



*SCHOOL DISTRICT NO 47 (POWELL RIVER)
BOARD OF EDUCATION
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August 29, 2013

The Honourable Peter Fassbender
Minister of Education
P.O. Box 9045 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC
V8W 9E2

Dear Honourable Minister Fassbender

Congratulations on your appointment as Minister of Education. The Board of Education of School District 47 (Powell River) looks forward to working with you and the Ministry staff.

The Board acknowledges your intention to achieve a 10 year labour agreement with teachers. This intention does present many challenges and we wish to emphasize that the 10 year agreement needs to be achieved only through a freely negotiated settlement.

While we support government bargaining directly with the BCTF, this should not happen without full consultation with the school boards of the province. While you've emphasized the importance of maintaining a co-governance model, it is important that this is modeled in practice. The recent decisions you have made regarding BCPSEA certainly is not our expectation around co-governance. It is our request that in the future we will be consulted and have opportunities for input into decisions affecting our local school district which would reflect your commitment to co-governance.

We would also like to enquire as to the status of the bargaining framework. We were encouraged to review a framework that would minimize disruption to students during the school year. We believe that it is imperative that you support us in creating an atmosphere that will minimize disruption to students due to labour unrest.

We sincerely hope that with your intervention we will have labour peace as soon as possible. We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours truly

Dr. Jeanette Scott, Chair
Powell River Board of Education

c: BCSTA Boards of Education