



**SCHOOL DISTRICT 47
POWELL RIVER**

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August 25, 2014

The Honourable Christy Clark
Premier of the Province of British Columbia
P.O. Box 9048, Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2

The Honourable Peter Fassbender
Minister of Education
P.O. Box 9048, Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2

Dear Premier Clark and Minister Fassbender:

The Powell River Board of Education met today to discuss the ongoing labour dispute and the likelihood that our students will not be able to return to school next week.

Like other districts in the Province, School District #47 prides itself on a history of offering quality learning opportunities for our students and, as trustees, we are concerned that not only are these opportunities being jeopardized by a failure to reach a negotiated settlement with the teachers' union but moreover, the continuation of conflict is likely to have a negative effect upon relationships within our classrooms, our schools and our community for some time to come.

Over the past several months, we, like many other boards, have written letters to members of your government as well as to the President of the British Columbia Teachers' Federation, expressing our concerns and urging both parties to engage sincerely in the process of bargaining - a process that should be taking place at the bargaining table rather than through the media.

We believe that the decision to take public tax dollars that are intended to support public schools and redirect them to pay for daycare is both an inappropriate use of tax dollars as well as an insult to the public education system which, despite on-going funding challenges, provides high quality learning opportunities for our young people.

Further, we believe that creating and promoting a parent information website a week prior to the scheduled beginning of a new school year indicates that the government is making clear to teachers and to the public that it is not prepared to move forward to resolve the on-going dispute.

As strong advocates for children and for public education, we strongly urge your government to demonstrate a willingness to move toward a resolution of the conflict, and to support public education, financially and ideologically.

Yours truly

Dr. Jeanette Scott, Chair
Powell River Board of Education

cc: Nicholas Simons, MLA
Cathy Fisher, President, PRDTA
All Boards