



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization

Organisation  
des Nations Unies  
pour l'éducation,  
la science et la culture

Organización  
de las Naciones Unidas  
para la Educación,  
la Ciencia y la Cultura

Организация  
Объединенных Наций по  
вопросам образования,  
науки и культуры

منظمة الأمم المتحدة  
للترية والعلم والثقافة

联合国教育、  
科学及文化组织

## The Assistant Director-General for Education

Mr Mohammad Aminul Islam

President

Mother Language Lovers of the World Society

British Columbia

Canada

Ref.: ED/IPS/ESG/17/6140

Dear Mr Aminul Islam,

I wish to thank you for your letter of 1 July 2017 by which you request UNESCO to recognize the "British Columbia Model" in International Mother Language Day (IMLD) implementation and UNESCO's Education 2030 Framework of Sustainable Development Goals (SDG 4).

We acknowledge with thanks the important amount of work undertaken by the Mother Language Lovers of the World Society to raise awareness about mother languages and preserve linguistic diversity in British Columbia and in Canada.

We are grateful for your support to the implementation of IMLD in the school district of British Columbia and beyond in the Surrey District. It is a great achievement to have IMLD in the British Columbia School Yearly Calendar and curriculum to underline the importance of mother tongues, linguistic diversity and cultural traditions. In this connection, we are pleased to inform you that IMLD has gained in importance, scope and recognition. IMLD 2017 generated a great deal of interest: we registered almost 670,000 impressions on all UNESCO's Twitter accounts and 792 000 interactions on Facebook regarding IMLD.

Concerning the "British Columbia model" in IMLD implementation, I am pleased to inform you that the indicative strategies of the Framework for Action has provision for "bilingual and multilingual education, starting with early learning in the first or home language of children."

The Framework for Action and priorities and strategies for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG 4), were adopted through the Incheon Declaration for Education 2030 by Ministers, heads and members of delegations, heads of agencies and officials of multilateral and bilateral organizations, and representatives of civil society, the teaching profession, youth and the private sector in Seoul (Republic of Korea) in 2015.

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We are confident that key stakeholders in education will honour their commitment and elaborate evidence-based policies and strategies to ensure progress towards SDG 4 *Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all*.

We would like to encourage you to continue efforts locally and globally on IMLD implementation using the “BC model”. It is a promising practice on the translation of the Framework for Action into activities with good results.

Please be ensured that UNESCO will continue supporting its Member States and partners for the promotion of mother languages.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Qian Tang", written in a cursive style.

Qian Tang