

K-12 Recovery TB sub

From: Lindsay-Baugh, Anna EDUC:EX <Anna.LindsayBaugh@gov.bc.ca>
To: Lawson, Liam FIN:EX <Liam.Lawson@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: May 28, 2021 9:32:39 AM PDT
Attachments: image001.jpg, TB Sub_K-12 Sept Recovery Plan.docx

Anna

Begin forwarded



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Withheld pursuant to/removed as

s.12 ; s.17

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s.12 ; s.13 ; s.17

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s.12 ; s.16 ; s.17

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s.12

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Withheld pursuant to/removed as

s.12 ; s.17

CONFIRMATION OF APPROVAL: K-12 Recovery DBN for TB Sub Direction

From: Purdy, Sheila EDUC:EX <Sheila.Purdy@gov.bc.ca>
To: Lindsay-Baugh, Anna EDUC:EX <Anna.LindsayBaugh@gov.bc.ca>, Sanderson, Melanie PSSG:EX <Melanie.Sanderson@gov.bc.ca>, Pelech, Keefer EDUC:EX <Keefer.Pelech@gov.bc.ca>, Beale, William EDUC:EX <William.Beale@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: May 28, 2021 12:07:47 PM PDT
Attachments: image001.jpg, 3b, 247450 DBN-MJW_K-12 Sept Recovery Plan.docx

Please provide confirmation of MJW's verbal approval (s.12; s.13
s.12; s.13

s.12; s.13

of the

attached note, which was discussed at this past Tuesday's Minister's Council. s.12; s.17
s.12; s.17

Thanks.



Sheila Purdy

Director, Executive Operations
Deputy Minister Office
Ministry of Education
☎ 250-216-3648

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DECISION BRIEFING NOTE

DATE: May 20, 2021
CLIFF: 247450

PREPARED FOR: Honourable Jennifer Whiteside, Minister – **FOR DECISION**

SUBJECT: K-12 Education Sector September 2021 Recovery Plan

PURPOSE: Seek direction on a Treasury Board Submission

BACKGROUND:

- As the 2020/21 school year has proceeded, there have been three key areas of concern: the health and safety of staff and students, the impact of the pandemic on students learning and the mental health of students.
- In April 2021, \$5.9M of provincial operating grant “holdback” was disbursed to school districts to address learning impacts due to the pandemic.

s.12; s.13

- Minister’s mandate letter includes a commitment to ensure quality public education continues to be delivered during **and after the COVID-19 pandemic** through implementation of appropriate guidelines to ensure safety.

DISCUSSION:

s.12; s.13

s.12; s.13; s.17

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s.12 ; s.13 ; s.16 ; s.17

s.12; s.17

OPTIONS:

Option 1: s.13
s.13

Option 2: s.13
s.13

Option 3: Formally request access \$25.6M in one-time funding from the 2021/22 Contingencies to support the K-12 Education Sector September 2021 Recovery Plan and to provide additional funding to address learning impacts for Indigenous students in their communities.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

s.12; s.13; s.17

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND PRIVACY IMPLICATIONS:

N/A

RECOMMENDATION:

Option: s.13

Approved/Not Approved
Honourable Jennifer Whiteside
Minister of Education

Date Signed

Attachment(s)

1. Appendix A: Allocation of Provincial and Federal COVID-19 Funding
2. Appendix B: Proposed Funding Approval for September 2021 COVID-19 Funding
3. Appendix C: Draft Public Health Guidance for K-12 Schools in 2021/22

Program ADM/Branch:	Reg Bawa, Resource Management Division
Program Contact (for content):	Tamara McLeod / Jonathan Foweraker / Cloe Nicholls
Drafter:	Kristin Rutledge
Date:	May 20, 2021

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s.12 ; s.13 ; s.17

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Withheld pursuant to/removed as

s.12 ; s.13

For Approval | Tb Sub K-12 Sept Recovery Plan

From: Carling, Emma EDUC:EX <Emma.Carling@gov.bc.ca>
To: EDUC DL Minister's Office <EDUCMINO@Victoria1.gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Purdy, Sheila EDUC:EX <Sheila.Purdy@gov.bc.ca>, McCrea, Jennifer
EDUC:EX <Jennifer.McCrea@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: June 1, 2021 10:19:36 AM PDT
Attachments: TB Sub_K-12 Sept Recovery Plan.pdf

Good morning

Attached is the K-12 Sept Recovery TB Sub for Minister's rush approval.

