



Pattie Adam
Board Chair

May 12, 2015

Honourable Peter Fassbender
Ministry of Education
PO Box 9045 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2

Dear Honourable Minister,

School District 10 Board of Education and Arrow Lakes Teachers Association wish to express our concerns with regard to the potential impact of Bill 11-2015.

In our district, it is our practice to hold in-depth discussion and consultation regarding change that may happen to public education. This results in our partners being involved in meaningful ways as we grapple with difficult issues. We hope for the same practice from the BC Provincial Government.

For over a century in the province of BC, public schools have been the responsibility of locally elected school trustees. We take that responsibility very seriously and have governed well. Bill 11's proposal to power away to provincial government, concerns all involved: the parents, staff and communities in which we all work and live, as well as those we directly serve: our children, and their futures.

We want you to know that for us, shared services is already a well-entrenched practice. Due to the many challenges that our board faces in our remote and very large geographical area with long term declining enrolment, over the years we have creatively found numerous ways to share services. Over the past number of years, this board has made significant efficiencies through the closing and reconfiguration of schools, the sale of buildings, staffing changes, administrative and program cuts. Through all these hard choices, we have always made student success foremost in all our decision-making processes. What we expect is the same thoughtful and prudent conversations with us, as we give our partners in education.

A further concern in Bill 11's mandate, is its direct contradiction with the spirit and intent of the MOU recently signed by BCSTA and BC Government. The process of instituting Bill 11 – without consultation or consideration of our dual roles to co-govern public education - leaves the MOU a hollow document in we have diminished belief or faith. The BC Government fails to follow the agreed upon protocols.

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Pattie Adam
Board Chair

Page 2
Bill 11-2015

In addition, our local teacher union (ALTA) has serious concerns regarding the erosion of their professional development as well as the student data collection and privacy issues inherent in Bill 11.

What we all would like to see is clear inclusion of our voices. Let trustees do the valuable local government work they do so well. Help BC become a leader in public education.

Please reconsider Bill- 11-2015 and its implications before it fundamentally erodes and destroys the public education system in BC.

Yours Truly,

Pattie Adam
Board Chair
SD10, Arrow Lakes

Ric Bardati
Union President
Arrow Lakes Teachers Association

c: Terry Taylor, Superintendent/Secretary-Treasurer
Alice McKee, President (CUPE Local 2450)
DPAC, SD10
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SD10 Trustees
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