



NORTH OKANAGAN - SHUSWAP TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION

**364 Ross St. NE. Box 187,
Salmon Arm, BC, V1E 4N3
Phone: (250) 832-1933**

January 16, 2026

Honourable David Eby, Premier
Honourable Brenda Bailey, Minister of Finance
Honourable Lisa Beare, Minister of Education & Child Care

Dear Premier Eby, Minister Bailey, and Minister Beare,

The North Okanagan-Shuswap Teachers' Association (NOSTA) represents roughly 600 teachers and associated professionals across the communities of Salmon Arm, Enderby, Armstrong, Sicamous, Sorrento, Falkland, Canoe, Grindrod, Rancho, the North and South Shuswap, and surrounding rural areas. Our teachers work every day to meet the growing and increasingly complex needs of students in our district.

We are writing to express our concerns your government's failure to provide the resources needed to fulfill its election campaign commitments—specifically, the election promises of a counsellor in every school and an Education Assistant in every kindergarten -Grade 3 classroom. These supports are urgently needed in our region, and their absence places significant strain on students and staff alike.

We are also concerned about the state of provincial bargaining between the BCPSEA and the BCTF. After thirty-five bargaining sessions, the BCTF has declared an impasse because your government has not provided the additional funding required to address workload, class complexity, and classroom conditions. While general wage increases have been offered, similar to those offered to other unions, the wage increase does not address the realities teachers face or the supports students desperately require. Other public-sector unions have received targeted funding to address workload pressures in addition to wage increase funding; does your government not feel that teachers and students deserve the same consideration?

Our teachers have shown extraordinary dedication despite rising demands and limited resources. However, it is no longer sustainable to expect educators to absorb the impacts of systemic underfunding. Public education is a cornerstone of our society, and your government's commitments must be backed by the resources needed to make them a reality.

We respectfully and urgently ask your government to:

- Provide the targeted funding needed at the bargaining table to address student needs and classroom conditions;
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- Fund a counsellor in every school;
- Fund an EA in every kindergarten - Grade 3 classroom;
- Recognize that investing in students and educators is essential to a strong, equitable public education system.

Thank you for your attention. We urge your government to take meaningful action to support public education in British Columbia.

Sincerely,

Jessa Clark
President
North Okanagan - Shuswap Teachers' Association