Thank you

Emma Carling | Documents Coordinator
Deputy Minister's Office | Ministry of Education
Ph: 236-478-3347 E: emma.carling@gov.bc.ca

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s.12 ; s.13 ; s.17

TB Sub_K-12 Sept Recovery Plan 1230pm

From: MacDonald, Scott D EDUC:EX <D.Scott.MacDonald@gov.bc.ca>
To: Lindsay-Baugh, Anna EDUC:EX <Anna.LindsayBaugh@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Purdy, Sheila EDUC:EX <Sheila.Purdy@gov.bc.ca>, Bawa, Reg R EDUC:EX <Reg.Bawa@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: June 1, 2021 12:32:47 PM PDT
Attachments: TB Sub_K-12 Sept Recovery Plan 1230pm.docx
As discussed – with track changes

FW: TB Sub_K-12 Sept Recovery Plan 1230pm

From: Lindsay-Baugh, Anna EDUC:EX <Anna.LindsayBaugh@gov.bc.ca>
To: Waters, Leah EDUC:EX <Leah.Waters@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Beale, William EDUC:EX <William.Beale@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: June 1, 2021 1:35:59 PM PDT
Attachments: TB Sub_K-12 Sept Recovery Plan 1230pm.docx

Hi Leah,

Can you please print two copies, one in track changes and then one clean version with all the changes accepted?
Then MJW can review during her Tiny House Duty.
Thank you!

Anna

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s.12 ; s.13

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Withheld pursuant to/removed as

s.12 ; s.13 ; s.17

RE: CONFIRMATION OF APPROVAL: K-12 Recovery DBN for TB Sub Direction

From: Charlton, Julie EDUC:EX <Julie.Charlton@gov.bc.ca>
To: Lindsay-Baugh, Anna EDUC:EX <Anna.LindsayBaugh@gov.bc.ca>, Purdy, Sheila EDUC:EX <Sheila.Purdy@gov.bc.ca>, Beale, William EDUC:EX <William.Beale@gov.bc.ca>, Pelech, Keefer EDUC:EX <Keefer.Pelech@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Waters, Leah EDUC:EX <Leah.Waters@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: June 3, 2021 10:17:08 AM PDT
Attachments: image001.jpg

Hi – just an update on this further to our discussion this morning. As the TB sub has already been signed off, RMD advised they will not need to update the MJW DBN but I've asked them to update CLIFF and eApprovals to reflect this for government recordkeeping. MJW approved the updated TB which will be referenced in the notes.

If any concerns or questions, please let me know.

Many thanks!

Julie

From: Lindsay-Baugh, Anna EDUC:EX <Anna.LindsayBaugh@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: June 2, 2021 6:00 PM
To: Purdy, Sheila EDUC:EX <Sheila.Purdy@gov.bc.ca>; Beale, William EDUC:EX <William.Beale@gov.bc.ca>; Pelech, Keefer EDUC:EX <Keefer.Pelech@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Charlton, Julie EDUC:EX <Julie.Charlton@gov.bc.ca>; Waters, Leah EDUC:EX <Leah.Waters@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: RE: CONFIRMATION OF APPROVAL: K-12 Recovery DBN for TB Sub Direction

s.13

Anna

From: Purdy, Sheila EDUC:EX <Sheila.Purdy@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: June 2, 2021 11:33 AM
To: Lindsay-Baugh, Anna EDUC:EX <Anna.LindsayBaugh@gov.bc.ca>; Beale, William EDUC:EX <William.Beale@gov.bc.ca>; Pelech, Keefer EDUC:EX <Keefer.Pelech@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Charlton, Julie EDUC:EX <Julie.Charlton@gov.bc.ca>; Waters, Leah EDUC:EX <Leah.Waters@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: CONFIRMATION OF APPROVAL: K-12 Recovery DBN for TB Sub Direction
Importance: High

Just circling back on this one so that we can close it out on our end – approved TB Sub has now been submitted to TB staff. Thanks.

From: Purdy, Sheila EDUC:EX
Sent: May 28, 2021 12:08 PM
To: Lindsay-Baugh, Anna EDUC:EX <Anna.LindsayBaugh@gov.bc.ca>; Sanderson, Melanie PSSG:EX <Melanie.Sanderson@gov.bc.ca>; Pelech, Keefer EDUC:EX <Keefer.Pelech@gov.bc.ca>; Beale, William EDUC:EX <William.Beale@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: CONFIRMATION OF APPROVAL: K-12 Recovery DBN for TB Sub Direction
Importance: High

Please provide confirmation of MJW's verbal approval of s.12; s.13

s.12; s.13

s.12; s.13

attached note, which was discussed at this past Tuesday's Minister's Council. s.12

s.12

of the

Thanks.

