



November 13, 2017

Minister of Education, the Honourable Rob Fleming  
British Columbia Ministry of Education  
620 Superior Street  
Victoria, BC V8V 2P8

Dear Minister Fleming:

I am writing on behalf of the members of the Standing Committee on Language Articulation (SCOLA), one of the sub-committees of the British Columbia Council on Admissions and Transfer for postsecondary education. In recent years SCOLA established a working group from its membership which focused on raising members' awareness of proficiency-based models for language education at the post-secondary level by conducting a number of presentations and workshops at universities and colleges across the province.

The CEFR (Common European Framework of Reference for Foreign Language Teaching and Learning) model emphasized the increased awareness of the cultures of the languages being learned and the development of intercultural competency amongst learners. The working group's mandate was to create awareness of a globally-recognized language proficiency model and to demonstrate how it might be integrated into existing language programs in British Columbia. It was during this period that SCOLA established its partnership with the BCATML who were at the beginning of the process of changes to their K-12 language curriculum.

The development of intercultural competency is increasingly seen as an important element in both domestic and international education. Within the context of internationalization, language education can play a significant role in helping to prepare our learners to become truly global citizens in the future. The BCATML and SCOLA have enjoyed a productive and supportive partnership with a mutual understanding of the importance of language education in this province.

At our annual general meeting in 2017, SCOLA unanimously passed two motions to support our colleagues at the BCATML by writing to the Ministry of Education to endorse our support for their initiatives as follows:

1. SCOLA supports the BCATML initiative which would increase the scope and funding of SEMA to include more countries and to further facilitate the transition to postsecondary education.
2. SCOLA endorses support for the BCATML initiative to include a language 11 as a graduation requirement.

SCOLA's endorsement of these BCATML initiatives is in recognition of the essential role played by competent intercultural communication in the diverse and globally connected world in which our learners must flourish. We appreciate your consideration of the BCATML initiatives in language education and our support for them.

Charlotte Jones, Chair, SCOLA (Standing Committee on Language Articulation)/BCCAT  
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