



April 5, 2022

Ref: 253815

Stephanie Higginson, President  
British Columbia School Trustees Association  
**Email: [shigginson@bcsta.org](mailto:shigginson@bcsta.org)**

Dear Ms. Higginson:

Thank you for your letter of February 9, 2022, voicing the British Columbia School Trustees Association's (BCSTA) support for the First Nations Leadership Council's (FNLC) letter regarding the Foundation Skills Assessment (FSA). I appreciate hearing that you share in the importance of FSA data as an essential tool for equity in education.

As shared with FNLC, I want to assure the BCSTA that the Ministry of Education understands the importance of FSA data in understanding the learning outcomes of Indigenous students. We remain committed to continuing to administer system-wide assessments that provide essential feedback on student learning.

During the FSA roundtable last fall, the Ministry heard clearly from rightsholders and stakeholders that it is vital to work collaboratively with the education sector to improve the provincial assessment system. This spring, the province will convene a working group to seek recommendations for improving the provincial assessment system, ensuring the administration of these measures are culturally appropriate, and to address concerns around the misuse of assessment data by third parties. By bringing together rightsholders, stakeholders, and education policy experts, we endeavour to create a shared goal of improving assessment participation rates, ensuring results can be recognized as valuable and used by everyone in a meaningful way.

Working together to support equitable and positive outcomes for Indigenous learners will be key to ensuring all students experience success in our education system. I look forward to continuing to work with the BCSTA on achieving this goal.

Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jennifer Whiteside".

Jennifer Whiteside  
Minister