FW: Materials

From: Leslie, Sean GCPE:EX <Sean.Leslie@gov.bc.ca>
To: Beale, William EDUC:EX <William.Beale@gov.bc.ca>, Lindsay-Baugh, Anna
EDUC:EX <Anna.LindsayBaugh@gov.bc.ca>, Pelech, Keefer EDUC:EX
<Keefer.Pelech@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Burton, Meribeth GCPE:EX <Meribeth.Burton@gov.bc.ca>, Silver, Matt
GCPE:EX <Matt.Silver@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: June 8, 2021 11:58:20 AM PDT
Attachments: QA for MJW - Back-to-school June announcement June 7 855am DRAFT.docx
As requested – please note this is in development and has not been reviewed by program staff yet.

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s.13 ; s.17

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s.13 ; s.17

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s.13



TB Minor Meeting Date: June 10, 2021
485740

Confidential

Honourable Jennifer Whiteside
Minister of Education
Room 306 Parliament Buildings
Victoria BC V8V 1X4

Dear Colleague:

Re: K-12 Education Sector September 2021 Recovery Plan

I am writing to inform you that Treasury Board has provided approval for your ministry to access Pandemic and Recovery Contingencies for CRF operating funding for up to \$25.600 million in 2021/22 for the K-12 Education Sector September 2021 Recovery Plan, to be allocated as follows:

- \$14.400 million to implement health and safety measures that meet the Provincial Health Officer's Public Health Guidance for K-12 Schools in 2021/22;
- \$5.000 million for mental health measures to address pandemic-related mental health impacts;
- \$5.000 million for education recovery for First Nation and Métis students; and,
- \$1.200 million for Independent Schools for the above activities.

All instructions and communications to school districts regarding this funding should clearly articulate that school districts will be responsible for any ongoing costs should they choose to continue these programs beyond the dates specified.

Sincerely,

Selina Robinson
Chair

cc: Scott MacDonald
Deputy Minister
Ministry of Education

Reg Bawa
Assistant Deputy Minister and Executive Financial Officer
Ministry of Education

Fwd: recovery \$\$

From: Beale, William EDUC:EX <William.Beale@gov.bc.ca>
To: Whiteside, Jennifer EDUC:EX <Jennifer.Whiteside@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Lindsay-Baugh, Anna EDUC:EX <Anna.LindsayBaugh@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: June 11, 2021 3:22:12 PM PDT
Attachments: d EDUC Sept Recovery Plan DL.pdf
FYI

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Leslie, Sean GCPE:EX" <Sean.Leslie@gov.bc.ca>
Date: June 11, 2021 at 3:04:21 PM PDT
To: "Beale, William EDUC:EX" <William.Beale@gov.bc.ca>, "Lindsay-Baugh, Anna EDUC:EX" <Anna.LindsayBaugh@gov.bc.ca>, "Pelech, Keefer EDUC:EX" <Keefer.Pelech@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: "Burton, Meribeth GCPE:EX" <Meribeth.Burton@gov.bc.ca>, "Silver, Matt GCPE:EX" <Matt.Silver@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: FW: recovery \$\$

FYI if you haven't seen it yet.

From: Bawa, Reg R EDUC:EX <Reg.Bawa@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: June 11, 2021 3:01 PM
To: Leslie, Sean GCPE:EX <Sean.Leslie@gov.bc.ca>; Nicholls, Cloe EDUC:EX <Cloe.Nicholls@gov.bc.ca>; Foweraker, Jonathan EDUC:EX <Jonathan.Foweraker@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: McLeod, Tamara EDUC:EX <Tamara.McLeod@gov.bc.ca>; Rutledge, Kristin EDUC:EX <Kristin.Rutledge@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: recovery \$\$

Minister approved TBS recommendation which I believe the NR has been drafted against. We can begin to finalize documents.

Reg Bawa, CPA CGA | Assistant Deputy Minister & Executive Financial Officer
Resource Management Division, Ministry of Education | 250-888-0658 (cell)

FW: Quick Review Please - BTS materials for June 17

From: Leslie, Sean GCPE:EX <Sean.Leslie@gov.bc.ca>
To: Berndt, Eric GCPE:EX <Eric.Berndt@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Burton, Meribeth GCPE:EX <Meribeth.Burton@gov.bc.ca>, Silver, Matt GCPE:EX <Matt.Silver@gov.bc.ca>, Fernandes, Jennifer GCPE:EX <Jennifer.Fernandes@gov.bc.ca>, Beale, William EDUC:EX <William.Beale@gov.bc.ca>, Lindsay-Baugh, Anna EDUC:EX <Anna.LindsayBaugh@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: June 14, 2021 11:55:33 AM PDT
Attachments: QA - Back-to-school June announcement June 11 525pm RB DRAFT.docx, MA - Back to School announcement (June 17) June 14 1120am DRAFT.docx, SN - MJW - Back to School Announcement (June 17) June 11 315pm RB CN DRAFT.docx, NR Back to School June announcement June 14 10am RB DRAFT.docx

Hello team AEST, attached FYI are our draft materials for our Thursday morning announcement on K-12 education in September. Can you please share with your MO as an FYI?

