

A Silver Bullet? Will the *Moore vs. B.C.* Case Assure Inclusion?

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The Supreme Court of Canada's

November 9 decision on the *Moore vs. B.C.* education case has attracted a lot of attention in Canada's education community. Ministry officials, district leaders and those concerned with how support services to students with special education needs, have cause to reflect on current practice and consider the path forward.

For advocates of inclusive education, the consensus seems to have emerged that the *Moore Case* is not the "Silver Bullet" that will transform traditional special education in the immediate future. There are a lot of questions and possible answers are now being considered.

One thing the case does make clear is that the mandate for public education to provide the supports needed by these students has been strengthened and are not to be considered "luxuries" to be provided IF there is money to do so. Justice Abela was clear in stating that students with special needs have a right to the full benefit of the education system just like every other child. Special education is not the goal in itself, it is the support system or as the Justice described it, "the ramp" to get them to where they need to be. Many would argue that those outcomes can only be achieved if the extra supports or accommodations a child may need are provided in an inclusive environment. This is what research and best practice in Canada and internationally would suggest.

We feature several commentaries from stakeholders who share their views on this important development. Whether the *Moore* decision will eventually be the "Silver Bullet" to make inclusion in Canadian Schools a reality, we will only discover as we look back on what we do in the months and years ahead.