



July 4, 2023

Ref: 289228

Doug McPhee, Chair
Board of Education
School District No. 5 (Southeast Kootenay)
Email: c/o Jane.Nixon@sd5.bc.ca

Dear Doug McPhee:

Thank you for your letter of March 29, 2023, regarding the Funding Resources Response Letter to the BC School Trustees Association. I appreciate the work that boards of education do to develop their balanced budget each year.

The Ministry of Education and Child Care has recently heard from several school districts that inflation is a concern for them with the current rate of inflation having not been experienced for decades. According to school district financial statements, approximately 90 percent of operating costs are salaries and benefits. Wage increases for unionized staff has been funded by government and funding has been announced for the 2022/23 and 2023/24 school years. Funding for wage increases for excluded staff for the 2022/23 and 2023/24 school year.

The BC Government recently announced increases of approximately 9.4 percent to the per student rates for the 2023/24 school year bringing the Operating Grants to \$6.6 billion. We have also announced the Feeding Futures food programs which allocates \$71.5 million per year in ongoing funding to public schools to address food security and nutrition for those that need it most.

Again, thank you for writing.

Sincerely,

Rachna Singh
Minister

pc: Honourable Katrine Conroy, Minister of Finance