

FIRST NATIONS LEADERSHIP COUNCIL



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April 16, 2021

Bill Guerin
A/RDG ISC BC Region
600-1138 Melville St
Vancouver, BC, V6E 4S3
bill.guerin@canada.ca

RE: BC First Nation School Capital Funding Model

Dear Bill,

We are writing to advise you that the First Nations Leadership Council (FNLC) organizations – BC Assembly of First Nations (BCAFN), Union of BC Indian Chiefs (UBCIC) and First Nations Summit (FNS) - recently passed resolutions in support of the First Nations Education Steering Committee (FNESEC) and its Advisory Committee to develop a proposal for a BC-specific funding model for First Nation school capital.

In May 2019, FNESEC, the Government of BC, and the Government of Canada formally signed the BC Tripartite Education Agreement (BCTEA), committing the parties to work together to make systemic shifts to support improved educational outcomes for First Nations students regardless of where they live or attend school, and to contribute to reconciliation in education for First Nations across BC.

Although BCTEA includes annual funding for school operations, including the provision of education, transportation, and routine operations and maintenance (O & M), it does not include funding for capital infrastructure projects such as new buildings and/or additions, major repairs and renovations, or teacherages.

BCTEA will expire on June 30, 2023 and FNESEC has consistently advocated the need to advance negotiations for a new capital funding model as part of BCTEA renewal. In preparation and under direction of First Nations, FNESEC is developing a new proposed capital funding model that is informed by data and other capital funding models with specific adaptations to reflect the unique needs of BC First Nations.

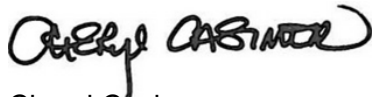
Since September 2020, FNESEC has made several requests for data about First Nations schools' assets which is collected and managed by Indigenous Services Canada (ISC). Though FNESEC has had some discussions with BC regional officials, no data has been shared to date. As a result, this important work has been significantly delayed. We therefore request that ISC work expediently to respond positively to FNESEC's request for community level data to advance the development of the proposal.

Enclosed are the resolutions from our respective organizations to support FNEESC to engage in this work. We look forward to hearing from you.

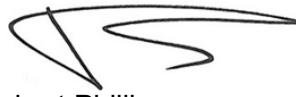
Sincerely,

FIRST NATIONS LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

On behalf of the FIRST NATIONS SUMMIT



Cheryl Casimer



Robert Phillips



Lydia Hwitsum


On behalf of the UNION OF BC INDIAN CHIEFS



Grand Chief Stewart Phillip



Chief Don Tom



Kukpi7 Judy Wilson

On behalf of the BC ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS:



Regional Chief Terry Teegee

Enclosures (3)

Resolutions from BC Assembly of First Nations, First Nations Summit and Union of BC Indian Chiefs

CC: Tyrone McNeil, FNEESC President
Wendy Rogers, Director, Programs and Partnerships, ISC
Paula Santos, Director Community Infrastructure, ISC
Alison Olney, Manager, Programs and Partnerships, ISC