

**MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
BRIEFING NOTE**

DATE: March 9, 2016
CLIFF: 186423

PREPARED FOR: Dave Byng, Deputy Minister, for **Information** at the request of International Education Branch

SUBJECT: Maple Leaf Educational Systems proposal to open a Maple Leaf Educational Systems British Columbia Offshore School Program in British Columbia

BACKGROUND:

Maple Leaf Educational Systems (MLES) currently operates nine certified and one pre-certified British Columbia offshore school. Maple Leaf International School – Dalian was the first school to open in 1995 with 14 students, and marked the introduction of British Columbia grade 10 to 12 curriculum to China.

In September 2016, MLES will open another British Columbia offshore school in Zhejiang Province, bringing their total number of British Columbia certified offshore schools in China to 11. Maple Leaf offers dual Chinese and British Columbia government graduation diplomas.

MLES is the Ministry of Education's largest offshore partner. They indicated in May 2015 that they have a five-year goal to double in size. They are opening new offshore schools, have strong relationships with British Columbia post-secondary institutions and are committed to continuous improvement.

Maple Leaf Education Systems has recently indicated that they wish to extend their British Columbia offshore school education program into British Columbia by opening up a MLES satellite campus at Thompson Rivers University in British Columbia.

DISCUSSION:

Jim Beeke, Vice President/Board of Directors, Superintendent of Schools/British Columbia Programs, Liaison/British Columbia Ministry of Education – Maple Leaf Educational Systems has met with ministry officials on several occasions to discuss MLES desire to extend their offshore school program into British Columbia by starting a MLES campus on site at Thompson Rivers University (TRU) to bring students currently studying in a British Columbia Offshore School to finish their British Columbia /China studies in British Columbia.

Specifically, MLES is proposing the following (see Attachment 1):

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Value to British Columbia:

- International education is identified as one of eight sector levers in the 2011 *BC Jobs Plan*. The 2012 *BC International Education Strategy* targets a 50 percent increase in international student enrolments by 2016. The Strategy positions the province and its residents to benefit even more from the social, cultural, and economic opportunities that flow from international education activities.
- The Ministry of Education's goal is to increase the transition rate of Offshore School Student graduates. Only approximately 15 percent of British Columbia offshore school graduates transition to a British Columbia post-secondary compared to 40 percent of international students studying in a British Columbia K-12.
- The MLES proposal is consistent with expressed ministry policy to increase the transition of British Columbia off-Shore school graduates in to British Columbia colleges and universities.
- MLES's proposal will influence international students to consider a university outside the Lower Mainland as an option for post-secondary studies.
- Potential economic benefits to Kamloops through home-stay programs and parent visits.
- Increased relationships with the People's Republic of China, who are supportive of the MLES proposal to start a program in British Columbia.

Legal position:

Legal Services Branch, Ministry of Justice, provided the legal opinion on the MLIS proposal (see Attachment 2):


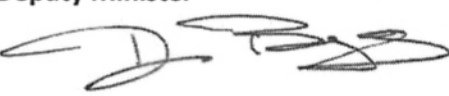
CONCLUSION:

The MLES proposal to have an offshore school satellite campus in British Columbia supports government's economic agenda and would be beneficial for the province and the community of Kamloops. s.13,s.14

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Attachments:

1. MLES Satellite Campus Proposal
2. Legal Opinon on MLES Satellite Campus Proposal
3. DM letter to James Beeke

<u>Contact Information</u>	Approved (ADM Initial)	Approved (DM Signature)
Knoweldge Management and Accountability Division (250) 356-6760		
	A/ADM Brian Jonker Knowledge Management and Accountability Division	Dave Byng Deputy Minister 
	Date Approved: March 9, 2016	Date signed: March 16, 2016

China Maple Leaf Educational Systems

PROPOSAL: MAPLE LEAF HIGH SCHOOL SATELLITE CAMPUS AT THOMPSON RIVERS UNIVERSITY

Ian, we are following up on the meeting held in Dave's office on February 18th to set out our proposal for a satellite school. As we discussed, the proposal is to create a pilot program to operate a satellite campus of an established BC-certified Maple Leaf International School, called Maple Leaf University School - Kamloops, on the campus of Thompson Rivers University. Thompson Rivers University supports this proposal in principle. Maple Leaf will lease classroom space from TRU and enter into a shared use agreement for access to TRU's gymnasium (recreation centre), playfields, library, internet, and Science and computer labs. Students will purchase cafeteria cards and participate in TRU's home-stay program.

