

December 15, 2023

Dear Educators, School Staff, District Leaders, and Trustees:

As we near the end of 2023 and the beginning of the winter break throughout BC, I wish each and every one of you a well-earned rest and a joyous holiday season.

As a mother myself, I know that there is nothing more important than to advocate for our schools and our kids. I have seen remarkable efforts from many of our education leaders since becoming Minister, and I am so grateful for your partnership.

The work you do every day ensures that BC continues to be a leader in education throughout Canada and the world. In addition to making our schools places where young British Columbians receive a world-class education, I know that you are also working very hard to make our schools spaces where students and staff feel safe, included, and respected. Safe, caring, and inclusive schools are extremely important. A sense of belonging allows students and staff to learn, grow, and reach their full potential. I know the depth of care each of you put into providing quality education for all students, helping them to achieve their goals and do well in the world.

Together, we have reached a number of milestones since the start of the school year. This year we implemented the Indigenous-focused Graduation Requirement, ensuring students develop deeper understandings of the perspectives, experiences, and cultures of Indigenous peoples before they leave the K-12 education system. I am also very proud of our partnership on the new Feeding Futures program, dedicated to creating and expanding school food and ensuring so that students can start the day fed and be ready to learn.

I also know that our education system is facing challenges, including rapid student enrollment in many school districts throughout BC. Our government remains committed to expanding and modernizing BC's K-12 education system and will continue to make record investments in new and expanded schools and child care on school grounds. We know that our student-centered education system couldn't succeed without the superintendents, teachers, administrators, and staff who work with our students every day. We're continuing to work on a K-12 workforce strategy to ensure we have the valued teachers and staff we need to continue to provide a world-class education for BC students.

Thank you from the bottom of my heart for your commitment to public education and your support for all of our students. I hope you all will get a much deserved restorative break with those nearest to you and celebrate in ways that are meaningful to you.

Warmest regards,

Rachna Singh Minister