

From: [Filion, Corinna GCPE:EX](#)
To: [MacDonald, Scott D EDUC:EX](#)
Subject: RE: Dr. Henry 30
Date: August 20, 2020 9:29:50 AM

Scratch that – they now aren't sure if it's ok yet to show as Dr Henry is away and she needs to review it first. They will get back to me later today

From: Filion, Corinna GCPE:EX
Sent: August 20, 2020 9:25 AM
To: MacDonald, Scott D EDUC:EX
Subject: RE: Dr. Henry 30
It's fine to show it

From: MacDonald, Scott D EDUC:EX <D.Scott.MacDonald@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: August 20, 2020 8:29 AM
To: Filion, Corinna GCPE:EX <Corinna.Filion@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: RE: Dr. Henry 30

I'd like to share during my presentation on Friday at the Sups conference
Hoping this wont be a problem.

From: Filion, Corinna GCPE:EX <Corinna.Filion@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: August 19, 2020 9:09 PM
To: MacDonald, Scott D EDUC:EX <D.Scott.MacDonald@gov.bc.ca>; Nicholls, Cloe EDUC:EX <Cloe.Nicholls@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: Fwd: Dr. Henry 30
FYI

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Poorooshasb, Nammi GCPE:EX" <Nammi.Poorooshasb@gov.bc.ca>
Date: August 19, 2020 at 5:42:01 PM PDT
To: "Farrance, Melissa EDUC:EX" <Melissa.Farrance@gov.bc.ca>, "Filion, Corinna GCPE:EX" <Corinna.Filion@gov.bc.ca>, "Finn, Heather GCPE:EX" <Heather.Finn@gov.bc.ca>, "Harrison, Veronica EDUC:EX" <Veronica.Harrison@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: "Thaw, Sara GCPE:EX" <Sara.Thaw@gov.bc.ca>, "Hardin, Karl GCPE:EX" <Karl.Hardin@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: Re: Dr. Henry 30

Apologies. Resending with Veronica Harrison and will reach out to Megan Harris (who is totally awesome) and ask her to disregard.

From: "Poorooshasb, Nammi GCPE:EX" <Nammi.Poorooshasb@gov.bc.ca>
Date: Wednesday, August 19, 2020 at 5:40 PM

To: "Farrance, Melissa EDUC:EX" <Melissa.Farrance@gov.bc.ca>, "Harris, Megan AG:EX" <Megan.Harris@gov.bc.ca>, "Filion, Corinna GCPE:EX" <Corinna.Filion@gov.bc.ca>, "Finn, Heather GCPE:EX" <Heather.Finn@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Sara Thaw <Sara.Thaw@gov.bc.ca>, Karl Hardin <Karl.Hardin@gov.bc.ca>

Subject: Dr. Henry 30

Hi team,

As I mentioned to Melissa on the phone, the animated spot that you've all seen will start on TV by tomorrow. We had the opportunity to get it going sooner and seized on it so thanks for all your support getting that thing together.

As you also know, Karl and Sara's team did a shoot with Dr. H last week — her answering questions from kids. The shoot went really well and the team is working away at it those individual videos but we also have what we think is a really excellent 30 second spot that we think we could cycle in alongside the animated ad.

At the link below are two assemblies of the ad. They both still need a little tweaking but I think they're looking pretty great and are very topical. Please let us know what you think. There are two different options for music, so open to advice on that too. We'll also be sharing with Dr. H for her approval.

<https://spaces.hightail.com/receive/6W5QCfBrUh>

Nammi

From: [Filion, Corinna GCPE:EX](#)
To: [MacDonald, Scott D EDUC:EX](#)
Subject: Fwd: Dr. Henry 30
Date: August 20, 2020 6:42:33 PM

FYI

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Poorooshasb, Nammi GCPE:EX"
Date: August 20, 2020 at 6:03:50 PM PDT
To: "Filion, Corinna GCPE:EX"
Cc: "Harrison, Veronica EDUC:EX" , "Farrance, Melissa EDUC:EX"
Subject: Re: Dr. Henry 30

Hi all,
We've heard from Dr. H and she is also feeling good about the spot. I would just ask that the DM share this latest version: <https://spaces.hightail.com/receive/nrpIJYjXy2>
This version will still undergo some minor tweaks, so it should be described as a draft. And ideally, the ad will be played via some sort of screen share or in person, and not by sharing the link.
Hope all that works for you guys!
Nammi

From: "Filion, Corinna GCPE:EX"
Date: Thursday, August 20, 2020 at 8:52 AM
To: "Poorooshasb, Nammi GCPE:EX"
Cc: Veronica Harrison , "Farrance, Melissa EDUC:EX"
Subject: Re: Dr. Henry 30

Hi Nammi, Education DM is meeting with superintendents on Friday and is wondering if he can show this video to them - is that ok?

