[School board letter head]

March 4, 2021

**RE: EXTEND FREE TUITION AND PAID PLACEMENTS TO SCHOOL BOARD PSW PROGRAMS**

Dear \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, (first and last name of MPP), \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (MPP riding),

My name is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (name of administrator). I am the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (position title such as Director of Education) at the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (name of school board). Each year our board program graduates \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ from the PSW program. A total of 95% of them are hired during their supervised placements. (number of grads – pre COVID). They take jobs in local health care facilities.

I am writing to you today to express my grave concern regarding the province’s decision to provide free tuition and paid placements to community colleges only. School board PSW programs have been excluded from this advantage. We already have school board students planning to leave our programs to enroll in community colleges that offer free tuition and paid placements. This creates an unequal playing field.

**This policy will decrease the number of PSW graduates rather than increase the number, which was the intended consequence of this announcement. We are in the middle of a pandemic and we have a chronic shortage of PSWs!**

I urge the Ministries of Long-Term Care and Health to immediately include school board PSW programs in this policy.

Please contact me at \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (email address) or by telephone \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (telephone number) if you wish to discuss this matter further.

Sincerely,