These are not finals yet but I don't expect significant changes – thanks!

Sean

NR Back to School June announcement June 14 2pm RB DRAFT

From: Leslie, Sean GCPE:EX <Sean.Leslie@gov.bc.ca>
To: Lindsay-Baugh, Anna EDUC:EX <Anna.LindsayBaugh@gov.bc.ca>, Beale, William EDUC:EX <William.Beale@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: June 14, 2021 5:36:05 PM PDT
Attachments: NR Back to School June announcement June 14 2pm RB DRAFT.docx
Latest NR is here.

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s.13

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s.13 ; s.17

FOR MJW: Speaking Notes - Steering Committee & Board Chair Calls

From: Purdy, Sheila EDUC:EX <Sheila.Purdy@gov.bc.ca>
To: Beale, William EDUC:EX <William.Beale@gov.bc.ca>, Lindsay-Baugh, Anna EDUC:EX <Anna.LindsayBaugh@gov.bc.ca>, Pelech, Keefer EDUC:EX <Keefer.Pelech@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: MacDonald, Scott D EDUC:EX <D.Scott.MacDonald@gov.bc.ca>, Carling, Emma EDUC:EX <Emma.Carling@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: June 14, 2021 5:59:28 PM PDT
Attachments: image001.jpg, SN-Jun2021 announcement-K-12 steering committee.docx, SN-Jun2021 announcement-Board Chairs V3.docx

As discussed just now during the COVID briefing, please see the attached draft SNs for MJW review – thanks!



Sheila Purdy

Director, Executive Operations
Deputy Minister Office
Ministry of Education
📞 250-216-3648

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s.13 ; s.17

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s.13

Fwd: Latest QA - Back-to-school announcement, June 2021

From: Lindsay-Baugh, Anna EDUC:EX <Anna.LindsayBaugh@gov.bc.ca>
To: Pelech, Keefer EDUC:EX <Keefer.Pelech@gov.bc.ca>, Beale, William EDUC:EX <William.Beale@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: June 15, 2021 12:46:53 PM PDT
Attachments: QA for MJW - Back-to-school June announcement June 11 9am RB DRAFT.docx

This looks like the latest I have

Anna

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Burton, Meribeth GCPE:EX" <Meribeth.Burton@gov.bc.ca>
Date: June 11, 2021 at 11:10:50 AM PDT
To: "Lindsay-Baugh, Anna EDUC:EX" <Anna.LindsayBaugh@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: "Leslie, Sean GCPE:EX" <Sean.Leslie@gov.bc.ca>, "Beale, William EDUC:EX" <William.Beale@gov.bc.ca>, "Pelech, Keefer EDUC:EX" <Keefer.Pelech@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: Latest QA - Back-to-school announcement, June 2021

Attached the latest QA.

Matt

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s.13 ; s.17

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s.13 ; s.17

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s.13

For Approval ASAP - News Release - Recovery Plan investment supports safe K-12 return

From: Silver, Matt GCPE:EX <Matt.Silver@gov.bc.ca>
To: Beale, William EDUC:EX <William.Beale@gov.bc.ca>, Lindsay-Baugh, Anna EDUC:EX <Anna.LindsayBaugh@gov.bc.ca>, Pelech, Keefer EDUC:EX <Keefer.Pelech@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Burton, Meribeth GCPE:EX <Meribeth.Burton@gov.bc.ca>, Leslie, Sean GCPE:EX <Sean.Leslie@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: June 15, 2021 1:58:35 PM PDT
Attachments: NR Back to School June announcement June 15 150pm DRAFT.docx

Hi all, can you please review and approve the news release along with MJW's quote.

We are still waiting on Dr. Henry's quote, but want to send to the translators before end of day if possible.

Any questions, please let us know.

Thanks,
Matt

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s.13 ; s.17

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Withheld pursuant to/removed as

s.13

BTS materials for June 17

From: Lindsay-Baugh, Anna EDUC:EX <Anna.LindsayBaugh@gov.bc.ca>
To: Talbot, Sarena MCF:EX <Sarena.Talbot@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Beale, William EDUC:EX <William.Beale@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: June 15, 2021 2:55:32 PM PDT
Attachments: SN - MJW - Back to School Announcement (June 17) June 11 315pm RB CN
DRAFT.docx, QA - Back-to-school June announcement June 11 525pm RB
DRAFT.docx, MA - Back to School announcement (June 17) June 14 1120am
DRAFT.docx, NR Back to School June announcement June 14 10am RB
DRAFT.docx

Hi Sarena,

Attached are the confidential draft materials.

