

April 30th, 2018

We are pleased to provide a written submission to the Ministry of Education panel regarding the K-12 Public Education Funding Model Review.

Our interest in this review concerns funding for students in School District Adult Education programs. Currently, all adult students — those 19 years and older — are funded at approximately 53% compared to those under the age of 19. Furthermore, the funding for graduated adult students is provided in two equal installments—one upon completion of 10% of the course, and the second upon completion of the course. Therefore, graduated adult students who for various legitimate reasons may not complete their course have their funding reduced a further 50%.

Nevertheless, all adult students require similar levels of planning, resources, time, support, and funding as school-aged students. In fact, many of these students are enrolled in adult education *because* they were unable to graduate due to reasons of socio-economic status, mental health, citizenship status, learning disabilities, or issues arising from their Aboriginal ancestry.

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

We are of the view that discriminatory funding based on age or course completion is equivalent to discrimination based on socio-economic class, mental health, citizenship status, disability, and Indigenous ancestry.

We further feel that harmonizing funding for adult students with school-aged students would not incur undue hardship on the province or school districts since the percentage of students affected is proportionately small, while the benefit would be disproportionately large. We therefore propose that funding for adult students be on par with that for school aged students.

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

Sincerely,

Laura Barker, Surrey Adult Education teacher

Liora Beder, Surrey Adult Education teacher

Frank Bonvino, President, Burnaby Teachers' Association

Terry Callender, Burnaby Adult Education teacher

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