



Draft Motion

BCSTA Provincial Council

Motion:

That the BCSTA request that the Minister of Finance review the reporting thresholds applied in the annual Statement of Financial Information (SOFI) Report.

Rationale:

School Districts and other provincial public sector entities in British Columbia are required to annually publish a Statement of Financial Information (SOFI) Report. This annual SOFI report requires the reporting of remuneration and expenses of all employees where annual remuneration exceeds \$75,000, and the reporting of annual payments for goods and services where annual payments to a supplier exceeds \$25,000.

The original intent of the report was to report the remuneration and expenses of higher income earners in leadership positions and to report significant payments to suppliers. However, as the thresholds for reporting have remained static for many years, the proportion of staff remunerations and supplier payments now reported in the SOFI has grown significantly. For example, following many years of salary inflation school districts are now required to report remuneration and expenses for most teachers and some support staff. This continuing expansion in the scope of reporting, in our view, has actually diminished the intended focus on and accountability relating to reporting the remuneration and expenses of those in leadership positions. The compilation of expense information for a significantly greater scope of staff and suppliers is also a significant administrative undertaking. An undertaking which, in our view, does not improve transparency and accountability.