



CONVERSATION GUIDE

TALKING ABOUT UN-MET NEED

This five-step guide will help you frame conversations in a way that supports effective messaging when it comes to our Standing for Public Education campaign. This structure can also be applied to letter writing, social media posts, speeches, and media interviews.

LEAD WITH A VISION

Start from a place of shared values by leading with a broad statement about what you value in public education that is threatened by a lack of education resourcing. This should be something that is mutually agreeable.

Examples:-

‘When public education is properly valued and resourced, it can welcome all learners, and provide them with a responsive, safe school environment.’

‘Public schools sit at the heart of their communities and are vital in ensuring the academic, social and emotional success of our students.’

INQUIRE AND OBSERVE

Ask them about their perspective and check their understanding of teachers’ working conditions and students’ needs. Be patient and don’t interrupt.

If they ask questions, answer them. Agree where you can without compromising your position.

Receive their thoughts and don’t jump to challenge their point of view. Observe things beyond words – what does their body language or tone say about their point of view?

Examples:-

‘What do you think students need to thrive at school?’

‘I agree that other professions have tough working conditions too’



DESCRIBE BARRIERS AND CHALLENGES

Return to the key issues with teacher supply, and how they challenge your shared values. Clarify your position without minimizing theirs. *Examples:-*

VALUE	BARRIERS AND CHALLENGES
<i>Inclusion</i>	<i>The public education system is not currently funded to meet the needs of all students, which is why we are seeing higher rates of behavioural issues and school absences.</i>
<i>Fairness</i>	<i>Funding is going to the wrong places. 153 million for charter schools could provide an additional guidance counsellor in every school</i>



SOLUTIONS AND DECISION MAKERS

There is a key point in all conversations about public education: **State schools must be properly resourced to provide quality education for all students.**

Name the people who can make this happen - the government generally, but specifically the Minister of Education Erica Stanford and Ass. Minister of Education David Seymour. *Examples:-*

VALUE	SOLUTION
<i>Inclusion</i>	<i>Minister Stanford must fund additional pastoral and mental health care resources for secondary students.</i>
<i>Fairness</i>	<i>The government must invest in pastoral care roles in public schools so that all students can thrive.</i>



END ON A POSITIVE

Bring it back to the vision, and end with hope for something better. You're not expected to change anyone's mind in one conversation. You're just to give them a new perspective to think critically about why teachers are campaigning for better pay and conditions. Keep lines of communication open if they want to come back and talk to you about it more.