



# PROTOCOL OF RECOGNITION



Between: THE GOVERNMENT OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

And: THE BRITISH COLUMBIA SCHOOL TRUSTEES ASSOCIATION (BCSTA),  
ON BEHALF OF MEMBER SCHOOL BOARDS

## WHEREAS:

- A. The well-being of British Columbia's economy, culture and society is a function of its education system;
- B. The future of British Columbia and the welfare of its children are of material concern to the parties;
- C. All British Columbians, individually and collectively through their governments, share responsibility for improving and sustaining a public school system that meets the needs of current and future British Columbians;
- D. Cooperation between the Province and school boards will promote certainty and predictability of cost-effective governance performance, and promote public confidence and sound planning;
- E. The citizens of British Columbia are best served when the relationship between school boards and the provincial government:
  - harmonizes provincial and school board policies and programs; and
  - fosters cooperative approaches to matters of mutual interest, based on a common priority for improving student achievement.

## THEREFORE:

1. The Province recognizes and acknowledges that school boards are democratically elected by their constituents to represent the public interest in education by governing school districts in accordance with legislation and reflective of local values and priorities;
2. The Minister recognizes the BCSTA as representing its member school boards;
3. The BCSTA recognizes the Minister's right to determine public education policy for the province;
4. Both parties agree that, wherever possible, they will consult with one another and with school boards on new initiatives, and will seek to work cooperatively in the furtherance of public education in the province; and, further,
5. The Province will notify and consult with, where possible:
  - the BCSTA on matters affecting school boards, and in particular, on legislation, regulations, policies, programs, projects and initiatives; and
  - individual school boards on matters affecting them.

## ADMINISTRATION:

The lead contacts for administering this Protocol are the Deputy Minister of Education and the Executive Director of the BCSTA.

## REVIEW:

The Minister of Education and the President of the BCSTA will review this Protocol every three years, commencing in 2006.

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*In Witness of an Agreement to adhere to the terms and conditions of this Protocol, the parties have executed this Protocol in \_\_\_\_\_, British Columbia, this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2003.*

SIGNED on behalf of the PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA:

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The Honourable Christy Clark, *Minister of Education*

SIGNED on behalf of the BRITISH COLUMBIA SCHOOL TRUSTEES ASSOCIATION:

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Gordon Comeau, *President*