Anna

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s.13

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Withheld pursuant to/removed as

s.13 ; s.17

FW: For Approval - Internal QA - Back-to-School for 2021/22 announcement

From: Beale, William EDUC:EX <William.Beale@gov.bc.ca>
To: Whiteside, Jennifer EDUC:EX <Jennifer.Whiteside@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Lindsay-Baugh, Anna EDUC:EX <Anna.LindsayBaugh@gov.bc.ca>, Pelech, Keefer EDUC:EX <Keefer.Pelech@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: June 15, 2021 4:01:00 PM PDT
Attachments: QA - Back-to-school June announcement June 15 12pm DRAFT.docx

Were there any pieces of this that you think could be updated from your calls today? s.13
s.13

From: Silver, Matt GCPE:EX <Matt.Silver@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: June 15, 2021 3:48 PM
To: Beale, William EDUC:EX <William.Beale@gov.bc.ca>; Lindsay-Baugh, Anna EDUC:EX <Anna.LindsayBaugh@gov.bc.ca>; Pelech, Keefer EDUC:EX <Keefer.Pelech@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Burton, Meribeth GCPE:EX <Meribeth.Burton@gov.bc.ca>; Leslie, Sean GCPE:EX <Sean.Leslie@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: For Approval - Internal QA - Back-to-School for 2021/22 announcement

Hi all, for your review and approval - the latest version of the Back-to-School announcement internal QA.

Please let us know if you have any edits.

Thanks,
Matt

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s.13 ; s.17

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Withheld pursuant to/removed as

s.13

FW: Recovery Plan Investment supports safe K-12 return

From: Beale, William EDUC:EX <William.Beale@gov.bc.ca>
To: Leslie, Sean GCPE:EX <Sean.Leslie@gov.bc.ca>, Silver, Matt GCPE:EX <Matt.Silver@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Lindsay-Baugh, Anna EDUC:EX <Anna.LindsayBaugh@gov.bc.ca>, Pelech, Keefer EDUC:EX <Keefer.Pelech@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: June 15, 2021 4:11:00 PM PDT
Attachments: Scan_20210615.pdf

Hi Sean et al please see MJWs edits. Please let us know if you need help deciphering revisions?

From: Baxter, Breanne EDUC:EX <Breanne.Baxter@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: June 15, 2021 4:09 PM
To: Beale, William EDUC:EX <William.Beale@gov.bc.ca>; Lindsay-Baugh, Anna EDUC:EX <Anna.LindsayBaugh@gov.bc.ca>; Pelech, Keefer EDUC:EX <Keefer.Pelech@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: Recovery Plan Investment supports safe K-12 return

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s.13 ; s.17

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Withheld pursuant to/removed as

s.13

Updated Speaking Points for MJW - Back-to-school announcement, June 17

From: Silver, Matt GCPE:EX <Matt.Silver@gov.bc.ca>
To: Beale, William EDUC:EX <William.Beale@gov.bc.ca>, Lindsay-Baugh, Anna
EDUC:EX <Anna.LindsayBaugh@gov.bc.ca>, Pelech, Keefer EDUC:EX
<Keefer.Pelech@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Burton, Meribeth GCPE:EX <Meribeth.Burton@gov.bc.ca>, Leslie, Sean
GCPE:EX <Sean.Leslie@gov.bc.ca>, Banfield, Elena GCPE:EX
<Elena.Banfield@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: June 16, 2021 11:50:39 AM PDT
Attachments: SN - MJW - Back to School June 17.docx

Hi all, I have attached the updated speaking points for MJW.

Thanks,
Matt

News Release - Recovery Plan investment supports safe K-12 return

From: Silver, Matt GCPE:EX <Matt.Silver@gov.bc.ca>
To: Beale, William EDUC:EX <William.Beale@gov.bc.ca>, Lindsay-Baugh, Anna EDUC:EX <Anna.LindsayBaugh@gov.bc.ca>, Pelech, Keefer EDUC:EX <Keefer.Pelech@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Burton, Meribeth GCPE:EX <Meribeth.Burton@gov.bc.ca>, Leslie, Sean GCPE:EX <Sean.Leslie@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: June 16, 2021 1:23:07 PM PDT
Attachments: NR Back to School June announcement June 16 1pm.docx
Hi all, the close to final (waiting for final approval on DBH quote) is attached.

I'm going to share with BCSTA and BCCPAC (Andrea) just as a FYI.

