

President: Karen Wong

Recording Secretary: Roberta Blanchard

April 29, 2014

On behalf of CUPE 3742 and CUPE 4991 we present the following to the Board.

Re: Provincial Funding for School Districts

We are writing to you today about the issue of Provincial Government funding levels to the School District and school districts across the province.

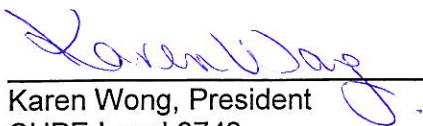
As you know, the level of funding to our public education system has been inadequate to meet population demands for more than 10 years. Now school districts are facing even bigger financial challenges, including increased utility and medical costs mandated by the Provincial Government and collective bargaining settlements that School Boards are expected to fund internally. Despite the hard work of successive school boards to keep our education system functioning, years of underfunding means a growing infrastructure deficit that must be addressed. School districts are struggling to meet their commitments to the communities they serve.

The importance of public education in our society cannot be understated. It is universal access to high quality public education that creates equality, helps us maintain our democratic society, and foster the potential of every British Columbian. Public education brings British Columbians together and enriches the communities we live in. And it is only through a vibrant public education system that we will be able to serve students and provide them with the tools they need to succeed and contribute to our community and province.


We want to thank you for your hard work as trustees. We appreciate the time and energy that it takes to play a vital role in our education system, especially in these challenging times. We also ask that you use your voice as trustees to call on the Minister of Education and the Provincial Government to adequately and sustainably fund our public education system by passing a resolution to this effect, and by requesting that others who believe in our education system join you in that call. We have provided a draft resolution that we hope will assist you in bringing this matter forward at a school board meeting.

Together we can strengthen our public education system for everyone.

Thank you for your consideration.



Karen Wong, President
CUPE Local 3742



Brian Trotter, President
CUPE Local 4991

Encl.
KW/jo

Draft Resolution – Sustainable Provincial Funding

Whereas:

British Columbia’s public education system is the best way to provide access to a high quality education for every British Columbian and:

Public Education is one of the simplest ways to build and maintain equality and our democratic society and;

Provincial funding has been cut and does not meet the financial needs of School Districts across BC and;

The cuts to education funding have created shortfalls in school districts that have resulted in school closures, program cuts, and reduced quality of education delivered to students and communities and;

The cuts to education funding have resulted in a growing infrastructure deficit in the school districts that is nearing crisis, and;

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Therefore be it resolved that:

The Board of School District 57 calls on the Minister of Education and the Provincial Government to provide adequate and sustainable funding to the school district to meet the educational needs of students and the community, including the cost of necessary seismic and infrastructure upgrades, provincially bargained collective agreement settlements, and inflationary and provincially/federally mandated increases to non-discretionary spending such as utilities.

Be it further resolved that:

The Board of School District 57 requests that other community partners in education, such as Parent Advisory Councils and local governments, support the school district’s call for an adequate and sustainably funded Public Education system that meets the needs of students and the community.