



634 – 6th Avenue East
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January 26, 2023

The Honourable Rachna Singh,
Minister of Education
P.O. Box 9045 STN PROV GOVT
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2

Dear Minister Singh,

We write to you today from the traditional, unceded and unsurrendered land of the Sm'alygax speaking Ts'msyen people. Our district is deeply committed to the work of Truth and Reconciliation, as 63% of students identify as Indigenous. These students are primarily from the Ts'msyen, Nisga'a and Haida First Nations.

In order to meet the needs of our students, our district is known as a leader in Indigenous Education. The Sm'alygax language program has curriculum from K-12, and almost all primary students receive instruction in this language from K-4. Role models and traditional teaching play a key role in all of our schools.

We share all of this with you in the hope that it may entice you to visit our district to see it first hand. We have much to be proud of, including the newly unveiled Asda Wagayt La'ooy – the Truth and Reconciliation Pole – in our secondary school.

During your visit, we would also hope to have time to discuss the challenges facing our district. These challenges include, but are not limited to:

- Funding, as the Funding Protection system has left us in an annual cycle of budget cuts.
- Equity, to address the needs of Indigenous students and vulnerable students, including students in care.
- Recruitment of teaching and other staff, which is now recognized as an issue across the Province, and is a particularly acute issue in a small, remote district.
- Reporting, as our small district, and small board office staff, struggle to respond to the Ministry's many requests for information.
- Daycare, particularly for infants and toddlers, including availability of spaces and recruitment of staff.

We are looking forward to your visit in the near future,



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Yours sincerely,
School District No. 52 (Prince Rupert)

District Parent Advisory Council

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kate Toye", written over a horizontal line.

Ms. Kate Toye
Chair

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tracy A. Puh", written in a cursive style.

President

International Union of Operating
Engineers, Local 882-B

Prince Rupert District Teachers' Union

Colleen Whelan
for Haemant Sawh

President

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Colleen Whelan", written in a cursive style.

President

cc: MLA Jennifer Rice
BCSTA