Matt

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Withheld pursuant to/removed as

s.13

RE: materials for tomorrow

From: Silver, Matt GCPE:EX <Matt.Silver@gov.bc.ca>
To: Leslie, Sean GCPE:EX <Sean.Leslie@gov.bc.ca>, Aaron, Sage PREM:EX <Sage.Aaron@gov.bc.ca>, Beale, William EDUC:EX <William.Beale@gov.bc.ca>, Aaron, Sage GCPE:EX <Sage.Aaron@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Burton, Meribeth GCPE:EX <Meribeth.Burton@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: June 16, 2021 2:50:53 PM PDT
Attachments: NR Back to School June announcement June 16 215pm.docx, SN - MJW - Back to School June 17.docx

I've attached the news release and MJW's speaking points.

Matt

From: Leslie, Sean GCPE:EX <Sean.Leslie@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: June 16, 2021 2:46 PM
To: Aaron, Sage PREM:EX <Sage.Aaron@gov.bc.ca>; Beale, William EDUC:EX <William.Beale@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Burton, Meribeth GCPE:EX <Meribeth.Burton@gov.bc.ca>; Silver, Matt GCPE:EX <Matt.Silver@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: RE: materials for tomorrow
Importance: High

Hi Sage, we are finalizing the QA doc and waiting for confirmation of DBH's quote – but CC'ing Matt Silver who holds the pen, Matt can you please send Sage the NR and SN's now? We'll send the QA doc once we've locked it down.
Thanks!
Sean

From: Aaron, Sage PREM:EX <Sage.Aaron@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: June 16, 2021 2:33 PM
To: Beale, William EDUC:EX <William.Beale@gov.bc.ca>; Leslie, Sean GCPE:EX <Sean.Leslie@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: materials for tomorrow

Hi both,
Do you have materials for tomorrow's back to school announcement you could share with me?
Thanks,

Sage Aaron, Communications Director (she/her)
Office of the Premier | Government of BC
501 Belleville St, Victoria, BC V8V 2L8 | 778-678-0832

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Page 150 of 261

Withheld pursuant to/removed as

s.13 ; s.15 ; s.17

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Page 152 of 261

Withheld pursuant to/removed as

s.13 ; s.17

Page 153 of 261 to/à Page 155 of 261

Withheld pursuant to/removed as

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Page 156 of 261 to/à Page 157 of 261

Withheld pursuant to/removed as

s.13 ; s.17

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Withheld pursuant to/removed as

s.13

FW: Please Review - Updated QA with Examples - BTS announcement

From: Leslie, Sean GCPE:EX <Sean.Leslie@gov.bc.ca>
To: Lindsay-Baugh, Anna EDUC:EX <Anna.LindsayBaugh@gov.bc.ca>, Beale, William EDUC:EX <William.Beale@gov.bc.ca>, Pelech, Keefer EDUC:EX <Keefer.Pelech@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Burton, Meribeth GCPE:EX <Meribeth.Burton@gov.bc.ca>, Silver, Matt GCPE:EX <Matt.Silver@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: June 16, 2021 4:06:29 PM PDT
Attachments: QA - Back-to-school June announcement June 16 325pm.docx
I ***hope*** I captured all of MJW's changes – Cloe's team has provided some of the examples she was looking for.
Cheers!
Sean

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s.13 ; s.17

Page 168 of 261

Withheld pursuant to/removal as

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Withheld pursuant to/removed as

s.13 ; s.17

Page 170 of 261

Withheld pursuant to/removal as

s.13

RE: Updated Speaking Points for MJW - Back-to-school announcement, June 17

From: Lindsay-Baugh, Anna EDUC:EX <Anna.LindsayBaugh@gov.bc.ca>
To: Silver, Matt GCPE:EX <Matt.Silver@gov.bc.ca>, Beale, William EDUC:EX <William.Beale@gov.bc.ca>, Pelech, Keefer EDUC:EX <Keefer.Pelech@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Burton, Meribeth GCPE:EX <Meribeth.Burton@gov.bc.ca>, Leslie, Sean GCPE:EX <Sean.Leslie@gov.bc.ca>, Banfield, Elena GCPE:EX <Elena.Banfield@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: June 16, 2021 4:54:09 PM PDT
Attachments: SN - MJW - Back to School June 17_MJW edits June 16 445pm.docx

Hi folks,

Further edits from MJW to her speaking notes, attached. It includes two questions/comments. I'm hoping to get the final version printed off for her by 6:30pm. Please feel free to give me a call if I can be of help in any way!

Thank you so much.

