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**Province of
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Legislative Assembly

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John Horgan, MLA
(Juan de Fuca)

March 17, 2017

Dr. Peter Froese
Executive Director
Federation of Independent School Associations of B.C.
4885 Saint John Paul Way
Vancouver, BC V5Z 0G3

Dear Dr. Froese:

Thank you for your letter of January 4, 2017, on behalf of the Federation of Independent School Associations of British Columbia, in which you pose election based questions about independent school funding. I apologize for the delay in my response.

B.C.'s New Democrats fully support a parent's right to choose the education stream for their children, whether it be in independent, faith based or public schools. We recognize each family has different needs and believe they have the right to choose the school that best suits those needs.

We do not have any plans to change the existing funding for independent schools nor the legislation that governs this funding. Our aim if we form government, will be to strengthen and improve our public education system which has been eroded due to a lack of funding. Christy Clark's government has taken B.C.'s public education system from the second best funded school system in Canada to the second worst. That's why B.C.'s New Democrats are looking at policies that will provide a strong investment in education to make sure all kids are our top priority.

Thank you for providing me an opportunity to respond on this issue. Investing in our children's education is the best investment that we could make for our future economy and for the future of all the people of this province.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John J. Horgan". The signature is fluid and cursive.

John Horgan, Leader
New Democrat Official Opposition