Sent from my iPhone

On Aug 19, 2020, at 5:42 PM, Poorooshasb, Nammi GCPE:EX wrote:

Apologies. Resending with Veronica Harrison and will reach out to Megan Harris (who is totally awesome) and ask her to disregard.

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Date: Wednesday, August 19, 2020 at 5:40 PM
To: "Farrance, Melissa EDUC:EX" , "Harris, Megan AG:EX" , "Filion,

Corinna GCPE:EX" , "Finn, Heather GCPE:EX"

Cc: Sara Thaw , Karl Hardin

Subject: Dr. Henry 30

Hi team,

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<https://spaces.hightail.com/receive/6W5QCfBrUh>

Nammi

From: [Burton, Meribeth GCPE:EX](#)
To: [MacDonald, Scott D EDUC:EX](#); [Nicholls, Cloe EDUC:EX](#)
Cc: [Filion, Corinna GCPE:EX](#)
Subject: PHO Media available
Date: August 31, 2020 1:09:41 PM

Please see HLTH GCPE draft lines for PHO and 3 pm media avail
I have sent this to MO for feedback.
Any concerns on your end?
Meribeth

Subject: the mask in the ad

Below in bold is what I proposed to DrH if she is asked about the student wearing a mask in the ad.

J M P

Desk: 236-478-0302

Cell: 250-886-2154

From: Prevost, Jean-Marc GCPE:EX

If you are asked about the one student shown wearing a mask in the ad, I would suggest messaging something like this:

Public health has a long history of working collaboratively to promote and protect the health of our school communities. Like every year, we will support our teachers and education staff to make this return to school successful.

In-class learning for our kids is more important than ever – and we created the ad to show kids (and their parents) some of the changes that will help keep everyone safe.

We know every classroom in the province looks different. The ad reflects that, showing children from a variety of backgrounds and ages from early years to junior high.

The students I met with each chose whether they would wear a mask for the ad shoot – and we respected their choice. Students this fall will make the same individual choices about whether they wear a mask in the classroom, and it is important that we respect their choices in the same way.

COVID-19 will be around for months to come – and the ad also shows that public health officials will be here with us through it all.

Schools are part of our communities – and a safe community means a safe school. That is why we in public health will continue to promptly and appropriately respond to cases, clusters and outbreaks of COVID-19 to ensure our communities, and the schools in them, remain at low risk for COVID-19 transmission.

From: [Stewart, Melanie EDUC:EX](#)
To: [Filion, Corinna GCPE:EX](#); [Burton, Meribeth GCPE:EX](#)
Cc: [MacDonald, Scott D EDUC:EX](#)
Subject: Bonnie Henry Video: Important concern
Date: August 30, 2020 1:45:37 PM

Hi there,

Just wanted to flag the below concern. It is true that the only child depicted wearing a mask is Asian.... I wonder if possible to re-edit this bit?

