



Our Ref. 111081

October 25, 2017

His Worship Jack Jeyes, Mayor
Village of Ashcroft
PO Box 129
Ashcroft BC V0K 1A0

Dear Mayor Jeyes:

I am writing to thank you and your delegation for taking the time to meet with me at the Union of British Columbia Municipalities Annual Convention.

Following my appointment as Minister of Advanced Education, Skills and Training, I have been looking forward to the opportunity to meet with representatives of local governments from across our province to hear about matters that are of importance to their communities.

I recognize the importance of encouraging students and youth to stay and study in rural communities.

I also understand from our meeting that you have several local employers who are looking to hire youth and who need apprentices. It is my commitment as Minister of Advanced Education, Skills and Training to work with the Minister of Education to support co-op, apprenticeship and work-experience programs for high school and undergraduate students. I have asked Ministry staff to follow up with the Industry Training Authority to look at the opportunities to support your community and local industries.

Employers may be eligible for funding support for programming through the Canada-BC Job Grant program. For further information regarding eligibility and how to apply, please visit the [Canada-BC Job Grant](#) website. I have requested that Ministry staff follow up on details.

As mentioned in our meeting, your community may also be interested in WorkBC's [Find Your Fit Tour](#) program. Ms. Bindi Sawchuk, Assistant Deputy Minister of the Labour Market Information Division at the Ministry of Advanced Education, Skills and Training, has responsibility for the Find Your Fit Tour program. You may wish to contact her office at: LMIDADMO@gov.bc.ca. For further questions on post-secondary education, please contact my Assistant Deputy Minister, Mr. Jeff Vasey, at: AVED.ADMInstitutionsandPrgms@gov.bc.ca.

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Helping people and communities to thrive and flourish is at the heart of our Government's values. Success often starts with getting the education and skills training required to acquire a good-paying job, which leaves people feeling accomplished and secure. Our Government is working hard to ensure every citizen in British Columbia can access quality, affordable and relevant education, so they can benefit from the opportunities our strong, sustainable and innovative economy provides.

I was inspired after speaking with students, faculty and staff as a result of my tour of all 25 public post-secondary institutions in British Columbia. The tour confirmed the importance of strong partnerships between post-secondary institutions, municipalities and our Government. When we work together we create an inclusive and strong society and lift each other up. We have many things in common.

Our provincial, Indigenous and local governments are strong partners who can collaborate to produce positive, meaningful change in all corners of our beautiful province.

Sincerely,



Melanie Mark
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Minister



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The Corporation
Village of Ashcroft