



**SCHOOL DISTRICT 47
POWELL RIVER**

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August 1, 2014

The Honourable Michael deJong
Minister of Finance
P.O. Box 9048, Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2

Dear Minister DeJong

The Powell River Board of Education would like to express its shock and disappointment at the news which we received yesterday.

Like other school districts in the Province, we pride ourselves on offering quality educational opportunities for our young people, even in the face of on-going financial challenges. Over the years of conflict between the BCTF and the Provincial Government, we have seen increasing stress placed on our students, parents, staff and community. This year has been particularly difficult with year end activities curtailed and a failure to complete proper examinations, report cards and forward records of students wishing to enter post-secondary institutions. In addition, summer programmes have had to be cancelled and now we are having to tell our incoming international students that they will probably not be able to register for the fall semester.

As strong advocates for children and public education, aware that British Columbia schools have had, deservedly, a fine reputation in the past, we do not understand why the government would assume that transferring tax dollars, collected for public schools, would appropriately be redirected to daycare.

Surely, if there were a willingness to move those funds into the Learning Improvement Fund, this would be a sign not only of the government's willingness to move toward a resolution of the conflict but moreover of its support for public education.

Yours truly



Dr. Jeanette Scott, Chair
Powell River Board of Education

cc: Minister of Education
All Boards