Thanks,

Melanie

s.22

From: [Sorochan, Craig GCPE:EX](#)
To: [MacDonald, Scott D EDUC:EX](#); [Purdy, Sheila EDUC:EX](#); [Harrison, Veronica EDUC:EX](#); [Nicholls, Cloe EDUC:EX](#); [McLeod, Tamara EDUC:EX](#); [Mayhew, Marnie EDUC:EX](#); [Higgs, Jeremy EDUC:EX](#); [Farrance, Melissa EDUC:EX](#); [Mills, Esme GCPE:EX](#); [Silver, Matt EDUC:EX](#); [Godin, Keith EDUC:EX](#); [McCrea, Jennifer EDUC:EX](#); [Palmer, Joel EDUC:EX](#); [Postings, Shelaina EDUC:EX](#); [Nyikes, Michael EDUC:EX](#); [Kovacs, Patricia EDUC:EX](#); [Wieczorek, Chris EDUC:EX](#); [Iliffe, Liam GCPE:EX](#); [Zadravec, Don GCPE:EX](#); [Byers, Lindsay GCPE:EX](#); [Craik, Jason GCPE:EX](#)
Cc: [Filion, Corinna GCPE:EX](#); [Craft, Christina GCPE:EX](#); [Ralph, Kerri GCPE:EX](#); [Burton, Meribeth GCPE:EX](#); [McKenzie, Scott GCPE:EX](#); [Martens, Garth GCPE:EX](#)
Subject: End of Day Media Request Report - August 31
Date: August 31, 2020 5:45:21 PM

Media Requests

Sent all the same statement regarding the back to school PHO advert.

Troy Landreville - VISTA Radio (Campbell River)

Katya Slepian - Black Press Digital

Matthew Humphrey - CBC – Vancouver

Richard Zussman - Global TV | BC

Jason Hallman - CTV Vancouver Island – Victoria

Regan Hasegawa - CTV - Vancouver

STATUS: Provided Statement:

- The purpose of the ad with Dr. Henry is to give parents and students information about the return to school by directing them to a website (backtoschool.gov.bc.ca) with resources and more information.

Each school will operate under strict health and safety measures with well-stocked supplies to support regular hand washing and hand hygiene and

frequent cleaning of classrooms and high touch surfaces, along with daily monitoring of personal health before the school day begins and providing non-medical masks for students and staff.

In Progress:

Richard Zussman - Global TV | BC
ISSUE: facebook live interview request

Jeremy Allingham - CBC - Vancouver
ISSUE: CBC Panel interview request - return to school

Isabelle Gallant - CBC Radio - Network Talk
ISSUE: CBC Radio Interview Request - The Current

Laura Brougham - CFX 1070
ISSUE: Back to school interview with Al Ferraby

Ramneek Singh - Darpan Magazine
ISSUE: Questions for Minister Fleming for Darpan Magazine

Brendan Pawliw - VISTA (Prince George) - Country 97 FM | CJCI 97.3 | 94.3 The Goat
ISSUE: Back to school MRF interview

Randy Shore - Vancouver Sun
ISSUE: Back to school interview

Mary Griffin - CHEK TV - Victoria
ISSUE: Interview Request

Jason Pires - CTV News (BC)
ISSUE: Back to school interview

Fran Yanor - The Rocky Mountain Goat News
ISSUE: COVID impacts on student learning

Marjan Asadullah - CTV - National (Toronto)
ISSUE: First day of school interview request

Niki Reitmayer - CKNW AM 980
ISSUE: Back to school interview request

From: [Bawa, Reg R EDUC:EX](#)
To: [Burton, Meribeth GCPE:EX](#); [MacDonald, Scott D EDUC:EX](#)
Cc: [Filion, Corinna GCPE:EX](#); [Sorochan, Craig GCPE:EX](#)
Subject: RE: EDUC Media Request: advert questions
Date: September 4, 2020 10:29:01 AM

I can not approve this because I have no idea if the information is correct

From: Burton, Meribeth GCPE:EX
Sent: September 4, 2020 10:19 AM
To: MacDonald, Scott D EDUC:EX ; Bawa, Reg R EDUC:EX
Cc: Filion, Corinna GCPE:EX ; Sorochan, Craig GCPE:EX
Subject: FW: EDUC Media Request: advert questions
Morning Scott and Reg,
Please see media request and response for approval. Let me know if edits are required.

Meribeth

Reporter

Bob Mackin, Reporter
The Breaker News
bob@thebreaker.news
604-982-9130 c: 604-724-5604

Deadline Friday, September 4, 2020 12:00 PM

Request

With regard to the B.C.'s Back to School Plan ad featuring Dr. Bonnie Henry, would the ministry be willing to release some information about the production, such as where and when the ad was shot, how many people were in the crew (behind the camera), how the children were chosen, and what additional protocols, if any, were used on set for pandemic-related health and safety reasons

Can you also specify the roles of each of the contractors for the major elements of the campaign?