Cheers,
Anna

--

Anna Lindsay-Baugh (*she/her*)
Ministerial Advisor to
Hon. Jennifer Whiteside
Minister of Education
e: anna.lindsaybaugh@gov.bc.ca | p: 778-677-4091

From: Silver, Matt GCPE:EX <Matt.Silver@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: June 16, 2021 11:51 AM
To: Beale, William EDUC:EX <William.Beale@gov.bc.ca>; Lindsay-Baugh, Anna EDUC:EX <Anna.LindsayBaugh@gov.bc.ca>; Pelech, Keefer EDUC:EX <Keefer.Pelech@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Burton, Meribeth GCPE:EX <Meribeth.Burton@gov.bc.ca>; Leslie, Sean GCPE:EX <Sean.Leslie@gov.bc.ca>; Banfield, Elena GCPE:EX <Elena.Banfield@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: Updated Speaking Points for MJW - Back-to-school announcement, June 17

Hi all, I have attached the updated speaking points for MJW.

Thanks,
Matt

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s.13 ; s.15

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Page 179 of 261 to/à Page 180 of 261

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s.13 ; s.17

Page 181 of 261 to/à Page 183 of 261

Withheld pursuant to/removed as

s.13

SN - MJW - Back to School June 17_MJW edits June 16 530p

From: Leslie, Sean GCPE:EX <Sean.Leslie@gov.bc.ca>
To: Lindsay-Baugh, Anna EDUC:EX <Anna.LindsayBaugh@gov.bc.ca>, Beale, William EDUC:EX <William.Beale@gov.bc.ca>, Pelech, Keefer EDUC:EX <Keefer.Pelech@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Burton, Meribeth GCPE:EX <Meribeth.Burton@gov.bc.ca>, Silver, Matt GCPE:EX <Matt.Silver@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: June 16, 2021 5:33:30 PM PDT
Attachments: SN - MJW - Back to School June 17_MJW edits June 16 530p.docx
Hi Anna, edits made to the attached, cheers.
Sean

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s.13 ; s.15

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Page 191 of 261 to/à Page 192 of 261

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s.13 ; s.17

Page 193 of 261 to/à Page 195 of 261

Withheld pursuant to/removed as

s.13

SN - MJW - Back to School June 17_MJW edits June 16 7PM

From: Leslie, Sean GCPE:EX <Sean.Leslie@gov.bc.ca>
To: Lindsay-Baugh, Anna EDUC:EX <Anna.LindsayBaugh@gov.bc.ca>, Beale, William EDUC:EX <William.Beale@gov.bc.ca>, Pelech, Keefer EDUC:EX <Keefer.Pelech@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Burton, Meribeth GCPE:EX <Meribeth.Burton@gov.bc.ca>, Silver, Matt GCPE:EX <Matt.Silver@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: June 16, 2021 7:01:49 PM PDT
Attachments: SN - MJW - Back to School June 17_MJW edits June 16 7PM.docx

Latest greatest version with the final edits – we are just finalizing the NR now, and will send up a full package as soon as possible.

Cheers!

Sean

Event Information / Speaking Notes – Minister Jennifer Whiteside

Event: Back-to-School planning announcement

When: June 17, 2021; 9:30 a.m.

Where: Events Studio – B.C. Legislature

Event Details: Minister Whiteside will be joined by Dr. Bonnie Henry, Stephanie Higginson and Andrea Sinclair to provide an update on back-to-school preparations underway for September. Minister Whiteside will announce a total of \$43.6 million, including \$25.6 million in new one-time pandemic-specific funding.

Length: 30 minutes

Key Participants: Jennifer Whiteside, Minister of Education, Dr. Bonnie Henry (PHO), Stephanie Higginson (BCSTA), Andrea Sinclair (BCCPAC)

Contact: Sean Leslie, Communications Director - (250) 893-4403

Event summary	Livestreamed virtual event on all government channels, broadcast from the Legislature studio and Zoom.
Zoom Login	s.15 Meeting ID: s.13 Passcode: s.15
Key contacts:	GCPE Events: Elena Banfield, 604-842-0984 (Zoom), Katie Wrona (studio), 250-213-1817 Ministry of Education: Sean Leslie, Communications Director, (250) 893-4403 GPCE Media Relations: Tara Gostelow, 250-893-7136
Time	Event Itinerary
9:10 AM	Speakers sign on to Zoom and arrive in Studio for pre-brief with Elena Banfield Location: Events Studio, B.C. Legislature In-person: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jennifer Whiteside, Minister of Education • Dr. Bonnie Henry, Provincial Health Officer (PHO) • Stephanie Higginson, president, BC School Trustees Association (BCSTA) Remote / Zoom: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Andrea Sinclair, president, BC Confederation of Parent Advisory Councils (BCCPAC)
9:28 AM	Minister of Education Jennifer Whiteside, Provincial Health Officer Dr. Bonnie Henry and BCSTA president Stephanie Higginson are led to speaking area of the Events Studio and positioned next to microphone ensuring physical distance.
9:30 a.m.	Minister of Education Jennifer Whiteside introduces speakers Makes announcement – back to school plan and funding investment, then introduces Dr. Bonnie Henry
9:35 a.m.	Dr. Bonnie Henry delivers statement

