



February 11, 2026

The Honourable Tako van Popta  
Member of Parliament Langley - Aldergrove  
#104, 4769 222nd Street  
Langley, BC V2Z 3C1  
Email: Tako.VanPopta@parl.gc.ca

Dear Mr. van Popta,

**Re: Reinstate Funding that Supports Building Safer Communities Fund (Project Black Feather)**

The Langley Board of Education writes to you regarding a motion that was carried unanimously at the Board's Regular Meeting on January 27, 2026:

*"That the Langley Board of Education write to the local Members of Parliament to advocate for the continuation and sustained funding of the federal Building Safer Communities Fund (BSCF) beyond its current end date of March 31, 2026, recognizing the critical role BSCF funding plays in supporting Project Black Feather within the Langley School District.*

*And that the correspondence highlights the demonstrated value of Project Black Feather as a collaborative, evidence-based prevention and intervention program that strengthens student engagement, supports vulnerable children and youth, reduces risk factors associated with gang and gun violence, and contributes to safer schools and communities through measurable outcomes."*

Project Black Feather is a joint initiative between the City of Langley, the Township of Langley, and the Langley School District, funded through the federal Building Safer Communities Fund. The program focuses on early identification and intervention for children and youth who are disengaging from school and community supports and who may be vulnerable to unhealthy influences or pathways associated with gang and gun violence.

Unlike many prevention initiatives, Project Black Feather is designed to track and quantify outcomes, providing evidence of changes in engagement, behaviour, and connections to school and community supports. This aligns directly with the objectives of the Building Safer Communities Fund, including strengthening community-based prevention strategies, advancing evidence-based interventions, and supporting long-term sustainability of successful programs.

The partners hired HelpSeeker Technologies, an industry leading external research company to perform a Community Partnership Evaluation, Methodology Evaluation and, a Longitudinal Baseline Analysis that resulted in the Technical Evaluation Report which states:

*This formative evaluation indicates that Project Black Feather is functioning as intended as an effective and efficient social support infrastructure for youth at risk of gang and other forms of exploitation. This evidence shows that Project Black Feather maintains relationships through volatility, responds to crisis before they escalate into protracted vulnerability such as homelessness and provides practical supports that makes other funding resources usable. For youth who otherwise remain invisible to systems resourced to help them, Project Black Feather creates the conditions under which a sustainable intervention becomes possible.*

In addition to the 61-page Technical Evaluation Report, an 11-page Executive Synthesis, will be made publicly available prior to the end of February 2026.

The Building Safer Communities Fund is scheduled to conclude on March 31, 2026, which is concerning to our Board. Continued federal investment is essential to sustain the progress made through Project Black Feather, protect vulnerable students, and ensure our community remains equipped to address the long-term risks associated with gang and gun violence.

The Board of Education works together to fulfill our mission “to inspire all learners to reach their full potential and create a positive legacy for the future.” We know that students cannot reach their full potential when they are struggling and becoming vulnerable to unhealthy influences and/or habits. That is why it is imperative for these funds to support Project Black Feather carry on.

As a Board governing a fast-growing and diverse school district, we strongly urge for your support to help us continue to serve our most vulnerable students. Thank you for your time and consideration. We look forward to your response and hope for you to join us in our advocacy for the sake of the children, youth, and community of Langley.

Sincerely,



Candy Ashdown  
Chairperson of the Board of Education