

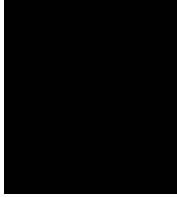
Wilson Miao  
Member of Parliament for Richmond Centre  
165-7031 Westminster Hwy  
Richmond, British Columbia  
V6X 1A3

Dear Mr. Wilson Miao, M.P.,

The Richmond Board of Education is seeking your support for our district's Settlement Workers in Schools (SWIS) program. SWIS is a federally funded program that aims to facilitate the integration of newcomers into our community. We would like to bring to your attention three critical issues that negatively impact our ability to meet the needs of newcomers in Richmond.

1. The district has experienced a substantial rise in the demand for settlement services, with SWIS utilization increasing 72 per cent over the past two years. To meet this demand effectively the district needs to increase SWIS staffing levels. The current funding model does not allow for this.
2. The district is funded for servicing newcomers with permanent resident and refugee status. The district is not funded for servicing newcomers with temporary permits. The district is providing unfunded service to over 1400 newcomers with temporary permits. This is not sustainable.
3. The district and Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada's (IRCC) fiscal years do not align. IRCC fiscal year end is March 31, while the district year end is June 30. As a result, there is slippage of funding from one year to the next. A slippage refers to the situation where funding is not received in the year it is intended for.

Sincerely,



Debbie Tablotney, Chairperson  
On Behalf of the Board of Education (Richmond)

Supplemental Data (SD38)

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