Who was responsible for the animation and who was responsible for the live action? And what the maximum value of the contracts was?

Background

From: [Sorochan, Craig GCPE:EX](#)
To: [MacDonald, Scott D EDUC:EX](#); [Purdy, Sheila EDUC:EX](#); [Harrison, Veronica EDUC:EX](#); [Nicholls, Cloe EDUC:EX](#); [McLeod, Tamara EDUC:EX](#); [Mayhew, Marnie EDUC:EX](#); [Higgs, Jeremy EDUC:EX](#); [Farrance, Melissa EDUC:EX](#); [Silver, Matt EDUC:EX](#); [Godin, Keith EDUC:EX](#); [McCrea, Jennifer EDUC:EX](#); [Palmer, Joel EDUC:EX](#); [Postings, Shelaina EDUC:EX](#); [Nyikes, Michael EDUC:EX](#); [Kovacs, Patricia EDUC:EX](#)
Cc: [Craft, Christina GCPE:EX](#); [Ralph, Kerri GCPE:EX](#); [Burton, Meribeth GCPE:EX](#); [McKenzie, Scott GCPE:EX](#); [Martens, Garth GCPE:EX](#); [Filion, Corinna GCPE:EX](#)
Subject: End of Day Media Request Report - September 9
Date: September 4, 2020 5:05:07 PM

Interviews on Tuesday (First Day of Orientation week)

Jason Pires - CTV News (BC) (Tuesday 7:45 am)

Mornings with Al Ferraby (Tuesday at 8:20 am)

Brendan Pawliw, VISTA (Prince George) (Tuesday at 1:30 pm)

Mary Griffin, CHEK TV – Victoria (Tuesday at 2 pm at Rose Garden)

Interviews Booked:

Yuji Zhang - Omni BC
ISSUE: School Restart
STATUS: Scheduled Interview

- Interview over Zoom on Wed (TBC)

Vineeta Prasad - Global TV | BC
ISSUE: Global Mornng News
STATUS: Scheduled Interview

- 7:40 am Thursday over Zoom

-

Sent these three media the same response:

1) William Burr - CBC - Radio Canada (French Services)
ISSUE: Black Vancouver protest today

2) Jon Hernandez - CBC - Vancouver
ISSUE: Black Vancouver letter

3) Alissa Thibault - CTV - Vancouver
ISSUE: Black history protest

STATUS: Provided Background

- We are hearing the experiences of people in schools who are raising concerns.

The Ministry is committed to working to prevent, identify and stop incidents of hate and discrimination in our province. The education of young people is a crucial part of that work and must include a robust multicultural curriculum, including B.C. Black history.

The ministry has been looking closely at Black history content in the provincial curriculum. The Black Lives Matter movement and other global events serve to underline the ongoing importance of teaching all students about diversity, anti-racism and the history of racialized communities in Canada.

While Black history topics are currently included in the curriculum, we know there is room for improvement, and now is an appropriate time to strengthen these important topics. We want to listen and work collaboratively to ensure the education system provides students the tools and resources necessary to identify and dismantle systemic discrimination.

To begin this work, the ministry reached out to organizations in British Columbia who promote awareness of Black history.

The Minister and Ministry of Education executive hosted a community roundtable on anti-racism in July and more tables are contemplated in the future.

The roundtable was an opportunity to listen to community leaders with lived experience of racism and build an Action Plan for a more inclusive future for B.C. Community input will guide the creation of policies and programs that promote anti-racism.

Additionally, we intend to build an Anti-Racism collaborative to champion anti-racism ideas and action at all levels of the school system. The Anti-Racism collaborative could be modelled after B.C.'s very successful SOGI 123 initiative. There is no place for racism, discrimination or intolerance in British Columbia – in our schools or anywhere else. Schools should be safe places where students come to learn and grow and celebrate diversity. It is my hope that together, we can build a better and more inclusive future for B.C.

Please see information on the recently announced Community Roundtable on Anti-Racism: <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2020EDUC0051-001372>

Please see Minister Fleming and K-12 education partners' recent statement of support for anti-racism: <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2020EDUC0050-001364>

Caden Fanshaw - CKPG News (Prince George)

ISSUE: Interview Request: CKPG News

STATUS: Provided Background

- We understand the anxiety many families are feeling about their children returning to the classroom and for some, in-class learning may not be an option.

