

January 19, 2021

Honourable Jennifer Whiteside

Ministry of Education
PO Box 9045 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2
E: educ.minister@gov.bc.ca

RE: Public Education Funding for Anti-Racism Training

Dear Minister Whiteside,

This past year, racism impacting black, Indigenous, and other racialized groups in BC and across the world has resulted mass protests and extensive media attention. This exposure has shed light on issues of systemic racism in the province of British Columbia. The Vancouver Board of Education request that anti-racism training be provided on an ongoing, mandatory basis, to every employee in public schools in the Province of British Columbia to eliminate racism and discrimination and promote equality in our workplaces and our communities.

On October 26th, 2020, the Vancouver School Board passed the following motion:

That the Board of Education add an additional non-instructional day to the calendar in September 2021 for the purpose of completing anti-racism training for all staff. In addition, that the non-instructional day for anti-racism training be in place for all school districts and financed by the Ministry of Education.

We are planning to deliver training through pre-recorded sessions, including cultural humility, anti-oppression, active allyship (co-conspirators), micro aggressions and trauma.

The estimated budget to deliver one day of training is in excess of \$600,000 for school year 2021/2022. This estimate includes hiring of additional staff who would be responsible for supporting the ongoing implementation of mandatory training. This estimate includes training for all employee groups including teachers on call and part time teachers as well as training for new staff as part of the orientation and onboarding process.

Provincial wide outreach and research confirms different approaches are being taken to deliver anti-racism training in schools, ranging from taking advantage of pro-d day, to delivery of training over a series of days throughout the year, to community culture camps where there is a high population of Indigenous people.

Board of Education Trustees:

Carmen Cho – Board Chair,
Estrellita Gonzalez – Vice-Chair,
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Janet Fraser, Oliver Hanson, Barb Parrott,
Jennifer Reddy, Allan Wong

The Vancouver Board of Education believes anti-racism training is essential for all of our staff and we would appreciate the Ministry of Education's support in this important work.

With regards,



Carmen Cho
Board Chair

cc: VBE Trustees
Suzanne Hoffman, Superintendent
J. David Green, Secretary-Treasurer