## February 15, 2013

## To Whom it may Concern:

I am writing this letter to introduce you to Anjali Vyas and request your cooperation with a project she is conducting in partnership with the Ministry of Education, Government of British Columbia, Canada and School District #63 (Saanich).

I met Ms. Vyas as she was

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She was leaving her

Cooperation with School District #63 (Saanich), the University of Victoria and the Ministry of

Education. During the course of this program, Ms Vyas became very interested in teacher

education and how it affects the learning of students in school. She had made plans to

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travel to Finland knowing its fame for high student achievement results. She

was curious regarding the way in which teachers were educated and readied for their

profession and made contact with Pasi Sahlberg who suggested she visit The University of

Helsinki.

The Ministry was interested in going a step further with this inquiry. Although Ms. Vya

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we wish to learn of her views and conclusions through a
student's eyes. This is consistent with our education reform efforts that seek to engage
students in a more complete manner and learn more effectively from their experiences. Hence,
we developed an agreement with School District #63 (Saanich) to assist Anjali with working to
expand the scope of her inquiry to include British Columbia teacher education programs.

Under the terms of this agreement Ms. Vyas:

- Developed an interview instrument that could be used to canvass students in teacher education programs and faculty;
- Worked at the University of Victoria from September to early January to conduct her inquiry;
- Presented her research plan to the Ethics Committee of the University of Victoria;

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- Consulted with Dr. Ted Riecken, Dean of Education at University of Victoria, Ministry staff and school district staff regarding her research; and
- Interviewed faculty, staff and students at the University of Victoria.

She has yet to conduct research in Finland and it is that part of the agreement in which we seek your assistance. We have already connected with University of Helsinki faculty and they plan to meet with Anjali in the near future regarding this project. After conducting research in Finland, Anjali's final task under this agreement is to write a comparative summary of her observations and results. We will be happy to share this with you.

Please direct any inquiries to me a

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Yours truly,

**Rick Davis** 

Superintendent of Achievement