



September 23, 2025

Mayor Reid Hamer-Jackson
and Kamloops City Council

via email: eacouncil@kamloops.ca

Re: Advocacy at Union of BC Municipalities

Dear Mayor Reid Hamer-Jackson, Deputy Mayor Kelly Hall, and Kamloops City Councillors,

On behalf of the Kamloops-Thompson Board of Education, I would like to thank you for your advocacy efforts at this year's Union of BC Municipalities. We are especially grateful to see that you are advocating for additional child care funding and a new secondary school in Aberdeen in your upcoming meetings.

As you start your UBCM meetings this week, we respectfully ask for your continued support advocating for the following priorities:

- **Adequate Public Education Funding:** The Kamloops-Thompson School District has faced significant financial challenges this past year due to provincial funding levels, flattening enrolment, decreases in revenues, and provincial cost increases. Our multi-year forecasting shows that these pressures will continue and funding levels need to keep up with the increasingly diverse needs of students in order to maintain high-quality programming and services for all learners.
- **Increased Capital Funding:** A new secondary school in Aberdeen remains the District's first priority in the 2025 Long-Range Facilities Plan due to significant overcrowding in South Shore secondary schools. Sa-Hali Secondary School is currently at 131% capacity utilization while South Kamloops Secondary School is at 112% capacity utilization. Even with projected flattening enrolment, both schools are expected to grow significantly by 2035. Strategic investment is needed so our schools don't become too overcrowded and to ensure our facilities can meet current and future needs.
- **Funding for Child Care Expansions in Schools:** We are proud to have just opened a new child care centre at Parkcrest Elementary School in Kamloops this month but more work and funding is needed to continue to expand child care in schools across our district. We recognize how important access to safe and

inclusive child care programming is to our community and are committed to Minister Beare's mandate to focus on continuing to implement child care and improve access. However, budget and resource pressures impact our ability to meet this mandate.

Thank you for your continued support. We look forward to connecting at our annual meeting in the new year to discuss these priorities and how we can work together in advocating for infrastructure, funding, and resource needs for our schools and community.

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; Secretary-Treasurer