



British Columbia
School Trustees
Association

March 6, 2015

Betty Baxter, Board Chair of SD46 (Sunshine Coast)
PO Box 220, Gibsons, BC V0N 1V0

Dear Ms. Baxter,

The BCSTA Board of Directors has had an opportunity to review your letter providing feedback to the Co-governance Memorandum of Understanding signed in December, and I would like to now provide the following response to your concerns. First and most importantly, the Board of Directors and I can assure you that the MOU document and the operationalization of the intent are subject to both review and revision. It was never the intent of the parties that the wording, nor the intentions and actions that flow from the document, would be firm and unchangeable over time. That being said, the Board believes it was important to establish a starting point that officially recognized the roles of the two separate but interlocking parties in governing the K-12 education system: the BC School Trustees Association representing member Boards of Education and the Ministry of Education.

Significant work remains to be done in building a shared view of how co-governance can and should work. The BCSTA Board of Directors will continue to consult with member Boards as to how the Memorandum can be shaped and applied over time. We will also continue to put forward to government our positions and expectations as to how our working relationship under the MOU will operate. This will include reviewing concerns such as those that you raise: surprise policy announcements and maintaining the right to put forward independent and perhaps contradictory positions on any variety of matters.

The BCSTA and Boards must have an effective working relationship with the Ministry of Education where the governance roles of both parties are recognized and respected. Mindful work remains to be done in this area. How that can be happen and what it should look like remain subject to both change and member input. We look forward to future opportunities to discuss our common vision for that co-governance relationship with you and your fellow Board members in future.

Thank you for raising both your concerns and suggestions on how the MOU should be revised and implemented as we move forward.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Teresa Rezanoff", written over a light blue circular stamp.

Teresa Rezanoff

President

BC School Trustees Association

Cc: Member Boards of Education