



**BURNABY TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION**  
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April 30th, 2018

Re: Burnaby Teachers' Association Funding Model Review Submission

The Burnaby Teachers' Association is pleased to provide a written submission to the Ministry of Education regarding the 2018 Funding Model Review.

Our interests in this particular review concern funding for students in Adult Education. Currently, adult students — those 19 years and older — are funded at a discount of approximately 46% compared to those under the age of 19. Additionally, the funding for those students who for various reasons fail to complete their course of study are discounted a further 50% compared to those who are able to complete.

In our conversations with those members of our association who teach adult students it is clear that their students require similar levels of planning and resources compared to non-adult students. In fact, many of these students are enrolled in adult education because they were unable to graduate due to reasons of socio-economic class, mental health, including stress, citizenship status, learning disabilities, or issues arising from their Aboriginal ancestry. Furthermore, our adult educators point out that those who fail to complete their course of study, and whose funding is therefore discounted 50%, often fail due to these same sobering reasons.

These two discounts cause further — sometimes catastrophic — instability in the lives of adult students who are very often already struggling against conditions conspiring to keep them from the education and training necessary to become productive and autonomous members of our society and economy. For example, because funding is contingent on future events like one student leaving before completion, classes may be cancelled mid-course, leaving all other students without an alternative and sometimes impacting graduation completion.

Additionally, because funding is discounted to begin with, districts feel unable to provide for teachers' professional development or even preparation time for their classes. This reality leaves those students at further disadvantage.

We are of the view that this funding model, based on age or course completion, creates unintended consequences based on socio-economic class, mental health, citizenship status, disabilities, and Indigenous ancestry.

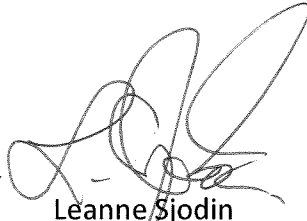
We further feel that harmonizing funding for adult students with all other students in both regards would not incur undue hardship on districts since the percentage of students affected is proportionately small.

We would be pleased to provide data and witness testimony to the Review Panel to substantiate our submission if the Panel wishes.

Sincerely,



Frank Bonvino  
BTA Local President



Leanne Sjodin  
BTA First Vice President



Kevin Potvin  
BTA Bargaining Chair