



February 22, 2022

Ref: 250934

Charlene McKay, Chair
Board of Education
School District No. 68 (Nanaimo-Ladysmith)
Email: Charlene.Mckay@sd68.bc.ca

Dear Ms. McKay:

I am responding to a letter of October 15, 2021, from Mark Walsh, Secretary-Treasurer, requesting approval for the Nanaimo-Ladysmith Board of Education to underspend its targeted Indigenous Education funding amount for the 2020/21 school year. As this is targeted funding under Section 106.4 of the *School Act*, Boards of Education must request permission from the Minister of Education to underspend their target on an annual basis. As Deputy Minister of Education, I am pleased to respond on the Minister's behalf.

Pursuant to Section 106.4(2) of the *School Act*, approval is granted for the Board to underspend its 2020/21 school year Indigenous Education target in an amount up to \$457,473. This variation of direction is granted on the condition that these funds will be brought forward and added to the 2021/22 school year Indigenous Education targeted amount to be expended on Indigenous Education programs. I encourage you to discuss your Indigenous Education targeted funding plans with the District Indigenous Education Council or equivalent, including the Nations and Métis Chartered communities whom you serve, to ensure respectful and meaningful engagement with Indigenous Peoples on the use of these funds.

The attached Appendix contains statistics about your School District's Indigenous student outcomes. I hope we will see you build upon these achievements and strive for strong academic results for all your students in the current and subsequent school years.

If you have any questions or require further information regarding the financial reporting of Indigenous Education expenses, please contact Ian Aaron, Director, School District Financial Reporting, Resource Management Division, by phone at (250) 415-1073 or by email at Ian.Aaron@gov.bc.ca.

If you have any questions or require further information regarding how the Ministry is supporting delivery of Indigenous Education programs, please contact Nicole Ryan, Manager, Indigenous Education, Learning Division, by phone at (250) 415-8780 or by email at Nicole.Ryan@gov.bc.ca.

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Again, thank you for writing.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C.A. Zacharuk". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Christina" and last name "Zacharuk" clearly distinguishable.

Christina Zacharuk
Deputy Minister

Attachment: Appendix

pc: Scott Saywell, Superintendent of Schools
Mark Walsh, Secretary-Treasurer
Ricki Bartlett, Aboriginal Education Contact
Nicole Ryan, Manager, Indigenous Education, Learning Division, Ministry of Education
Jonathan Foweraker, Executive Director, Resource Management Division, Ministry of Education
Ian Aaron, Director, School District Financial Reporting, Resource Management Division

Appendix – SD68 (Nanaimo-Ladysmith) Indigenous Student Achievements

In 2020/21 on the Grade 4 Reading Comprehension assessment, 66% of Indigenous students were “On Track” or “Extending” expectations on the revised FSA compared to 75% of Non-Indigenous students in SD68.

In 2020/21 on the Grade 4 Numeracy assessment, 62% of Indigenous students were “On Track” or “Extending” expectations on the revised FSA compared to 67% of Non-Indigenous students in SD68.

In 2020/21 on the Grade 7 Reading Comprehension assessment, 58% of Indigenous students were “On Track” or “Extending” expectations on the revised FSA compared to 78% of Non-Indigenous students in SD68.

In 2020/21 on the Grade 7 Numeracy assessment, 38% of Indigenous students were “On Track” or “Extending” expectations on the revised FSA compared to 66% of Non-Indigenous students in SD68.

Six-year completion rate for Indigenous students has increased from 52.1% in 2016/17 to 80.3% in 2020/21.

Six-year completion rate for Non-Indigenous students have increased from 83.0% in 2016/17 to 90.8% in 2020/21.

Of 117 Indigenous graduates from SD68 in 2015/16, 45 (38%) immediately transitioned to B.C. public post-secondary institutions, and 4 years after grad, 68 (58%) had transitioned into post-secondary.

Of 858 Non-Indigenous graduates from SD68 in 2015/16, 386 (45%) immediately transitioned to B.C. public post-secondary institutions, and 4 years after grad, 541 (63%) had transitioned into post-secondary.

Of 147 Indigenous non-graduates from SD68 in 2015/16, 16 (11%) immediately transitioned to B.C. public post-secondary institutions, and 4 years after grad, 31 (21%) had transitioned into post-secondary.

Of 456 Non-Indigenous non-graduates from SD68 in 2015/16, 17 (4%) immediately transitioned to B.C. public post-secondary institutions, and 4 years after grad, 45 (10%) had transitioned into post-secondary.