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NOTICE TO PARENTS

September 19, 2016

To: Parents, Guardians & Caregivers

Re: **UPDATE:** School District No. 52 in partnership with Northern Health - lead in tap water mitigation at schools in Prince Rupert

School District No. 52 (Prince Rupert), in partnership with Northern Health, has carried out its lead in tap water mitigation strategy at schools in Prince Rupert. Mitigation measures included district-wide water quality sampling, replacement of targeted piping and fixtures, installation of lead reduction water fountains and automatic flush valves across the district.

Lead is a metal that occurs naturally in the environment and is commonly used in plumbing materials. In this case, lead in pipes and other plumbing components have been identified as the source of elevated lead levels. The water in the City mains is tested regularly and has met the Guidelines for Canadian Drinking Water Quality for lead.

In line with our commitment to do so before the first day of school, the latest water quality results have been posted on the school district's website (<http://sd52.bc.ca/sd52root/content/water-quality-results-september-2-2016>). Results for three locations (all sink faucets) – one at Prince Rupert Middle School, one at Pacific Coast School, and one at the School Board Office, indicated levels of lead above the maximum allowable concentration of 0.01 mg/L.

At Prince Rupert Middle School, the affected room has been designated as a non-potable tap water source. Pacific Coast School will have lead reduction water filters installed at domestic water lines, and the School Board Office has been designated as a non-potable tap water source building.

All School District No. 52 buildings, including the three locations identified above are equipped with safe drinking water supply for students, staff, and public. To date, with guidance from Northern Health, School District No. 52 has invested over \$300,000 toward the district's safe drinking water and lead mitigation program. The investment includes \$150,000 of funding from the Ministry of Education's School Enhancement Program.

Northern Health provides advice on safe drinking water delivery to community partners and is also committed to ensuring the safety of drinking water. It is suggested that families in Prince Rupert with household plumbing containing lead flush their taps each morning until a temperature drop in the water is observed, indicating the arrival of fresh water beyond the building.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "S. A. Jones".

Sandra Jones
Superintendent of Schools
School District 52
Board of Education
Tel: (250) 627-0772