



Bulkley Valley Teachers' Union

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April 30, 2018

K-12 Funding Model Review Panel
Ministry of Education
PO Box 9045
Station Provincial Government
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2

Dear Panel Members,

The Bulkley Valley Teachers' Union has grave concerns about the future educational success of identified and designated students in School District 54, Bulkley Valley. The current funding model is inadequate in that it does not provide funding for High Incidence students, and the funds that are available for Low Incidence students are minimal and spread too thin.

We cannot express strongly enough the need to increased funding for ALL identified students. As well, the Ministry needs to provide clarity regarding the interpretation of class-composition language. A classroom that is comprised of 20% or more identified students, and one teacher with no assistance, is essentially a compromised learning environment where basic educational standards are sacrificed in the name of fiscal restraint.

Current Learning Support and Special Education funding does not meet the needs of designated students. Funding for a student with an autism diagnosis only covers a half day. How is that student expected to cope for the remainder of the day? At the same time, many struggling learners awaiting screening receive no support while they wait in a queue that can stretch for years. Kindergarten students with learning difficulties, who will not be screened until at least Grade One, may lose the educational benefits of an entire year.

While the Ministry of Education's discussion paper on the K-12 Funding Model contains some strategic opportunities to supply funding to support identified learners, the concept of outcome-driven funding is antithetical to the long view of incremental support for those who need it the most. Public education is not a business, it is a social investment in the future. We urge you to work with all stakeholders in this process, especially the BCTF, in order to develop a funding model that will support the success of all learners.

Sincerely

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Catherine Quanstrom
President