



January 8, 2020

The Honourable Rob Fleming
Minister of Education
PO Box 9045, Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2

Dear Minister Fleming,

We would like to take this opportunity to express our gratitude to you and the Ministry staff for supporting our participation in the Inclusive Education Working Group that is part of the Funding Model Review currently underway. This was an important process for our organization and all of our members who are represented by Inclusion BC.

Families who are contacting Inclusion BC about the funding model are worried that the new prevalence model will result in a lack of support for their children with diverse needs.

It is our desire to be able to allay these fears as much as possible by providing transparent and accurate information about the model.

We understand details are still being discussed by government. However, we would like to emphasize the need to inform all parties affected by any changes, including families and school boards, about the specific changes well in advance of the full roll-out.

The Working Group's final report includes key considerations for potential implementation of a new funding model, specifically around the inclusive education prevalence model. These include:

1. **Clear economic modelling prior to full implementation**

Clear economic modelling needs to be made publicly available prior to full implementation so that everyone can understand how funding will flow to districts and classrooms that include students with diverse needs. This will minimize concerns that individualized student needs will be ignored.

2. **Transition/Timing**

- **Prioritized Support:** Clarity on how the new model allocates appropriate funding and helps to fulfill a commitment to prioritizing support for individuals and communities with the highest needs;
- **implementation Assistance:** Confirmation that support required to assist districts with the implementation of a new model will be worked out with each district prior to full implementation;
- **Specific Timelines:** Provide specific timelines for funding implementation moving forward, including stakeholder communication and engagement.

Finally, there was consensus amongst the working group that continued engagement with all stakeholders once the model is rolled out is needed. Ministry staff were also keen on having ongoing involvement with the education sector and a commitment was made by you at our June 27th meeting in your office. An Inclusive Education Roundtable would honour the input of stakeholders and ensure that factual information is made available.

Restraint and Seclusion

We would also like to take this time to follow-up on the Restraint and Seclusion work that we have undertaken. All school districts were requested by your Ministry to have policies in place that were based upon the 2015 Ministry Guidelines on the use of restraint and seclusion. In order to learn the status of this request Inclusion BC was able to engage a Graduate Student from UBC to complete a scan of all 60 school districts in BC.

The results of this review are as follows:

- As of November 2019, 55 school districts have adopted a policy on the use of restraint and seclusion.
- Four school districts have a draft policy or are in the approval process
- One school district did not respond to our review.

We are currently analyzing the policies for alignment with the guidelines and will be able to share this with you soon.

Once again, thank you for engaging with Inclusion BC on matters related to inclusive education. We look forward to continued conversations and as such would like to request a follow-up meeting with you at this time. Please contact Semanthi Wanni at swanni@inclusionbc.org to arrange a date and time at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,



Karla Verschoor
Executive Director, Inclusion BC

Cc: Scott MacDonald, Deputy Minister
Jennifer McCrea, Assistant Deputy Minister