

MLA Candidates' Responses for Port Moody-Coquitlam

1. Right now, our teachers are facing challenges with large class sizes as well as many covid-related health and safety concerns in their classrooms. Districts and locals are working together to make things work, but Provincial support is falling short of where teachers feel things need to be. As an MLA, what will you do to help improve the safety of teachers' working conditions in the Tricities region?
 - Logan Smith (Libertarian): COVID-19 and the closure of schools offered an opportunity to test out a number of alternative approaches like online learning, student pods, homeschooling and private tutoring – to wildly varying degrees of success. We believe education should be an innovative process in normal times as well, where the exploration of new methods can lead to discovery of better matches for individual children.
2. Implementation of contract language restored in November 2016 by the Supreme Court of Canada continues and there remain challenges in supporting our diverse learners in their classrooms. The language entitles extra support for classes whose size and composition exceed contract limits, this extra support is not consistently forthcoming in many cases. Keeping in mind that per student funding in BC is well below the national average, what specifically will you do to ensure that the restored language is fully supported and funded?
 - Logan Smith (Libertarian): Sorry we do not have a position on this subject.
3. Our school district is facing serious recruitment and retention issues and there is a teacher shortage in all curricular areas but especially in advanced languages like French and Mandarin Immersion programs, as well as Tech Ed. What will your party do to ensure our district can recruit and retain more certified teachers?
 - Logan Smith (Libertarian): Sorry we do not have a position on this subject.
4. Many teachers do not have enough sick leave to stay home if they are told to self isolate because of a COVID-19 exposure or if they are experiencing COVID-19-like symptoms. Do you support a specific leave for COVID-19 in these circumstances? If yes, what actions will you take to ensure a positive outcome?
 - Logan Smith (Libertarian): Sorry we do not have a position on this subject.
5. Teachers and students throughout BC are confronted with increasing demands for data-gathering assessment simply to satisfy provincial and district achievement goals, rather than to support student learning. Given that these demands for more and more data are contrary to the more personalized learning focus of the modern curriculum, do you support eliminating the Foundation Skills Assessment? If yes, what actions will you take to ensure a positive outcome?
 - Logan Smith (Libertarian): Our party is looking to have a funding model follows the child and to give parents the choice in how their education. We have no plans at the mean time to eliminate this style of funding at this time.
6. Last year, the government continued a review of the funding model for education in BC. What was being proposed by government triggered concerns from all stakeholders, of particular concern to teachers was the proposed switch to a prevalence-based method of funding students with special needs. What are your views on the funding model review broadly and prevalence-based funding specifically?
 - Logan Smith (Libertarian): Have funding follow the student. Empower parent choice in education.
7. How will you work with the Coquitlam Teachers' Association to ensure teachers' concerns and issues are part of your caucus' and party's priorities?
 - Logan Smith (Libertarian): We will work with all parties involved in the future of our children with honesty and open dialogue.