<p style="text-align:center;color:red;">**DRAFT**</p>

LETTER TO GREATER VICTORIA SCHOOL DISTRICT 61 BOARD OF EDUCATION:

Dear Greater Victoria School District 61 Board of Education Chair Nicole Duncan and Trustees,

Key components of the Township of Esquimalt's 2023-2026 Council Priorities involve good governance and organizational excellence as well as strong relationships and partnerships.

In supporting these priorities, the Township of Esquimalt Council passed the following motion at our September 23, 2024 meeting:

"The Township of Esquimalt formally request that the Greater Victoria School District 61 Board of Education consider a Trustee Electoral Area election model to be implemented in time for the 2026 Local Government/Board of Education elections."

The vast majority of B.C. school districts that serve multiple municipalities, including three of the four school districts within the Capital Regional District, have already implemented a Trustee Electoral Area election model whereby local communities each separately elect their own School Trustee representative(s) to help optimize fair and equitable school board representation among the various communities. In addition to achieving more geographically balanced representation, such a model would also help make school trustee elections more efficient for each administering municipality as well as improving access and reducing barriers for school trustee candidates while strengthening connectedness between local candidates and their community's voters.

The Township of Esquimalt recognizes and respects your Board of Education's autonomy in selecting the best representation model for electing school trustees within Greater Victoria School District 61.

As such, please give consideration of our formal request of your Board. If you are agreeable to consideration of our request, we anticipate and appreciate that your consideration will require consultation with each municipality and Indigenous community included within School District 61 as well as approval from the Ministry of Education. By giving this matter consideration now, you are enabled with sufficient time to implement a Trustee Electoral Area model for the 2026 Local Government/Board of Education elections in the event that you ultimately opt to make this change for the school district in which we all share.

Mayor Barb Desjardins
Township of Esquimalt

Encl:
Appendix A: Election Systems for CRD School Districts
Appendix B*:* List of BC School Districts that Elect Trustees Proportionally By Community/Trustee Electoral Areas

Appendix A: **Election Systems for CRD School Districts.**

There are four school districts within the CRD which elect school board trustees as follows:

Greater Victoria School District #61:
- 9 trustee positions elected 100% At-Large.
- No local community/geographic representation guaranteed.

Sooke School District #62:

- 7 trustee positions elected separately from two Trustee Electoral Areas:

Trustee Electoral Areas	Number of Trustees
Belmont Zone – Langford, Colwood, Metchosin, and a portion of Highlands	Four
Milnes Landing Zone - Sooke, Port Renfrew	Three
TOTAL	**Seven**

Saanich School District #63:

- 7 trustee positions elected separately from four Trustee Electoral Areas:

Trustee Electoral Areas	Number of Trustees
District of North Saanich	Two
Town of Sidney	One
District of Central Saanich	Two
Partial District of Saanich	Two
TOTAL	**Seven**

Gulf Islands School District #64:

- 7 trustee positions elected separately from five Trustee Electoral Areas:

Trustee Electoral Areas	Number of Trustees
Salt Spring Island	Three
Galiano Island	One
Pender Islands	One
Saturna Island	One
Mayne Island	One
TOTAL	**Seven**

Appendix B: **List of BC School Districts that Elect Trustees Proportionally By Community/Trustee Electoral Areas:**

In B.C., there are 60 public school districts of which 44 serve multiple municipalities with representation elected proportionally by community with the Trustee Electoral Area model. The remaining 16 school districts predominately serve only one municipality and, therefore, appropriately elect school trustees at-large within their single municipality (e.g. Vancouver District 39, Burnaby District 41, Richmond District 38, etc.).

In contrast to School District 61, almost all other B.C. school districts that serve more than one municipality have implemented an equitable election by the Trustee Electoral Area system including as follows:

SCHOOL DISTRICT	Separated Trustee Electoral Areas for Electing School Trustees
District 5 - Southeast Kootenay	Five Electoral Areas: • City of Cranbrook • District of Sparwood • City of Fernie • District of Elkford • Regional District of East Kootenay Rural Area
District 6 - Rocky Mountain	Five Electoral Areas: • City of Kimberley • Town of Golden • District of Invermere • Village of Canal Flats • Village of Radium Hot Springs
District 8 - Kootenay Lake	Six Electoral Areas: • City of Nelson • Town of Creston • Salmo, Taghum & Blewett • Village of Kaslo & North Rural Zone • Slocan Valley / Bonnington • South Rural Zone
District 10 - Arrow Lakes	Four Electoral Areas: • Ward system with trustees elected by 4 separated geographic zones
District 20 – Kootenay Columbia	Six Electoral Areas: • Ward system with trustees elected by 6 separated geographic zones
District 22 - Vernon	Three Electoral Areas: • City of Vernon • District of Coldstream

