



Today's BC Liberals

Dr. Peter Froese, Executive Director
Federation of Independent School Associations
4885 Saint John Paul Way
Vancouver, BC V5Z 0G3

March 23, 2017

Dear Dr. Froese:

Thank you for writing to Today's BC Liberals, and for your organization's advocacy on behalf of the thousands of families who choose to send their children to independent schools.

Our party strongly supports parents having the choice of a school that works for them – whether for faith, location, or any other reason. We believe diversity is one of British Columbia's greatest strengths – and our education system should reflect that diversity by meeting a wide spectrum of needs and preferences while we continue to make record investments in public education.

At this time, we are not contemplating any amendments to the current laws and regulations pertaining to British Columbia's independent schools.

We also have no plans to disrupt the current funding formula for independent schools. If re-elected, we are committed to supporting independent schools at their respective percentages of 50% and 35%, as well as proportional funding on additional operating funds provided to public schools. And in our fifth straight balanced budget this year, we further increased our investment in education, allowing for an increase of \$25 million to independent schools.

You and your members can rest assured that Today's BC Liberals are committed to the right of every family to choose an independent school if they wish. I urge you to press the opposition parties and their candidates for honesty and forthrightness with respect to their plans – as their public comments have varied.

A strong, diverse, and growing economy is critical to government's continued ability to invest in our students and schools, public and independent alike. Only Today's BC Liberals have a plan to keep British Columbia's economy strong and build on our success to date.

Thank you once again for the important work you do.

Sincerely,



Premier Christy Clark

John Horgan, Leader
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Province of
British Columbia
Legislative Assembly



John Horgan, MLA
(Juan de Fuca)

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March 17, 2017

Dr. Peter Froese
Executive Director
Federation of Independent School Associations of B.C.
4885 Saint John Paul Way
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Dear Dr. Froese:

Thank you for your letter of January 4, 2017, on behalf of the Federation of Independent School Associations of British Columbia, in which you pose election based questions about independent school funding. I apologize for the delay in my response.

B.C.'s New Democrats fully support a parent's right to choose the education stream for their children, whether it be in independent, faith based or public schools. We recognize each family has different needs and believe they have the right to choose the school that best suits those needs.

We do not have any plans to change the existing funding for independent schools nor the legislation that governs this funding. Our aim if we form government, will be to strengthen and improve our public education system which has been eroded due to a lack of funding. Christy Clark's government has taken B.C.'s public education system from the second best funded school system in Canada to the second worst. That's why B.C.'s New Democrats are looking at policies that will provide a strong investment in education to make sure all kids are our top priority.

Thank you for providing me an opportunity to respond on this issue. Investing in our children's education is the best investment that we could make for our future economy and for the future of all the people of this province.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John J. Horgan".

John Horgan, Leader
New Democrat Official Opposition



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Responses from Dr. Andrew Weaver, B.C. Green Party Leader and MLA for Oak Bay-Gordon Head:

1) Does your party support a parent's right to choose an education, public or independent, that is appropriate for their children?

Absolutely. The B.C. Green Party supports a parent's right to choose an education that is appropriate for their children, whether that be within the public or independent systems.

2) Will your party be proposing any amendments with respect to the current Independent School Act and its accompanying Regulations and Orders? If so, what are these amendments.

No, the B.C. Green Party has no intention of proposing any amendments with respect to the current Independent School Act and its accompanying Regulations and Orders.

3) Since 1989, Group 1 and 2 independent schools have been partially funded for operating costs at 50% and 35% respectively, of the average public school operating cost in each school district. Will you maintain the current funding formula, or will alternative proposals be made.

The B.C. Green Party has no plans to change the funding formula and any changes to the current funding for independent schools would only be made after an extensive consultative process.