We expect school districts will be flexible and provide families who need it with remote learning options that keep children connected to their school community.

Minister Fleming directed school districts to survey families in their community to determine their school plans for September – and to confirm if they are planning for their child to attend school classes in September, or if they need

alternative learning options.

Where there is demand for an alternative to in-class instruction, we gave school districts the flexibility, funding certainty and the tools to find solutions that work for families.

The Prince George School District is offering families four different options – including a transition plan for families who are uncertain about their kids starting the year in school. <https://www.sd57.bc.ca/Documents/2020-21%20SD57%20Options%20for%20School.pdf>

Jane Seyd - North Shore News
ISSUE: masks
STATUS: Provided Background

- The Provincial COVID-19 Health & Safety Guidelines for K-12 Settings clearly state: Non-medical masks are not recommended for elementary school students (pg. 23)
 - o <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/education/administration/kindergarten-to-grade-12/safe-caring-orderly/k-12-covid-19-health-safety-guidelines.pdf>
- The approval of district plans were based on following the guidelines outlined by the PHO. All schools, public or independent must follow these guidelines.
- As Dr. Henry stated yesterday in her media availability, schools or districts should contact their local Medical Health Officer to discuss potential protocols outside of these guidelines before implementing them.

Jill Sperling - CFJC TV and Radio (Kamloops)
ISSUE: Parkcrest Fire
STATUS: Provided Statement

- Our government acted quickly after the fire and Ministry of Education staff have been working closely with the school district on a long-term plan for Parkcrest students, as well as the clean-up of the site.
Ministry staff are working with the school district to finalize the Project Definition Report, which will include specific details about the re-build the school, so we can move forward on the project as fast as possible.
We expect to have more to say about the project in the coming months.

Brenna Owen - Canadian Press (BC Bureau)
ISSUE: Supports for students with diverse needs
STATUS: Provided Background

- 1) One Richmond mother has a son on the autism spectrum going into grade six and says he won't be able to practice physical distancing and there is no ongoing remote option. She says she is faced with the option of homeschooling, which would remove her son from the school and thus cut off the supports he receives via funding allocated to the school because of his placement there. My question is: what is the ministry's directive in circumstances involving students with diverse abilities and special needs, who cannot attend class in person, and

whose schools don't offer continuous remote learning? i.e. this particular student has been given a date by which he must start attending class in person in order to keep his spot/enrolment. There is also a petition from Autism BC I am now wondering if you could consider those specific asks when answering my first question Re: kids with diverse abilities and needs. In particular, I am wondering if there will be some kind of directive that kids with autism and other diverse abilities will not lose access to supports provided by funding that depends on their enrolment in school (which in turn depends on them showing up for class in person, which many parents of kids with autism I've spoken to aren't comfortable with based on their kids' struggles with maintaining COVID-19 protocols and/or immunocompromised family members)

Response from Ministry of Education:

- Funding for students with special needs is the same whether the student is in a distributed/remote learning program or in class. And the Minister has directed districts to be flexible as parents plan for a gradual return to class.
- We understand families of children with complex needs are facing unique challenges during the pandemic. Ministry staff from the inclusive education division are meeting with the parent this morning.
- Every child should be able to access the learning opportunities they need, no matter what their learning abilities or what kinds of needs they may have.
- This is an unprecedented time, and school districts will work with individual families to address concerns on a case-by-case basis, including helping families find a program that supports their needs.
- When school resumes next week, all students with disabilities or those who need extra support in school will continue to be prioritized for full-time access to class and additional support as part of their learning.
- In April, Minister Fleming directed school districts to prioritize supports for students with disabilities and complex learning needs and to ensure they could attend school in person on a full-time basis.
- Throughout the health crisis, we have been meeting weekly with inclusion education advocacy groups such as BCEdAccess to better understand the experience of students and families, to discuss best practices and to get their input to ensure all students are supported.
- Our expectation is that school districts will be flexible with families who don't feel comfortable sending their children to school at this time.
- Families should keep connected to their community school until they are ready to return in-class.

