



April 11, 2021

Dear BC School Board of Education Trustees,

We are writing about the upcoming Motion 15, which will be coming to the BC School Trustees Association at the AGM in April. The motion is regarding the use of seclusion rooms. It looks to create benchmarks and best practices by collecting data and analysis. Safe and Inclusive Schools are trauma-informed schools. When we support those with the most complex needs appropriately, the entire educational community is supported and successful.

The benefits of implementing alternative approaches to seclusion range from staffing costs and turnover to reduced mental health impacts, which again support trauma-informed practices.

There is no compelling case that seclusion supports educational practices or learning outcomes. There is much evidence to show the harm that it causes, however.

Please vote in favour of Motion 15 at the AGM.

In our annual Exclusion Tracker, we have found that restraint and seclusion continues to happen in BC schools. In terms of exclusion, Indigenous, Black, and immigrant children and youth seem to be disproportionately impacted. We are concerned that this may extend to restraint and seclusion as well.

Inclusion BC has done two reports so far on these practices, Stop Hurting Kids 1 and 2:

<https://inclusionbc.org/our-campaigns/stop-hurting-kids>

Please join us at our online rally on April 15th to learn more about restraint and seclusion:

<https://bcedaccess.com/2021/04/06/safe-inclusive-schools-action-against-restraint-and-seclusion/>

BC Access represents a large community of families of disabled children and youth around the province. Our conversations and advocacy centre on inclusion and equity in education. As a collective voice we are calling to you as School Board Trustees to come together and vote in favour of this motion when presented.

Our longer term goal is an end to unnecessary restraint and any seclusion at all. We have seen commitment already by several school districts around improvements to inclusive education delivery, and we thank you. The BCSTA has also noted their commitment to inclusion recently.



BCEdAccess

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Will you support this motion? Please let us know! If you have any questions about our position we welcome open dialogue whether one time or ongoing, in collaboration as partners in this conversation.

Sincerely,

Tracy Humphreys

Chair, BCEdAccess Society

The BCEdAccess Society is an organization of families of children and youth with disabilities and complex learners all over the province of British Columbia. We champion and support children and youth who have disabilities and who are complex learners to reach their full potential in BC education, and in all aspects of their lives.

This is achieved through supporting families, sharing information, providing education to families, allies, professionals and students, providing community engagement and awareness, and other activities to promote equitable access to education and inclusion for all. We run a well respected annual parent/guardian advocacy conference, bringing together families, self-advocates, educators and allies of children and youth with disabilities. We also do research into the exclusion of students with disabilities from school and community, and other disability issues impacting children and youth. We advocate to local and provincial government on behalf of families to improve accessibility in all aspects of the lives of children and youth with disabilities.