



British Columbia Teachers' Federation

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April 17, 2015

Honourable Peter Fassbender
Minister of Education
PO Box 9045, Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2

Dear Minister Fassbender:

The BC Teachers' Federation calls on you to withdraw Bill 11, the Education Statutes Amendment Act, 2015 and to engage in discussion with the BCTF and other stakeholders on the issues raised in the Bill.

The BCTF call is based on several factors:

1. The Act is an infringement on the rights and responsibilities of democratically-elected boards of education.
2. The Act is an incursion into teacher-led and -directed professional development.
3. The Act allows for collection and use of student data without sufficient privacy protections.
4. The Act provides for the extreme centralization of power and control in the role of the Minister of Education.
5. The Act would create an unnecessary increase in government bureaucracy.

These are all important elements that undermine the authority of school trustees and their ability to make decisions that reflect the needs of their community. The legislation also challenges the professionalism of teachers by making their professional development subject to arbitrary direction.

We urge you to withdraw the Bill and enter into consultation.

Yours sincerely,

Jim Iker
President

cc: Rob Fleming, Opposition Spokesperson for Education