Specifically, the TRU campus would be a satellite campus of a Maple Leaf International School in China, and all students attending the TRU satellite campus would be enrolled in an Maple Leaf International School. The TRU satellite campus would offer the full BC grade 10, 11 and 12 program to our students, the same program that they would receive at our schools offering the BC certified program in China.

The operation of the TRU satellite campus would be governed by the Offshore School Agreement currently in place between the Ministry of Education and China Maple Leaf Educational Systems. The TRU satellite campus would be required to meet all the conditions of that Agreement, including annual on-site inspections.

As the TRU satellite campus would be a satellite of a Maple Leaf International School and governed by the Agreement currently in place between the Ministry of Education and China Maple Leaf Educational Systems, it would be outside of the provisions of the Independent School Act.

We see this proposal as being consistent with expressed B.C. Government policy to enhance enrolment of Off-Shore school graduates in B.C colleges and universities by introducing Maple Leaf students to Thompson Rivers University. Our proposed summer programs would also provide an opportunity for students to learn about a University that is outside the Lower Mainland. We believe that this proposal will provide additional economic spin off benefits to Kamloops through home-stay programs and parent visits.

Depending on the success of this pilot, China Maple Leaf Educational Systems may wish to also provide educational programs to other international, Canadian and BC students at the TRU satellite campus. Like the Chinese students, these students would be enrolled in a Maple Leaf International School in China. We believe that this initiative would enrich the educational experience of all students and would promote intercultural understanding and the ability to conduct future business in Canada and the PRC.

In addition to the BC grade 10-12 program, Maple Leaf University School - Kamloops will also offer a Chinese language and history/culture program, as currently offered in Maple Leaf high schools in China. This will enable Chinese national students to graduate with two diplomas -- one from BC, Canada and a second from China. In the future, non-Chinese resident students may also take Chinese language programs and receive Chinese certificates of completion.

The development of Maple Leaf University School - Kamloops would be well received by the PRC Government which has for many years requested that Maple Leaf create such a program. The PRC would be expected to send a high level delegation to participate in the opening of the TRU satellite campus.

We look forward to your response, and would be pleased to discuss this proposal for a pilot program with you at your convenience.

Jim Beeke
Peter Owen

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James Beeke, Superintendent of Schools: BC Program
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Vancouver BC V5Z 4C2
Email: jamesbeeke@mapleleafedu.com

Dear Mr. Beeke:

Thank you for the opportunity to meet with you and Mr. Peter Owen on February 18, 2016, to discuss your proposal to extend Maple Leaf's British Columbia Offshore school program into British Columbia by opening a Maple Leaf Education System (MLES) campus on site at Thompson Rivers University by September 2016.

As we discussed at the meeting, the concept has tremendous merit as it aligns with the Province's International Education Strategy to bring more international students into British Columbia. It also supports the Ministry of Education's goal to increase transition rates of British Columbia Offshore School graduates.

I am hopeful that MLES will consider opening this school as a Group 4 Independent School. I believe this would be a benefit to both the Province of British Columbia and to China Maple Leaf Educational Systems, to extend our long-standing relationship into British Columbia. MLES is a valued and highly regarded partner.

To advance this project toward successful implementation, please work with Brian Jonker, Executive Director, Education Sector Organizational Excellence Branch. Mr. Jonker can be contacted by phone at (250) 217-3991 or by email at Brian.Jonker@gov.bc.ca. He will be pleased to provide you with any support you may require.

Thank you, again, for meeting with me to discuss the MLES proposal.

Sincerely yours,

Dave Byng
Deputy Minister

pc: Ian Rongve, Assistant Deputy Minister, Knowledge Management and Accountability
Brian Jonker, Executive Director, Education Sector Organizational Excellence Branch

Contact Information	Approvals / Date signed
	EAA: Catherine Patterson
Executive Director:	Brenda Neufeld – March 9 Updated Letter Brenda Neufeld - March 14
Acting ADM: Updated Letter: Acting ADM	Brian Jonker – March 9 Dave Duerksen – March 16
DM :	Dave Byng – March 16

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