



January 3, 2025

Ref: 303320

Their Worship Barbara Desjardins, Mayor
Township of Esquimalt
Email: c/o Sue-Anne.Carter@esquimalt.ca

Dear Mayor Desjardins:

Thank you for your letter of December 4, 2024, regarding increased funding for School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) to enable them to provide adequate landscaping to address the impacts of climate change and support natural learning environments for children in the Esquimalt municipality.

In British Columbia, the K-12 public education sector is co-managed by the Ministry of Education and Child Care and 60 locally elected boards of education. In accordance with the *School Act*, the Ministry sets education standards and provides funding, while boards of education are responsible for budgetary spending decisions regarding the operation and maintenance of schools within their district. This includes decisions about the selection of resources, programs and services offered to their students to deliver the provincial curriculum. School trustees are elected locally to work in the best interests of their constituents and are ultimately accountable to their electorate for their spending decisions.

The Ministry is providing the Greater Victoria School District with over \$266 million in operating and special grants for school year 2024/25.

Government has provided boards of education with increased flexibility to develop local policies that best meet the needs of their students. I would suggest that you contact Nicole Duncan, Board Chair, School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria), to discuss your concerns about climate-resilient landscaping.

Again, thank you for writing.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lisa Beare".

Lisa Beare
Minister

cc: Nicole Duncan, Board Chair, School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria)