



British Columbia
School Trustees
Association

September 16, 2024

The Honourable Rachna Singh
Minister of Education and Child Care
PO Box 9151 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria B.C. V8W9H1
ECC.Minister@gov.bc.ca

Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy (Climate Action Secretariat)
Po Box 9339 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria B.C. V8W9M1
ClimateActionSecretariat@gov.bc.ca

Dear Minister Singh and the Climate Action Secretariat,

Subject: Funding CleanBC Goals and Increase Capital Funding to Retrofit Existing Buildings & Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions

At the British Columbia School Trustees Association's 2024 annual general meeting, our members representing all 60 boards of education in B.C. passed the following resolutions:

"That the BCSTA requests that the Ministry of Education and Child Care and the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy, develop a provincially-funded plan, in collaboration with boards of education, to achieve the CleanBC goals."

"That the BCSTA advocate to the Ministry of Education and Child Care and Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy to increase capital funding for retrofitting of existing buildings in order to ensure school districts are able to meet their 2030 Greenhouse Gas emission targets as required by BC's Climate Change Accountability Act."

Boards of education across B.C. are dedicated to fulfilling CleanBC goals, but consistent obstacles related to funding and planning are slowing their progress. On behalf of our members, the BCSTA is calling on the Ministry of Education and Child Care and the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy to create a provincially funded plan that actively involves boards of education in reaching these targets. Additionally, we are advocating for increased capital funding specifically for retrofitting existing school buildings. This work is critical for school districts to meet the 2030 greenhouse gas (GHG) emission targets set by B.C.'s Climate Change Accountability Act.

Sustainability is a necessity for the future well-being of students and communities, and school districts must be part of a comprehensive effort to address climate change. BCSTA recognizes that increased funding from the ministry totalling over 13 million over the past year for the Bus Acquisition and Carbon Neutral Capital programs will provide significant assistance. The association also appreciates that School Enhancement Program funding and Annual Facility Grant funding may be utilized to address energy efficiency concerns in existing buildings.



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However, fully addressing these concerns demands careful financial planning across all districts, and many are feeling the strain of this additional responsibility despite these supports.

The *2022 Climate Change Accountability Report* highlighted that 80% of GHG emissions from B.C.'s 60 school districts stem from school buildings. To meet legally required GHG reductions without compromising student services, school districts urgently need targeted provincial funding for retrofitting projects. Boards of education are committed to addressing these goals, and the BCSTA's Capital Working Group has outlined key recommendations in the enclosed report, which includes 11 climate change strategies that support the need for immediate action. We appreciate your attention to this pressing issue and look forward to your support in helping school districts meet these requirements.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carolyn Broady". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Carolyn Broady
President
British Columbia School Trustees Association

Motion: A202426 & A202427

Enclosure: Original motion rationales
Making Progress Toward Sustainable Schools: Next Steps

CC: Kevin Jardine, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy
Jennifer McCrea, Acting Deputy Minister of Education and Child Care
BCSTA member boards of education
Suzanne Hoffman, CEO, BCSTA
BCSTA Board of Directors

Funding CleanBC Goals

26.

Category: School Premises, Facilities, Services

Motion #: 26 : A202426

Meeting: AGM 2024

Sponsor: Thompson Okanagan Branch

Action: *not specified*

- May 2024: met with Ministry staff re: motions

Category:

Outcome:

- June 2024: CWG report released, media coverage (mix of print and radio) - 10

Disposition: Carried

Motion as Adopted:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That the BCSTA requests that the Ministry of Education and Child Care and the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy, develop a provincially-funded plan, in collaboration with boards of education, to achieve the CleanBC goals.

Motion as Presented:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That the BCSTA requests that the Ministry of Education and Child Care and the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy, develop a provincially-funded plan, in collaboration with boards of education, to achieve the CleanBC goals.

Rationale:

The development and implementation of sustainable practices, energy-efficient infrastructure, and environmentally focused curriculum to reduce carbon footprint is key in the work that needs to be done.

Environmental sustainability is crucial for the well-being of future generations. Education plays a vital role in shaping environmentally conscious individuals.

The greater frequency of fires, floods and other natural disasters requires a comprehensive carbon reduction effort within the sector.

Promotion of a greener and a more sustainable educational environment benefits current and future students.

Reference(s):

Rationale: Capstone project – links



<https://blogs.ubc.ca/melceencapstoneprojects/ceen2022capstoneprojects/reducing-emissions-inbc-public-schools>

CleanBC

<https://cleanbc.gov.bc.ca/>

CleanBC Roadmap to 2030

https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/environment/climate-change/action/cleanbc/cleanbc_roadmap_2030.pdf