



SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 73 (Kamloops-Thompson)

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November 21, 2024

via email: Bowinn.Ma.MLA@leg.bc.ca

Minister of Infrastructure
Honourable Bowinn Ma
PO Box 9049, STN PROV GOVT
Victoria, B.C. V8W 9E2

Dear Honourable Minister Bowinn Ma:

On behalf of the Kamloops-Thompson Board of Education, I am honoured to congratulate you on your new role as the Minister of Infrastructure.

To provide you with a sense of who we are – the Kamloops-Thompson School District is the size of Vancouver Island (27,000 km), the 13th largest rural-urban district located in the unceded territory of Secwépemc people, and serves over 16,000 students in 12 urban and rural communities.

Kamloops is the fifth fastest growing municipality provincially. We have had fast-paced enrollment growth, growing at a medium-sized elementary school annually. We recently reopened two schools, reconfigured 20% of our district, and are building a new school, Sníne Elementary, in the southwest of Kamloops.


With your previous experience as Minister of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness and Minister of State for Infrastructure, we are looking forward to working with you and the new Ministry of Infrastructure to move forward important and much needed capital projects in our district, such as the building of new and improved schools.

In our district, the southwest sector of Kamloops is especially overly full (116% to 158% capacity utilization) and our secondary school for that area, Sa-Hali Secondary School, has eight portables and is at 128% capacity utilization currently, projected to be at 170% by 2030. Our Board is committed to securing a new secondary school in Aberdeen to help address current and projected enrollment pressures. We co-presented with the City of Kamloops at the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) conference in September 2024 to share that we greatly need support for a new secondary school in Aberdeen.

Our Board has advocated equally and strenuously for a new elementary school in the growing Kamloops neighbourhood of Batchelor Heights, where we recently engaged in a catchment change within three elementary schools because one had reached 181% capacity utilization. Even after reconfiguration, the closest elementary school, Westmount Elementary, is at a capacity utilization of 122%, which signifies a need for a new elementary school in that area.

We look forward to meeting you and connecting with you about your priorities and Mandate letter as you gain momentum in your new role.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Heather Grieve". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "H" and a long, sweeping tail.

Heather Grieve, Board Chair
School District No.73 (Kamloops-Thompson) Board of Education

cc: Board of Trustees; Superintendent; Acting Secretary-Treasurer; Communications Director
and Board Administrator