



March 13, 2026

Ref: 315481

Maria Stinchcombe, President
Syndicat des enseignant.e.s du programme francophone
Email: presidence@sepfcb.com

Dear Maria Stinchcombe:

Thank you for your emails of October 8, 2025 and February 4, 2026 regarding your concerns about the francophone de la Colombie-britannique (CSF) governance and financial practices. Minister Beare responded to your October 8 email on December 19, 2025 stating that Ministry of Education and Child Care staff would look into the points raised in your correspondence. I've been asked to respond on behalf of Minister Beare to your concerns.

I appreciate you taking the time to bring your concerns to the Minister's attention. Minister Beare has recently granted approval, in accordance with section 156(11) of the *School Act* (which applies to the CSF by virtue of section 166.37), for the CSF to incur a 2024/25 accumulated Operating Fund deficit in the amount of \$3,405,729 as reported in the 2024/25 audited financial statements. This deficit is to be repaid over the following three years, so it is eliminated no later than June 30, 2028.

Regular meetings will take place with Ministry staff in the Financial Management Division and the CSF to report on the progress in eliminating the deficit. As in previous instances where the Minister has approved a board to incur an accumulated operating deficit, the CSF will be required to submit quarterly interim reports to the ministry.

Should the CSF encounter any difficulties eliminating the accumulated deficit, the Minister may consider options to support the CSF in meeting its legislative obligations under the *School Act*. Thank you again for writing and for your dedication to supporting francophone students in British Columbia.

Sincerely,

Caroline Ponsford

Executive Director
Education Finance Branch