2) how would the ministry instruct school districts to allocate those remote learning spots and/or determine who gets to access those options first? i.e. this is in the event we stay in the current phase and schools don't have to return to the remote phase as they did in June. I am referring to a scenario in which the school year has already started and remote options are expanded. How will they be allocated?

Response from Ministry of Education:

- This is an unprecedented time, and our expectation is that school districts will work with individual families to address concerns on a case-by-case basis.
- There isn't a one size fits all approach that will be provided across the province. It will be different in every community.
- All districts have released their back to school plans and have been contacting parents to discuss options moving forward. Districts are engaging with parents to determine their needs.
- With the support of the Ministry, many districts have developed, or are developing, additional remote options.
- As part of our \$45.6-million investment to support a safe return to schools next week, we're providing \$3 million to school districts to support remote learning. This includes funding that can be used for software to support students with disabilities or complex needs.
- The additional \$242.3 million investment from the federal government also allows districts to support students even further, and this can include hiring and training additional staff for remote learning.
- The pandemic is unpredictable, we know this and that is why we have a five-stage plan to scale up or down our in-class learning.
- This enables us to move between stages if necessary, based on guidance from the provincial health officer and BCCDC.

3) how will cases of COVID-19 arising from schools be reported? i.e. will each school notify parents, and will that information be made public on a school-by-school basis? Or will the number of cases be reported by district, regional health authority, etc.

Response from Ministry of Education:

- If public health confirms a case of COVID-19 in a school, the school and district administrator will be notified, and contact tracing will begin.
- If a child has been exposed as a close contact to a confirmed case, parents or guardians will be notified by public health and that child will be required to isolate at home for 14 days.
- Public health officials will work closely with the school administrator to determine if further actions or communications should be taken, and the school will support student learning while they are in self-isolation.

Melissa Renwick - Ha-Shilth-Sa Newspaper
 ISSUE: School re-opening - interview request
 STATUS: Provided Background

- questions are followed by responses attributable to the Ministry of Education:

Q) I am working on a story about how the Kyuquot Elementary Secondary School is gearing up to re-open. I understand that because it's a smaller school, it will only consist of one cohort. In many ways, this makes the circumstances

around COVID-19 much easier to deal with. But I'm wondering more generally, what are some of the safety measures that all schools will be implementing?

Response:

- On the advice of the Provincial health officer and the BCCDC, we have robust health and safety guidelines designed to provide students and staff with a safe learning environment next week.
- Building on the Province's \$45.6-million investment to support a safe restart for B.C.'s schools, the Federal Government is also investing an additional \$242.4 in funding.
- This funding will allow schools to expand health and safety measures, purchase more personal protective equipment (PPE) and increase capacity for remote learning.
- Classrooms will look different in different parts of the province, but all schools and districts must operate within the BCCDC and Ministry of Health's COVID-19 Public Health Guidance for K-12 School Settings: http://www.bccdc.ca/Health-Info-Site/Documents/COVID_public_guidance/Guidance-k-12-schools.pdf
- Under the updated health and safety guidelines, masks will be required for staff, middle and secondary students in high traffic areas such as buses and in common areas such as hallways, or anytime outside of their learning group whenever physical distancing cannot be maintained (Exceptions will be made for students who cannot wear masks for medical reasons).
- Even when wearing a mask, staff and students will still be required to maintain physical distance from people outside of their learning group. Efforts will be put in place to ensure there is not crowding, gathering or congregating of people from different learning groups in a school setting, even if non-medical masks are being worn.
- Another key health and safety measure is the establishment of learning groups. A learning group includes students and staff who remain together throughout the school quarter, semester or year, which could be made up of a single class of students or multiple classes of students. Learning groups will sometimes join for activities like physical education or music, or they may be secondary students taking the same courses. More information on learning groups, including examples can be found online: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/education-training/k-12/covid-19-return-to-school>
- Other health and safety guidelines include:
 - o increased cleaning of high-contact surfaces like doorknobs, keyboards, desks and chairs;
 - o increased hand hygiene with all students, staff and visitors being required to clean their hands before boarding school buses and entering school buildings, before and after eating, using the washroom and using playground equipment; and
 - o school districts may also install transparent barriers for people who have more contact with others, such as front-desk staff, bus drivers or food services staff, where appropriate.

