

# Education Re-Imagined:

12 Actions for Education

## Conversation Guide

### Education Funding

*The theme of Education Funding included recommendations based on data collected through the Re-Imagine initiative about resources, decision making around resources and the provision of resources.*

**These recommendations are:**

- 10.** *Conduct a comprehensive study to determine the real costs of a quality education system fit for the 21st century and commit to long-term funding mechanisms to ensure students receive quality education.*
- 11.** *Any funding model must be designed to provide the resources to support the varied needs of students, including behavioral issues, learning needs, cultural diversity and mental health.*

## What We Found



79%

of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that **funding for education is everyone's responsibility.**



72%

of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that **it is important to have meaningful voice in how schools are paid for** (kinds of taxes, level of tax, who/what is taxed), **but only 26 percent felt it is likely or very likely to occur.**



53%

of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that they would be willing to **pay higher taxes** if they knew the **money would go to PreK-12 education.**

## What We Heard

*“The K-12 school system is underfunded to the point where they are not able to offer the quality education students deserve. A good example of this would be large classroom sizes.”*

*(Public survey)*

*“A fully funded education system. More resources for the frontline teachers. Access to specialized classrooms with proper support. Inclusion does NOT work without support!”*

*(Public survey)*



## What do you think?

Shifting the conversation from **education as an expense** to **education as an investment** was an ongoing theme. What does investing in education mean to you? What might it mean for your community? For the province?

**What does full funding for education mean?** What would it look like in your community?

**What do you think should be the essential areas of an educational funding model that assures that each child in each community receives a quality education?** How can communities and schools work together to advocate for such a model?

**What role should the following have in making decisions about education funding?**

- Province
- School division
- School
- Community

**How can we create long-term commitments for education so that that educational funding is not seen as a political issue?**

## What can you do?

**Reach out** to your local trustee and ask questions about funding levels and how funding decisions are made.

**Engage in conversations** about what long-term sustainable funding might look like with parents, community members and teachers. What do you want your school to look like?

**Hold provincial government accountable** through letters, phone calls and conversations with your MLA to ensure they support predictable, stable and appropriate levels of funding to ensure a robust and successful public education system.



