptable as it still does not address the main concern that these basic level courses (e.g. Grade 11 Math, English etc) are no longer being appropriately funded/subsidized and therefore represent a huge obstacle to young people going forth with their studies and their future careers and I would like to know how the government can justify putting these barriers in place.

My understanding is that BC is the only province charging fees for Adult Basic Education and I feel strongly that this situation needs to be revisited and reversed.

I would like to hear back from the ministry with regard to how this unacceptable situation will be addressed.

Regards s.22

On Sep 23, 2015, at 2:44 PM, AVED Colleges and Skills Development Branch AVED:EX  
<[AVED.CollegesandSkillsDevBr@gov.bc.ca](mailto:AVED.CollegesandSkillsDevBr@gov.bc.ca)> wrote:

September 23, 2015

Our Ref. 100562

s.22

E-mail Address: s.22

Dear s.22

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I hope this information is of assistance to you, and I wish s.22 well as s. pursues s.2 goals for the future.

Sincerely,

Nicola Lemmer

Executive Director

Colleges and Skills Development Branch

Ministry of Advanced Education

pc: Honourable Christy Clark, Premier

Honourable Mike Bernier, Minister of Education

Honourable Andrew Wilkinson, Minister of Advanced Education

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<Mike.Bernier.MLA@leg.bc.ca>; premier@gov.bc.ca; Fleming.MLA, Rob

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