



THE ASSOCIATION OF B.C. TEACHERS OF ENGLISH AS AN ADDITIONAL LANGUAGE

November 17, 2014

The Honourable Amrik Virk, MLA
BC Minister of Advanced Education
PO Box 9080 STN PROV GOVT
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2

Dear Minister Virk,

The Board of Directors of the Association of BC Teachers of English as an Additional Language, on behalf of its 1000 members, is writing to express our deep concern about the continued uncertainty of funding for English as a Second Language programming across our province.

Since 1967, BC TEAL has provided ESL instructors in the public, private, and not for profit sectors a professional forum to share knowledge and experience, to challenge theories and assumptions, and to learn about best practices in English language learning.

Language training is a critical pathway for citizens and newcomers as they engage, integrate, and contribute to our communities. We believe the looming funding shortfalls and cuts to post-secondary ESL programs will have serious social and economic repercussions for BC, and we hope you share our concern.

Students in post-secondary ESL programs want to upgrade their language skills and transition seamlessly into a wide range of academic, career, vocational, and trade programs. They want to find work and build their lives in BC, and we believe it is in the interests of all British Columbians that we continue to provide quality public post-secondary ESL education.

BC TEAL members have a great deal of professional expertise and on-the-ground experience to offer as your government considers our province's continuing investment in ESL training. We hope your ministry will invite our input to the consultation process, and we encourage your efforts to restore and sustain quality ESL education in BC.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Shawna Williams".

Shawna Williams, President
BC Association of Teachers of English as an Additional Language

cc The Honourable Premier Christy Clark, MLA, Premier of British Columbia
The Honourable Shirley Bond, MLA, Minister of Jobs, Tourism and Skills Training
Kathy Corrigan, MLA
Shane Simpson, MLA
Sandra Carroll, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Advanced Education
Athana Mentzelopoulos, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Jobs, Tourism & Innovation
BC Legislature Press Gallery
Jane Shin, MLA for Burnaby-Lougheed

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