



March 24, 2021

Ref: 243802

Carmen Cho, Chair
Board of Education
School District No. 39 (Vancouver)
Email: carmen.cho@vsb.bc.ca

Dear Ms. Cho:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Chief Educator role at the Ministry of Education.

I appreciate you writing to inform me of the Board's motion to request the reinstatement of a Chief Educator at the Ministry of Education. I value the Board's insights and feedback on how the Ministry can better support school districts and will take the Board's request under consideration.

The structure of the Ministry of Education, including its executive, has evolved over the years to optimize the Ministry's capacity to support the K–12 education system. While the Ministry does not currently have a Chief Educator on staff, it is my expectation that Ministry executive and staff build and maintain strong relationships with their school district colleagues and the sector. This is done in many ways including engaging secondees from the sector as well as working closely with Indigenous rightsholders and partners, either directly with provincial organizations or through a variety of committees and working groups. Currently, for example, the Ministry has engaged six secondees to support in a range of areas including Indigenous student success, MyEdBC and liaison with school districts.

The relationship between the Ministry and boards of education continues to be central to the effective governance of the K–12 education system. The Ministry strives to provide support and guidance by maintaining open channels of communication between the Ministry and school districts.

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Thank you for your ongoing commitment to improving the K–12 education system for students and their families. If you have any further questions regarding this matter, please contact Keith Godin, Assistant Deputy Minister, Governance and Analytics Division, by phone at (236) 478-3348.

Again, thank you for writing.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jennifer Whiteside". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being more prominent.

Jennifer Whiteside
Minister

pc: Keith Godin, Assistant Deputy Minister, Governance and Analytics Division