
From: Amrita Narciso [REDACTED]
Date: December 15, 2019 at 7:38:12 PM PST
To: Mayor <Mayor@burnaby.ca>, "Calendino, Attilio Pietro" <AttilioPietro.Calendino@burnaby.ca>, "Dhaliwal, Satvinder" <Satvinder.Dhaliwal@burnaby.ca>, "Johnston, Dan" <Dan.Johnston@burnaby.ca>, "Jordan, Colleen" <Colleen.Jordan@burnaby.ca>, "Keithley, Joe" <Joe.Keithley@burnaby.ca>, "McDonell, Paul" <Paul.McDonell@burnaby.ca>, "Volkow, Nick" <Nick.Volkow@burnaby.ca>, "Wang, James" <James.Wang@burnaby.ca>
Subject: Please don't discriminate against needy students at independent schools in your bursary program

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Dear Mayor Hurley and council,

Please see my letter below to the Burnaby Now setting out the reasons that all Burnaby students should be included in the city's bursary program.

Thank you,

Amrita Narciso, [REDACTED], Burnaby, BC [REDACTED]

Dear Editor:

Re: Jason Kurylo's letter to the editor re "Burnaby private schools excluded from city's bursary program".

Jason Kurylo seems so blinded by his disdain for "church folk" that he forgets that families who choose independent or private schools are taxpayers too. If the city wants to hand out taxpayer funds for post-secondary bursaries, it must not discriminate against needy taxpayers based on their religion or attendance at special need schools.

Kurylo refers to the province "falling victim to" independent and private schools "dipping their hands into public coffers" as if families who choose alternatives to public schools are not worthy of being considered part of our community. Public coffers belong to all residents, which is why 83% of municipalities with bursary programs surveyed provide bursaries to students at all schools.

As referred to in the original article, Catholic and other Christian schools waive or reduce tuition for needy students including refugees, orphans, and children from single-parent families, and they often admit students from other faiths or no faith. Also excluded by the city's policy would be students at special needs schools such as Whytecliff, as well as Sikh, Jewish, and Muslim schools. Why should those children be discriminated against if they meet the bursary's financial need threshold?

Referred to:
Executive Committee of Council (2020.02.05)
Copied to:
City Manager
Dir. Corporate Services
Dir. Finance