



SCHOOL DISTRICT 5

S O U T H E A S T K O O T E N A Y

May 16, 2024

Roger Bortignon – Program Head
Technology Teacher Education Program
British Columbia Institute of Technology
3700 Willingdon Ave., Building: SW9 Office: 201Q
Burnaby, BC V5G-3H2

Dear Mr. Bortignon,

RE: Letter of Support for British Columbia Institute of Technology request to Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Training

Thank you for contacting Viveka Johnson, Superintendent for School District 5 (SD5), Southeast Kootenay, via email, on April 11, 2024, to outline your proposal to expand the training of Technology Education teachers in BC with an aim to increase the number of graduates and provide qualified educators to fill the many teacher vacancies in school districts across the province.

We are encouraged to hear that the British Columbia Institute of Technology (BCIT) now has the capacity to support a request to the Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Training (MAEST) for funding to support additional students to your technology teacher training program and are happy to support this endeavour, and your request to the MAEST.

At the School District 5 (SD5), Southeast Kootenay public Board Meeting of May 14th, 2024, the Board carried the following motion:

THAT a letter of support be written by the Board of Education to BCIT in support of the expansion and improvement of the program to increase trades and technical teachers in British Columbia.

We are hopeful that your request will be thoughtfully considered, and approved by the MAEST, as our Board believes that any additional spaces you are able to offer will be quickly filled, and that these graduates will greatly help to alleviate the pressures felt by most –if not all—school districts across the province as they struggle to fill these teaching positions. Until these positions are filled by qualified professionals, our students

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will continue to be disadvantaged in their K – 12 education and limited in their post-graduation opportunities.

Our Board wishes to thank you for your efforts and wishes you every success in this endeavour.

Sincerely,

Doug McPhee, Board Chair

Cc*: Hon. David Eby, Premier, Province of BC
Hon. Melanie Mark, Minister, Advanced Education and Skills Training
Hon. Rachna Singh, Minister, Education and Child Care
Kevin Falcon, Leader, BC United Party
John Rustad, Leader, BC Conservative Party
Sonia Furstenu, Leader, BC Green Party
Tom Shypitka, MLA Kootenay East
Carolyn Broady, President, BCSTA
BCSTA for distribution to member Boards of Education
Dawn Lang, President, Kootenay Boundary Branch (KBB), for distribution to KBB members
Clint Johnston, President BC Teachers' Federation
Laura Ward, President, BCCPAC
Shelley Balfour & Adrienne Demers, CFTA Co-Chairs, for distribution to staff representatives
Sarah Mooy, SD5 CUPE President
Lies Salvador, DPAC Chair
Aaron Thorn, President, SD5 Administrators' Association
Chris Walker/Corey Bullock, CBC Radio
Dennis Walker, 107.5 Today FM Radio
Wylie Henderson, Rewind Radio 102.9
Jeff Johnson, Wild B104 Radio
Josiah Spyker/Ryley McCormack, 107.5 Today FM
Barry Coulter/Trevor Crawley, Cranbrook Daily Townsman
Ian Cobb, e-know Online News
Joshua Fischlin, Fernie Free Press
SD5 Trustees and District Management

*This correspondence is public and transparent. Please feel free to share and/or respond with comment.

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