

**DOUGLAS COLLEGE**  
PO Box 2503 New Westminster BC  
Canada V3L 5B2  
New Westminster and Coquitlam  
douglascollege.ca  
604 527 5400



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

December 13, 2019

Dear Minister Fleming,

As Deans and Directors of Human Services in British Columbia, many of our colleges and universities offer Education Assistant and Community Support Programs in partnership with community organizations and school districts. Through these partners and parent advocacy groups we have heard for several years about the Education Assistant crisis in our communities. The Deans and Directors of Human Services acknowledge that there is a critical need for highly qualified Education Assistants who have credentials to support children and youth with disabilities in our community schools.

At the recent British Columbia Articulation meeting for Health and Human Services in May 2019, the subsector committee for Education Assistant and Community Support, representing public post-secondary institutions throughout the province, reiterated this crisis and the increased need for educational standards of practice. This group sent a request to the Provincial Committee of Deans and Directors of Human Services asking for our support of their advocacy for Provincial Educational standards.

This letter is our response to that request. We seek support from the Ministry of Education to pursue Provincial Standards of Practice for Education Assistants that reflect credentials from public post-secondary institutions.

Children and youth with disabilities are some of the most vulnerable members of our society and have the right to the highest quality of education and support available in our schools and communities. With these children in mind, we respectfully request that your Ministry, who represents these children, consider leading and collaborating with community to create Provincial Educational Standards for Education Assistants that reflect credentials from public post-secondary institutions.

We recommend that these standards be developed with input from key stakeholders, including champion teachers, advocate parents, school district personnel, and representatives from public post-secondary institutions. One option would be to manage the development of the standards as a BCCAT project. We respectfully request a timeline of 18 months to complete the project.



We look forward to your support as you hear the needs of the community which you represent and the children and youth with disabilities who need our advocacy and who deserve highly qualified and credentialed professionals to support their success.

On behalf of the Deans and Directors of Human Services,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Elizabeth Barbeau".

Elizabeth Barbeau, Ph.D.  
Associate Dean  
Faculty of Child, Family and Community Studies

**Douglas College**

David Lam (Coquitlam) Campus  
1250 Pinetree Way, Coquitlam, BC V3B 7X3  
T. 604.527.5583 | E. [barbeaue@douglascollege.ca](mailto:barbeaue@douglascollege.ca)

***Inspire. Engage. Succeed. It's what we DO.***

***We recognize and acknowledge the Kwikwetlem First Nation, as well as all Coast Salish Peoples, on whose traditional and unceded territories we live, we learn, we play, and we do our work.***