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December 16, 2019

The Honourable Rob Fleming,
Minister of Education
P.O. Box 9045 STN PROV GOVT
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2

Dear Minister Fleming,

Re: Shoulder Tapper Funding

School District No. 52 (Prince Rupert) has been very pleased with the financial support we have received for the “Shoulder Tapper” position in our district. This position has provided significant benefits for our district, particularly for our middle school and secondary school students to explore their career opportunities. Most of our students have attended events in their schools, in the broader community, and elsewhere in the Province through this funding.

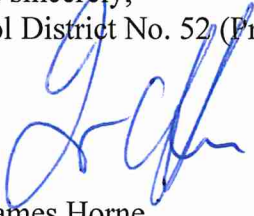
In particular, School District No. 52 strategically allocated money for student travel to overcome barriers to rural and Indigenous career development. Students participated in Health, Social Sciences and Trades plus Student for the Day opportunities at Coast Mountain College in Terrace, to name a few. Other students travelled outside of our region to the #BCTECH Summit and Doors Open to Technology events that included tours of Lower Mainland post-secondary institutions.

Providing these opportunities is particularly important given that 64% of the district’s students are Aboriginal. Across the Province there are tremendous opportunities for all students, and many of the Aboriginal students from our area return home to their communities after they have trained for the career they want.

For the last five years this funding has come to the district through the Northern Development Initiative Trust. On behalf of the Board of Education, I am writing to you in support of the November 4, 2019 letter written to you by the Trust, seeking a commitment from the Ministry of Education to continue this funding.

Prince Rupert is a remote community, and travel to major centers is both time consuming and expensive. The Shoulder-Tapper fund has provided many of our students their first opportunity to visit the Lower Mainland, opening their eyes to the educational and career opportunities available in British Columbia.

Yours sincerely,
School District No. 52 (Prince Rupert)



Mr. James Horne
Chair

cc: The Honourable Melanie Mark, Minister of Advanced Education, Skills and Training
MLA Jennifer Rice
Willow MacDonald, Board Chair, School District No. 27 (Cariboo-Chilcotin)
Gloria Jackson, Board Chair, School District No. 28 (Quesnel)
Nicola Koroluk, Board Chair, School District No. 49 (Central Coast)
Roeland Denooij, Board Chair, School District No. 50 (Haida Gwaii)
Jennifer Williams, Board Chair, School District No. 54 (Bulkley Valley)
Tim Bennett, Board Chair, School District No. 57 (Prince George)
Chad Anderson, Board Chair, School District No. 59 (Peace River South)
Ida Campbell, Board Chair, School District No. 60 (Peace River North)
Valerie Adrian, Board Chair, School District No. 74 (Gold Trail)
Lind Dolen, Board Chair, School District No. 81 (Fort Nelson)
Shar McCrory, Board Chair, School District No. 82 (Coast Mountains)
Yvonne Tashoots, Board Chair, School District No. 87 (Stikine)
Steve Davis, Board Chair, School District No. 91 (Nechako Lakes)
Elsie Davis, Board Chair, School District No. 92 (Nisga'a)
BCSTA