



September 10, 2018

Honourable Mike Farnworth
Minister of Public Safety & Solicitor General
PO Box 9010
Stn Prov Gov
Victoria, BC V8W 9E

Via email: pssg.minister@gov.bc.ca

Re: Liaison Officer Program in the Victoria Region

Dear Minister,

We have recently been informed of the Esquimalt Municipal Council's plan to discontinue funding for the Liaison Officer program at schools in the Vancouver Island South region.

The School Liaison Officer program is absolutely essential in allowing schools to fulfil their educational mission. It familiarizes students from a very early age with the role of municipal police services. Throughout the year, the liaison officer provides them with classes on prevention, and in a context in which drug and alcohol consumption are becoming normalized and the number of violent incidents is on the increase, the presence of a liaison officer attached to a school is a tremendous asset.

The School Liaison Officer is a position held by a person with a strong desire to participate in the learning process of the next generation. Their presence is a perfect complement to the partnership between home and school. They are also a resource many families turn to when facing difficult situations.

To cut a project of this kind jeopardizes the success of the school system and increases the risk that more students will stray onto dangerous paths.

We understand that balancing the budget is a priority objective. Like all public services, the Conseil scolaire francophone is also required to respect this obligation. However, we would respectfully ask you to reconsider your decision and find a solution that is less compromising to the future of students at our school and in the Greater Victoria region.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Lapierre', is written over a light grey rectangular background.

Marie-France Lapierre
President

cc: Clayton J.D. Pecknold, Assistant Deputy Minister

Conseil scolaire francophone de la Colombie-Britannique

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