	• Village of Lumby
District 23 - Central Okanagan	Four Electoral Areas: • City of Kelowna • City of West Kelowna • District of Lake Country • District of Peachland
District 27 – Cariboo Chilcotin	Seven Electoral Areas: • Ward system with trustees elected by 7 separated geographic zones
District 35 - Langley	Two Electoral Areas: • Township of Langley • City of Langley
District 36 - Surrey	Two Electoral Areas: • City of Surrey • City of White Rock
District 42 - Maple Ridge/Pitt Meadows	Two Electoral Areas: • City of Maple Ridge • City of Pitt Meadows
District 43 - Coquitlam	Four Electoral Areas: • City of Coquitlam • City of Port Coquitlam • City of Port Moody • Villages of Anmore and Belcarra
District 44 – North Vancouver	Two Electoral Areas: • District of North Vancouver • City of North Vancouver
District 46 - Sunshine Coast	Three Electoral Areas: • Upper Sunshine Coast • Central Sunshine Coast • Lower Sunshine Coast
District 48 - Sea to Sky	Five Electoral Areas: • District of Squamish • Resort Municipality of Whistler • Village of Pemberton • Regional District Area C • Regional District Area D
District 49 - Central Coast	Two Electoral Areas: • Ward system with trustees elected by 2 separated geographic zones
District 50 - Haida Gwaii	Five Electoral Areas: • Ward system with trustees elected by 5 separated geographic zones

District 51 - Boundary	Five Electoral Areas: • City of Grand Forks • Christina Lake • Kettle Valley East • Kettle Valley North • Kettle Valley West
District 52 - Prince Rupert	Two Electoral Areas: • City of Surrey • City of White Rock
District 53 - Okanagan Similkameen	Four Electoral Areas: • Town of Osoyoos • Town of Oliver • Village of Keremeos • Okanagan Falls
District 54 - Bulkley Valley	Four Electoral Areas: • Town of Smithers • Town of Houston • Village of Telkwa • Lake Kathlyn/ Evelyn/ Moricetown
District 57 - Prince George	Three Electoral Areas: • City of Prince George • District of Mackenzie • Robson Valley
District 58 – Nicola Similkameen	Two Electoral Areas: • City of Merritt • Town of Princeton
District 59 - Peace River South	Four Electoral Areas: • City of Dawson Creek • District of Chetwynd • District of Tumbler Ridge • Pouce Coupe & Rural Areas
District 60 - Peace River North	Five Electoral Areas: • Ward system with trustees elected by 5 separated geographic zones
District 62 - Sooke	Two Electoral Areas: • Belmont Zone • Milnes Landing Zone
District 63 - Saanich	Four Electoral Areas: • Partial District of Saanich • Town of Sidney • District of Central Saanich • District of North Saanich

District 64 - Gulf Islands	Five Electoral Areas: • Salt Spring Island • Galiano Island • Pender Islands • Saturna Island • Mayne Island
District 67 - Okanagan Skaha	Three Electoral Areas: • City of Penticton • District of Summerland • Rural Zone Area
District 69 - Qualicum	Four Electoral Areas: • Ward system with trustees elected by 4 separated geographic zones
District 70 - Pacific Rim	Two Electoral Areas: • Alberni Valley • West Coast
District 71 - Comox Valley	Five Electoral Areas: • City of Courtenay • Town of Comox • Village of Cumberland • Area A • Area C
District 72 - Campbell River	Three Electoral Areas: • Greater Campbell River • Quadra • Sayward Valley
District 73 - Kamloops/Thompson	Five Electoral Areas: • City of Kamloops • District of Barriere • District of Logan Lake • District of Clear Water • Village of Chase/Sun Peaks
District 74 - Gold Trail	Seven Electoral Areas: • Ward system with trustees elected by 7 separated geographic zones
District 75 - Mission	Two Electoral Areas: • City of Mission • Fraser Valley Regional District
District 78 - Fraser/Cascade	Three Electoral Areas:

	• Ward system with trustees elected by 3 separated geographic zones
District 82 - Coast Mountains	Five Electoral Areas: • City of Terrace • City of Kitimat • District of Stewart • Village of Hazelton • Thornhill Community
District 83 - North Okanagan/Shuswap	Four Electoral Areas: • City of Salmon Arm • City of Armstrong/ District of Spallumchen • City of Enderby/ District of Sicamous • Rural Zone Area
District 84 - Vancouver Island West	Four Electoral Areas: • Village of Zeballos • Village of Gold River • Village of Tahsis • Kyuquot Community
District 85 - Vancouver Island North	Three Electoral Areas: • Ward system with trustees elected by 3 separated geographic zones
District 87 - Stikine	Five Electoral Areas: • Town of Atlin • Dease Lake • Iskut • Lower Post • Telegraph Creek
District 91 - Nechako Lakes	Six Electoral Areas: • District of Vanderhoof • District of Fort St. James • Village of Burns Lake • Village of Fraser Lake • Village of Granisle • Grassy Plains/Francois Lake
District 92 - Nisga'a	Five Electoral Areas: • Laxgaltsap • Gitlaxtaamiks

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