

Paula Kusack

Subject: FW: For inclusion on upcoming Council Agenda - FW: getting equitable access to higher education in Langley

Attachments: Funding for Post-Secondary Education in our Region.docx

From: Geoff Dean 22 (1) [REDACTED]
Sent: November 9, 2022 5:18 PM
To: Mayor Nathan Pachal <npachal@langleycity.ca>
Subject: getting equitable access to higher education in Langley

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Dear Mayor Pachal,

I'm writing to ask help from you and your Council in improving access to post-secondary education for graduating students and others in our South Fraser region.

As you may know, Kwantlen Polytechnic University, which is mandated to serve Langley City and the other five municipalities in our South Fraser region, has never been funded adequately to allow it to properly serve our region – it's only ever been funded at about half the rate, per region resident, compared to the funding given to the rest of BC's regional post-secondary institutions. This is not good for the social health and economic growth of your city, nor for the rest of KPU's region, since, as a BC Stats analysis in 2014 noted* "...graduates of post-secondary programs earn a higher income over a working lifetime than they would make with a high school diploma".

For your reference, I've attached a version of a paper that I and my colleagues in the KPU Retirees' Association have recently written about this long-standing inequity. Earlier, we sent a similar paper to BC's new Post-Secondary Funding Formula Review team**, specifying the changes in the funding process that we believe need to be made, and asking that team to recommend those changes to the government in order to improve post-secondary access for people in our region.

I'm asking you to help with this by letting the Post-Secondary Funding Formula Review team know that you would also like them to recommend the increased funding for KPU, as outlined in our attached paper, so that our region can provide the higher level of access to the post-secondary education that people in your city need.

As you might guess, I've sent a similar request to the other mayors in our South Fraser region. And I've sent it to the District Parent Advisory Council in each of our four school districts, through which I've asked them to ask their secondary school PACs and their district's school boards to each also ask the Review team for this necessary change.

If there is any further information about this issue that you need, please let me know – as an instructor at KPU from 1975 until I retired in 2019, I've been trying to get this underfunding issue fixed for years (since 1985, when Rita Johnson asked me to put together some data about it for her), but the necessary changes have yet to be made. This Funding Formula Review process seems like the best chance to get us there.

Thank you!

Geoff Dean, KPURA Board member

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(* see <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/education-training/post-secondary-education/data-research/cost-of-post-secondary-education> for a link to this report.)

(**see <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/education-training/post-secondary-education/post-secondary-funding-formula-review> for the Post-Secondary Formula Funding Review team's website and their contact information.)