



SCHOOL DISTRICT 5

S O U T H E A S T K O O T E N A Y

May 11th, 2016

Trustees, SD69
c/o Eve Flynn, Board Chair
PO Box 430 100 Jensen Ave. E.
Parksville, BC V9P 2G5

Dear Board of Trustees, SD69:

RE: SD69 Board Letter of March 11, 2016 to Minister Bernier re: Minister's interview of February 23rd, 2016 on CBC's *Early Edition*

Thank you for writing your letter of March 11, 2016 to Minister Bernier re: Minister's interview of February 23rd, 2016 on CBC's *Early Edition*. Without your advocacy, our Board would not have been made aware of this particular interview.

Without your letter, our Advocacy Committee would not have recommended the following motions to our Board, which were carried at last night's Board meeting:

*That the Board of Education write a letter of thanks to SD69 for their letter of March 11, 2016 to Minister Bernier re: Minister's interview of February 23rd, 2016 on CBC's *Early Edition*, with cc's to the usual stakeholders and to Rick Cluff, host of the *Early Edition* on CBC Radio and that the Board express our own deep dissatisfaction with the comments of Minister Bernier during this interview.*

And

*That the Board write a letter to Minister Bernier, with cc's to the usual stakeholders and to Rick Cluff, host of the *Early Edition* on CBC Radio echoing our own dissatisfaction over his comment referencing stakeholders of public education as "a few groups" as well as other comments regarding funding of public education in the province.*

Frank Lento (Chair) • Trina Ayling • Bev Bellina • Jacqueline Blumhagen • Gail Brown
• Curtis Helgesen • Chris Johns • Doug McPhee • Patricia Whalen

We are grateful to your Board for putting a spotlight on Minister Bernier's comments and for focusing on his unacceptable characterization of 75,000 public school employees, the parents of over 550 thousand students and 416 School Board Trustees who –as *elected officials*—represent the **majority concerns** of their District's constituents –and is therefore representative of the majority concerns of **ALL BC constituents**.

Thank you again for writing this important letter. Our Board looks forward to the continued receipt of copies of letters of advocacy from your District.

Sincerely,



Frank Lento, Board Chair,
SD5

Cc: Mike Bernier, Minister of Education
Bill Bennett, MLA Kootenay East BC
John Horgan, Leader, BC New Democratic Party
Rob Fleming, Education Critic, BC New Democratic Party
Teresa Rezasnoff, President, BCSTA
BCSTA for distribution to member Boards of Education
Mike Lombardi, Chair, Vancouver School Board
Jim Iker, President BC Teachers' Federation
Nicole Makohoniuk, President, BCCPAC
Shelley Balfour & Christina Smith, CFTA Co-Chairs
Debbie Therrien, DPAC Chair
Aaron Thorn, President, SD5 Administrators' Association
Rick Cluff, Host, Early Edition, CBC Radio
Other Media

Frank Lento (Chair) • Trina Ayling • Bev Bellina • Jacqueline Blumhagen • Gail Brown
• Curtis Helgesen • Chris Johns • Doug McPhee • Patricia Whalen