STATUS: Provided Background

- Sent the NR and asked her to let us know if she has any questions.

Bob Mackin - The Breaker News

ISSUE: advert questions

STATUS: Provided Background

- Where and when the ad was shot:
 - Victoria, BC
 - Wednesday August 12, 2020

How many people were in the crew:

13 including on-site school administration and support staff.

How were the children were chosen:

- Children were chosen through a network of parents.

What additional protocols, if any, were used on set for pandemic-related health and safety reasons:

- Guidelines for Motion Picture and Television Production developed by PHO and WorkSafe were followed
- Everyone also followed school guidelines for entering and exiting the building.
- Frequent hand-washing/hand-sanitizing
- Crew wore masks

Who was responsible for the animation and who was responsible for the live action? And what the maximum value of the contracts was?

The creative agency that produced the animation was Point Blank Creative. The budget for the animation, radio ad and various digital assets is not to exceed \$150,000.

The live action was produced in-house with the assistance of Gab Films. The post-production work was overseen by Trapeze Communications and PostPro Media.

The budget for the live action spot is not to exceed \$15,000.

Ramneek Singh - Darpan Magazine

ISSUE: Questions for Minister Fleming for Darpan Magazine

STATUS: Provided Background

- Lots of parents and the BCTF were quite surprised that the push back date was from Sept 8th to Sept 10th. BCTF had mentioned the start date of Sept 21st. So why the urgency to re-open schools after 2 days from the initial date keeping in mind it will be an extraordinary school year? Some parents have suggested we should have held off on opening schools as with the upcoming flu season there is a spike in cases expected at that time and with the pandemic it is a bigger

challenge. What do you have to say to those parents?

Response:

There is no better place than in-class learning. Having students return to the classroom helps to minimize learning gaps and provide them with important academic, social and emotional supports.

The strict safety plans in place, which include enhanced cleaning protocols, frequent hand hygiene, and requiring students and staff to stay home when ill, are designed to reduce the risk of transmission of COVID-19 as well as colds and flu.

An orientation week starting on Sept 8th, will allow staff and students to adjust to their new routines, find out about their learning groups, and practice safety protocols.

This will allow time for educators and staff to plan their new routines before students will be welcomed back to class for their own orientation by September 10th.

The Provincial Health Officer is fully supportive of bringing students back to school next week.

BC has strict health and safety measures in place, with \$45.6 million in new funding for 1.5 million non-medical masks, additional handwashing stations, physical barriers and cleaning supplies, as well as hiring more custodians, loaning technology and supporting students with complex needs.

This additional funding will provide school districts with the opportunity to purchase additional PPE if needed, install plexiglass barriers, purchase cleaning equipment such as foggers, improve ventilation systems and hire even more custodians to increase cleaning frequency.

Q) School districts still wanting more clarity on how remote learning will work for school districts and families and how will funding work without kids losing their spot in the school district for those who initially chose remote learning? Should all parents have the option of keeping their children at home and engaging in online learning if that feels safer to them? The Surrey District Parents Advisory Council wants families to have more than two back-to-school options for their kids come September and have written an open letter to you calling for the creation of a third option allowing students to work online from home without losing their spot by Sept 30th in the school they are enrolled in. So what is being done for the Surrey school district?

Response:

To better support families with medical or health concerns, it is expected that

school districts will be flexible and work with families to provide learning options that keep children connected to their school community.

Minister Fleming directed school districts to contact all families to confirm if their child is attending school class, or if they require a remote learning option.

Some districts have already developed or expanded remote learning programs and we have given school districts the flexibility and certainty to find options that work for families.

The Surrey school district has introduced a transition plan option for both elementary and high school students.

<https://www.surreyschools.ca/covid19/backtoschool/Pages/default.aspx>

This includes the authority for all school boards to expand remote learning programs to additional grades, as well as the tools they need to increase their existing programs to meet demand.

This support will ensure students maintain their learning while absent from school.

Q) Concerns across the board from teachers and parents in terms of safety of students when it comes to full time school instruction- they feel the current plan falls short on clarity and stricter COVID-19 guidelines- such as masks and physical distancing. How does the Ministry plan to tackle that? With a surge in cases in BC over the past few weeks- what kind of COVID-19 numbers do you need to see before shutting

Response:

We continue to be guided by the advice of Dr. Bonnie Henry and her team.

