



Pacific Rim School District

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Subject: Advocacy Request – Capital Funding for Housing Accommodation

Dear BCSTA and VISTA Boards of Directors,

As the Board of Education for Pacific Rim School District, we are writing to request your support in advocating to the Ministry of Education and Child Care and the Ministry of Infrastructure for dedicated funding to support housing solutions for staffing in school districts.

Across British Columbia, Boards of Education are grappling with a growing challenge: the shortage of affordable housing. This issue is significantly hindering our ability to recruit and retain educators, support staff, and administrators particularly in rural, remote, and high-cost communities. Without access to secure and affordable housing, many potential employees are unable to consider positions in our districts, and those already here are facing increasing difficulty maintaining stable living arrangements.

We urge the Ministry to consider including housing accommodation initiatives within an existing capital funding stream - such as Minor or Major Capital - or to establish a new program tailored to this need. While some districts have made progress by partnering with municipalities, First Nations, and non-profit housing providers, this issue demands a system-wide response. Provincial funding is critical to scaling these efforts and ensuring that all districts can provide safe, stable housing options for staff.

Beyond supporting recruitment and retention, funding housing for staff aligns with broader provincial goals of promoting equity, improving access to education, and ensuring continuity of service in public schools. The ability of school districts to deliver on their educational mandate is increasingly tied to whether our staff can afford to live in the communities they serve.

Thank you for your continued leadership and support of BC's public education system. We trust that both BCSTA and VISTA will elevate this issue in your advocacy efforts and help ensure it receives the attention and resources it urgently requires.

Sincerely,

Pam Craig, Board Chair
Pacific Rim School District's Board of Education