

February 12, 2020

Dear Colleagues:

I am pleased to write in support of Steve Querengesser for BCTF 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President.

To me, Steve embodies the best of our Federation. He is a passionate advocate for member rights, a deeply respectful person regarding Aboriginal Education issues, a tireless warrior for Social Justice, and a compassionate listener to member needs. He has been an effective Local President for Haida Gwaii and a friendly face at many Federation Leadership Institute training sessions as well as Summer Conferences, RAs, and AGMs.

Steve looks at all sides of an issue before making an informed decision, and his decisions have always been well presented and defended. I have always appreciated his forthright comments from the microphone at past AGMs and Rep Assemblies. Steve has the enviable quality of being able to provide a calm voice during tumultuous times, while ensuring that a respectful and effective discussion can take place. His calm demeanor would serve us well in the face of government intransigence and employer obfuscating.

I must note two significant works that Steve has brought about. He was the driving force behind the BCTF granting his local money for a revitalization project for the Haida language. This was a significant project for the local and had an impact in BC as a whole when their board took over funding the position after the BCTF grant ran out. Education is the key to remedying the damage done by the Residential School system, and Steve has played a significant part in showing our commitment in this regard. He was also the convener of a significant multi-day regional Social Justice conference held on Haida Gwaii. To my knowledge, this was the first such conference ever held on Haida Gwaii, and provided a valuable service to our members on the Central coast and Northwest zone – members who often face major challenges attending conferences in the lower mainland.

The commitment level of Steve Querengesser cannot be questioned. The passion he brings cannot be overstated. The balanced perspective he provides is essential, and the leadership potential has just started to be tapped.

I believe Steve would make a solid, and impactful BCTF 2<sup>nd</sup> VP, and I hope you join me in supporting him.

Yours truly,



Shawn Gough  
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Grade 5/6  
VINTA Past-President