The Ministry of Education also convened a K-12 Education Restart Health and Safety Working Group, with representation from the Ministry of Health, teachers, school leaders, parents and Indigenous rightsholders, to develop provincial COVID-19 health and safety guidelines for K-12 schools.

These guidelines align with public health advice from the PHO and the BC Centre for Disease Control, and provide clear and detailed guidance on masks, physical distancing, cleaning and disinfecting, illness and self-assessment protocols, hand hygiene and other measures to protect students and staff.

Under the updated health and safety guidelines, masks will be required for staff, middle and secondary students in high traffic areas such as buses and in common areas such as hallways, or anytime outside of their learning group whenever physical distancing cannot be maintained.

Even when wearing a mask, staff and students will still be required to maintain physical distance from people outside of their learning group. Efforts will be put in place to ensure there is not crowding, gathering or congregating of people from different learning groups in a school setting.

Q) What will be the protocol for kids who are sick with a spike in cases expected

during the Fall with a second wave and the flu season?

Response:

The BCCDC guidance for schools is firm. If a student, staff member or any other adult has any symptoms of a cold, influenza, COVID-19, or any other infectious respiratory disease, they must not enter the school.

Schools will continue to provide learning support to students who are ill or who are required to self-isolate.

Q) The BCTF has requested smaller class sizes, more mandatory masks, funding for cleaning and better ventilation, so how will the funding money of \$242 million dollars from Ottawa be spent?

Response:

- To build on the Province's \$45.6 million investment to support a safe restart for B.C.'s schools, there has been an additional \$242.36 million one-time funding from the Federal Government.
- Funding will be allocated to public school districts based primarily on student enrolment.
- Every dollar of the federal funding will benefit students throughout the province.
- With this funding in place, districts will be investing it in a way that best benefits students in their communities.
- Many school districts have developed or are developing additional remote options and this funding will now allow school districts to implement these programs.
- The funding will also support school districts to hire and train more teachers and support staff for remote learning; purchase additional software licences, electronic course materials and textbooks; purchase computers or tablets; and create wi-fi hubs and internet access in remote and Indigenous communities.
- School Districts and independent schools can also use the funding to:
 - o increase school staff and cover salary costs for additional hours needed to meet health and safety guidelines in schools;
 - o improve air systems in schools;
 - o increase access to hand hygiene in schools;
 - o install plexiglass and other barriers in schools and purchase additional cleaning supplies and PPE as needed;
 - o cover additional transportation costs to have fewer students on buses and support alternate transportation strategies;
 - o and open up more space and cover the cleaning and additional staff costs for before and after school care to ensure students can remain within their learning groups.

More information is here in this news release:

<https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2020EDUC0062-001652>

Q) . Initially there was a strong emphasis on the return to the classroom but now

there is indication of remote learning and hybrid models depending on the school districts, is there enough time to bring in these changes with school starting in a couple of weeks?

Response:

Under the Minister's direction, school districts had contact all families to confirm if their child is attending school class, or if they require a remote learning option.

For instance, in Surrey, Grades K-9 will attend class full-time while Grade 10-12 students will attend class every day in the morning and one day a week in the afternoon, with remote learning available when they are not in class.

This is a great example of what's already being done to further support students, and we look forward to seeing many more.

All districts have released their back to school plans and have been contacting parents to determine their needs and discuss options moving forward.

Q) . What does this unprecedented school year in terms of equal access to education mean for students who may not be starting the school year in the classroom?

Response:

The Ministry of Education has given school districts the flexibility and certainty to find options that work for families.

This includes the authority for all school boards to expand remote learning programs to additional grades, as well as the tools they need to increase their existing programs to meet demand.

The school system needs to be there for students, and we are here to support the school system.

In Progress:

Travena Lee - Fairchild AM 1470 FM 96.1

ISSUE: School Restart

Annie Law - Fairchild TV

ISSUE: Back-to-School Review

Mary Brooke - Island Social Trends

ISSUE: per pupil funds

Simran Singh - The Daily Hive - Vancouver

ISSUE: Daily Hive Vancouver - Black history and curriculum resources