



November 30, 2015

Ref: 184136

Her Worship Lisa Helps
Mayor of the City of Victoria
Email: Mayor@victoria.ca

Dear Mayor Helps:

Thank you for your letter of September 11, 2015, regarding funding for Adult Basic Education programs.

The Ministry of Education continues to fully fund school districts to offer graduation programs to adults who have not yet earned a high school diploma. As a result, adult learners working towards high school graduation in the Kindergarten to Grade12 (K-12) system continue to do so on a tuition-free basis. The Ministry also recognizes some adults still need access to lower-level literacy courses and; therefore, continues to fully fund districts for all of our adult Literacy Foundations courses – regardless of graduation status. These Literacy Foundations courses are bridging courses in the areas of English, Math, Science, Socials and Information Technology that allow adult students to raise their learning to the Grade 10 level, after which they can then pursue the higher-level secondary courses in order to graduate.

There are several providers of adult education in the Greater Victoria area. Three school districts offer tuition-free adult graduation programs. School District 61 (Greater Victoria), SJ Willis School; School District 63 (Saanich), the Individual Education Centre – located in two locations: storefront location at Broadmead and at an adult and alternate school in Central Saanich/Sidney; and a large adult education centre School District 62 (Sooke), located in the heart of the Goldstream Village.

On the public post-secondary side, institutions now have the option to charge tuition for adult upgrading courses. This decision was made to ensure these programs remain sustainable and available to students. Camosun College now applies tuition fees to its adult basic education, regardless of whether students have graduated from high school.

Upfront, non-repayable adult upgrading grants are available to low-income, post-secondary students to cover the cost of tuition, textbooks, supplies, transportation and childcare. Grants for half the cost of tuition are available for students with an income of 10 percent above the income threshold.

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For further information about adult basic education programs in the K-12 system, I encourage you to contact Janine Hannis, Education Officer – Adult and Alternate Programs, Learning Division by phone at (250) 886-2163 or by email at Janine.Hannis@gov.bc.ca. For further information about adult basic education programs in the post-secondary system, please contact Bryan Dreilich, Director, Institutions and Programs, Ministry of Advanced Education by phone at (250) 387-3395 or by email at Bryan.Dreilich@gov.bc.ca.

Thank you for taking the time to express your concerns about adult education.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Bernier", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mike Bernier
Minister

pc: Janine Hannis, Education Officer - Adult and Alternate Programs, Learning Division,
Ministry of Education
Bryan Dreilich, Director, Institutions and Programs, Ministry of Advanced Education