

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
KEY RESPONSIBILITIES AND OPPORTUNITIES NOTE
COWICHAN VALLEY OFFICIAL TRUSTEE 2013

TOPIC DESCRIPTION:

Cabinet appointed an official trustee to the Cowichan Valley School District in 2012. A decision is required concerning whether the official trustee should be left in place until the next local government election in 2014.

BACKGROUND:

- In July 2012, Cabinet removed the Board of Education for Cowichan Valley School District after it failed to adopt a balanced budget, as it was required to do under the *School Act*.
- Cabinet appointed the Superintendent from Surrey School District, Mike McKay, as the official trustee to govern the district in place of the Board. The official trustee has all the powers and duties of a board of education. Without further action by Cabinet, the official trustee would be replaced by a newly elected board of education at the next local government election in November 2014.
- In 2012, the Minister committed to holding elections a year earlier, in November 2013. Under the *School Act*, Cabinet has the authority to remove the official trustee and either order elections in the district or appoint trustees to hold office until the next local government election.

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OPPORTUNITIES:

- An Order in Council (OIC) would be required to effect a 2013 election. The final decision regarding whether there is to be an election in 2013 must be made by June 2013, as the OIC would need to be in place no later than July.

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Ministry of Education
30 Day Potential Issues
June 2013

# Days	Issues	Pending Decisions (if a decision(s) is pending note it here)	Public and Stakeholder Reaction (what is the potential reaction to the issue)
30	<p>The Education Jurisdiction Framework Agreement (EJFW) includes recognition from both Canada and British Columbia that BC First Nations can move to make laws regarding education on their own lands, including education services, the certification of teachers and schools, granting credentials, developing curriculum, and establishing education standards.</p> <p>A total of 63 First Nations have submitted Letters of Intent to become Interested First Nations and 14 of those, preparing to exercise their educational jurisdiction, have engaged in funding discussions with Canada, assisted by the First Nations Education Steering Committee (FNESC), but those negotiations have not been resolved. Moreover, the seven-year term of <u>the jurisdiction agreements will expire on July 5, 2013.</u></p>	<p>Senior officials in Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada (AANDC), the Ministry of Education, and FNESC agreed on May 24 to a five-year extension of the EJFW. FNESC leaders are tentatively planning to sign the extension document with AANDC's Minister on June 11 in Ottawa. BC's Minister of Education will need to sign before July 5.</p>	<p>If BC neglects to sign the extension document in a timely manner, First Nations could interrupt that inaction as a change of direction counter to First Nations control over First Nations education and BC's government-to-government style new relationship with its First Nation education partners.</p> <p>Also, a delay could lead to further analysis of the agreement and extension document. Any negotiation would introduce a risk that the parties fail to reach consensus and refuse to re-sign.</p>

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30	<p style="text-align: center;">S13, S17</p>		
30	<p>The Official Languages in Education Protocol (OLEP) The Protocol is a multi-year, multilateral agreement between the federal government, through the Department of Canadian Heritage and the Council of Ministers of Education, Canada (CMEC), which acts on behalf of all provinces and territories. The Protocol sets the main parameters for collaboration between Canadian Heritage and the provincial/territorial ministers of education in the area of official languages in education.</p> <p>The current Protocol expired in March 2013. The Province received over \$64.4M under this four-year Protocol. Negotiations for the renewal of a Protocol started this spring.</p> <p>The Protocol governs the negotiation of bilateral cost-sharing agreements between provinces/territories and the Government of Canada. Once the Protocol has been signed, B.C. will be in a position to negotiate and conclude a bilateral agreement with the federal Department of Canadian Heritage for the disbursement of federal funds.</p>	<p>The Deputy Minister on behalf of the Minister of Education has approved the ratification of Protocol 2013-2018 the proposed new five-year Protocol for Agreements for Minority-Language Education and Second-Language Instruction.</p> <p>The Minister of Education will need to request Treasury Board approval before concluding negotiations of bilateral agreement with federal government.</p>	<p>New Protocol will bring funding stability to our partners for the next five years. Some school districts will have pressure to respond to the demand of additional French Immersion classes and/or programs without additional federal funds.</p>

# Days	Issues	Pending Decisions (if a decision(s) is pending note it here)	Public and Stakeholder Reaction (what is the potential reaction to the issue)
30	S13, S17		
30	<p>International Education</p> <p>BC Global Education Program - Offshore Schools From June – December 2012 the program underwent a review and 6 month hold on accepting applications due to quality concerns. In January 2013, the program was re-opened with new application criteria, accountability mechanisms, fee structure and transition guidelines for the existing 34 certified schools and 16 schools working towards certification. The program has been aligned to meet government vision and goals under the International Education Strategy.</p> <p>K-12 International Education Framework The Ministry launched a K-12 International Education Framework and Ministers Advisory Group to provide advice and input into the future direction over the 2013/14 school year. Commitment for five regional round tables to be held in March/April 2013 to solicit broad stakeholder input on the strategic direction and options for implementing a quality assurance model in BC.</p>	Policy review required	<p>Offshore: stakeholders have expressed support and recognition that the offshore program required a review and changes to ensure greater accountability and quality within the system. Owner/Operators have a range of concerns about increased accountability requirements and associated fees. Government will want to review the impacts of the changes announced in January to ensure concerns have been appropriately resolved.</p> <p>Onshore: Most stakeholders recognize that QA is an issue that needs to be addressed.</p>

# Days	Issues	Pending Decisions (if a decision(s) is pending note it here)	Public and Stakeholder Reaction (what is the potential reaction to the issue)
30	<p>Procurement of a Common Student Information Service to replace BCeSIS</p> <p>A Request for Proposals was sent to pre-qualified vendors on December 7 and closed on February 14, 2013. The lead proponent will be selected by May/June 2013. Preparation of the RFP is the result of extensive consultations with experts from the field, stakeholder groups and the public.</p>	<p>Whether to enter into a contract with a service provider for a new common student information service for school districts, independent schools and First Nations schools.</p>	<p>Once the RFP has been issued there is an expectation by the vendor community that a contract will be completed with the lead proponent as soon as possible.</p> <p>Anticipate general support for decision to proceed with BCeSIS replacement, but may have questions in the media regarding procurement process and steps taken to involve stakeholders in selection process.</p> <p>Once a vendor has been selected there will be concerns by some districts about the availability of local resources to implement a new solution before Spring 2016, when BCeSIS will be decommissioned. May also get push-back from some BCeSIS users reluctant to change to a new service.</p>

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30	<p>SD 79 Cowichan Board of Education</p> <p>Cowichan Board of Education was removed and replaced with an official trustee in 2012. Without further action by Cabinet, the official trustee would be replaced by a newly elected board of education at the next local government election in 2014. In 2012, the Minister committed to holding elections a year earlier in 2013.</p> <p>A number of school closure decisions are pending as the district struggles to balance its budget.</p>	An OIC would be required to effect a 2013 election. The final decision regarding whether there is to be an election in 2013 must be made by June 2013 as the OIC would need to be in place no later than July.	<p>613</p>