



BCTF

British Columbia Teachers' Federation A Union of Professionals
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Parent Advocacy Network (PAN) Steering Committee

Subject: PAN recommendations to reconsider/redesign the BC Area Standards for new schools

Dear PAN Steering Committee:

On behalf of the 43,000 members of the BC Teachers Federation (BCTF), I am pleased to inform you that our Executive Committee passed the following motion at our February 21–22, 2019, meeting:

That the BCTF support the three recommendations put forth by the Parent Advocacy Network (PAN) to reconsider/redesign the BC Area Standards for new schools.

The BCTF fully backs PAN's calls on the government to conduct a comprehensive review of the outdated and restrictive BC Area Standards in consultation with the Ministry of Education and key public education stakeholders; to immediately increase space allocations in BC Area Standards for new K–12 public school facilities by at least 10%; and to ensure that funding for neighbourhood learning spaces for community use does not come from the Ministry of Education capital budget unless it is designed primarily to serve K–12 student educational needs.

It is imperative that the students and teachers of BC have schools that are designed to provide enough space to accommodate the principles and goals of the redesigned curriculum so that all students have equitable access to a myriad of educational experiences. It is equally important that the Ministry of Education capital budget be spent in ways that serve the educational needs of K–12 students.

The BCTF will support the Parent Advocacy Network's recommendations by insisting that the billions of dollars that the government has committed to replace, and upgrade schools must be spent using updated area standards that reflect best practices in 21st century school building design.

Sincerely,



Glen Hansman
President