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Government not serious about Supreme Court of Canada's Ruling

“The Saanich School District just learned that it will not be receiving the necessary funding from government that they need to comply with the Supreme Court of Canada’s ruling. Saanich School District still needs to hire 15 more full time teachers in order to comply with the recently restored working and learning conditions,” said Don Peterson, President of the Saanich Teachers Association.

“Despite the BC Teacher’s Federation’s recent win at the Supreme Court of Canada and subsequent provincial agreement to implement our restored working and learning conditions, government is not acting in the best interests of our schools and students,” said Peterson “The Liberal government has recently changed their stance on a number of provincial issues. On the same day of these announcements concerning improvements in childcare and welfare, the Saanich School District learned they would not be receiving the badly needed funds to restore working and learning conditions. It is clear that the Liberal government intends to continue to drag their feet when it comes to the Supreme Court of Canada ruling. We need a stable government to finish the job that the Liberal government has been unwilling or unable to complete.”

Peterson explained that the school district has been trying to configure schools in a way that complies with the restored working and learning condition with the funds that they have been given. This has proven to be not possible. The District has recently learned that they will be receiving \$1.5 million less than what they need. This amounts to 15 teachers who are badly needed to support student learning, and comply with the ruling of the Supreme Court of Canada.

“If the government continues to ignore the court ruling and drag their feet, we will not see service levels for students return to what they were 15 years ago,” said Peterson, “The Saanich Board of Education trustees are facing unnecessarily difficult decisions on how to deal with the Supreme Court of Canada’s decision and the lack of funding from the Liberal government to implement that decision.”

Peterson urges parents to contact their MLAs and demand that government provide the necessary funding to fully implement the restored working and learning conditions. “We need to stop 15 years of cuts to education.”

For more information, please contact: Don Peterson, President, at (778) 426-1426