



To whom it may concern:

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

Our goals are achieved through supporting families, sharing information, and working collaboratively with other not for profit organizations and charities to assist them in their work towards inclusion in education. It is with this in mind that we are writing in support of Cops Out of Schools.

It is the position of BCEdAccess that if schools are to be inclusive to Black and Indigenous students, then the SLO program must be terminated. Furthermore, the Vancouver School District must centre Black and Indigenous community members in the decision about the subsequent removal of PLOs from schools.

As a non-profit society with a mandate for equitable access to education, we know that the overrepresentation in rates of incarceration and the life-long trauma of racist policing disproportionately harms Black and Indigenous students. We support Cops Out of Schools and the families who have been harmed and excluded from public education because of the School Liason Officer program.

Our expectation is that the VSB will start to acknowledge and address systemic anti-Black and anti-Indigenous racism and protect children and youth from bias in policing by consulting with the affected community members.

Regards,

Tracy Humphreys

Chair, BCEdAccess Society