



Letter from the Board of Education
May 10, 2023

Honorable Rachna Singh
Minister of Education and Child Care
Government of British Columbia
PO Box 9045 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, B.C. V8W 9E2

RE: Request for Additional Financial Supports for Inclusive Before and After School Care

Dear Minister Singh,

On behalf of the Board of Education of School District No. 68 (Nanaimo-Ladysmith), we plan to highlight the need for additional financial resources to cover the increased costs associated with providing accessible and inclusive before and after school care for children with disabilities, diversities and extra support needs within our school district.

Nanaimo Ladysmith Public Schools is committed to providing an inclusive learning environment where all students have equal opportunities to succeed. The Board also recognizes that before and after school care is a critical component of supporting children's educational journey while enabling families to actively participate in the workforce. However, providing comprehensive care for children with disabilities, diversities and extra support needs presents unique challenges and requires additional resources to ensure every child's needs are met.

While our dedicated staff works tirelessly to provide appropriate care, we are faced with a funding allocation that creates a challenge to adequately cover the additional expenses associated with accommodating these students in before and after school care programs.

The increased costs may arise from various factors, which may include the hiring of specialized staff, training programs, adaptive equipment and materials, and physical accessibility modifications. Additionally, our early childhood educators may have to implement individualized care plans for each student which can further add to the demands on our resources.

Investments in inclusive before and after school care will ensure that all students have equal opportunities for growth, development, and social interaction. By fostering an environment that accommodates their diverse needs, we aim to promote their sense of belonging and enhance their overall educational experience.

The Board respectfully requests your assistance in securing additional financial resources to address the growing demands for inclusive before and after school care. These funds will enable us to hire and train specialized staff, acquire necessary equipment and make physical accessibility modifications where required. With your support, we can provide a nurturing and inclusive environment that empowers all students, regardless of their abilities or challenges.

We appreciate your attention to this matter and the work you do in advocating for the needs of children in our province. We would be more than willing to provide any additional information or documentation that you may require to support our request.

Thank you for your time and consideration. We look forward to your positive response and collaboration in making inclusive before and after school care a reality for all children.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Greg Keller". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Greg" and last name "Keller" clearly distinguishable.

Greg Keller
Board Chair