9:39 a.m.	Minister of Education Jennifer Whiteside thanks Dr. Bonnie Henry and then introduces Stephanie Higginson
9:39 a.m.	Stephanie Higginson delivers statement
9:44 a.m.	Minister of Education Jennifer Whiteside thanks Stephanie Higginson and introduces Andrea Sinclair
9:44 a.m.	Andrea Sinclair delivers statement
9:48 a.m.	Minister of Education Jennifer Whiteside thanks Andrea Sinclair and invites questions from media.
9:48 a.m. to 10 a.m.	Media Availability / QA – moderated by Tara Gostelow
10:00 a.m.	Livestream concludes. Speakers remain in studio and on Zoom for group photo.
10:32 AM	Event concludes.

Speaking Notes for the

Hon. Jennifer Whiteside Minister of Education

Back to School for 2021/22:
Update on planning for B.C. parents, families and staff

June 17, 2021
9:30 a.m.

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

KEY MESSAGES:

- With the successful rollout of B.C.'s vaccination program, we can now expect the next school year will be much closer to normal than the past year with students learning in-class and no more learning cohorts.
- The Province is providing a total of \$43.6 million to support enhanced cleaning measures, First Nations and Métis students, mental health services, learning impacts to students as well as rapid response teams.
- We will continue to work under the direction and advice of public health experts and with our provincial K-12 education steering committee over the summer to finalize plans and guidelines to best support the health and safety of students and staff for next school year.
- B.C. is one of the few jurisdictions that has kept schools open all year despite the pandemic, thanks to the collective efforts of teachers, school administration and staff, and public health experts.

PEOPLE TO RECOGNIZE:

- Dr. Bonnie Henry (PHO), Stephanie Higginson (BCSTA) and Andrea Sinclair (BCCPAC)

TRADITIONAL TERRITORY:

- I would like to acknowledge I am on the traditional territory of the **Lekwungen speaking people of the Songhees and Esquimalt First Nations.**

INTRODUCTION:

- Good morning, everyone. My name is Jennifer Whiteside. I'm BC's Minister of Education.

[ACKNOWLEDGE DR. BONNIE HENRY (PHO), STEPHANIE HIGGINSON (BCSTA) AND ANDREA SINCLAIR (BCCPAC)]

- I would like to acknowledge I am speaking to you today from the traditional territory of the Lekwungen speaking people of the Songhees and Esquimalt First Nations.
- Today we are providing an update on back-to-school planning for September.
- Before we look at what's ahead, I want to take a moment to extend my profound gratitude to teachers, school staff and administrators. You have worked with compassion, strength and determination, and you have shown remarkable fortitude and leadership while supporting the changing needs of students throughout this unprecedented school year.
- And I also want to thank parents and families for your tremendous commitment and hard work in ensuring your children have been able to learn in spite of the challenges of the pandemic.

- Our government is committed to following the direction and guidance of Public health and working collaboratively with our education partners and with Rightsholders. The way we have all worked together has been remarkable.
- It reaffirms the compassionate, resilient and caring nature of British Columbians.
- The vast majority of students returned to class full-time this school year.
- School safety plans were in place to reduce the spread of COVID – and the evidence shows these plans were indeed successful.

Upcoming School Year

- There is no question this was a difficult year – and in some parts of the province much more challenging than others.

- Since the start of the 2020/21 school year, the vast majority of schools in BC were open and operating every day of the school year.
- And British Columbians are showing just how much they care about each other by getting vaccinated at amazing rates.
- It's expected that all eligible British Columbians will have been offered both vaccination doses by September – which is fantastic news. And we will hear more from Dr. Henry on that in a moment.
- So, what this means is students will be back in the classroom for full-time, in-person instruction and the return to a near-normal start to school in September.
- Based on guidance from the Office of the Provincial Health Officer, students will no longer be grouped into cohorts or learning groups.
- Pending further public health guidance, it is also expected that current restrictions on gatherings, extra-curricular activities and sports will be relaxed in time for the new school year.
- And that's good news for everyone. I know that we want to move past the pandemic together and we are currently moving in the right direction.

- To support the safe operation of schools – and the health and safety of students and staff, today we are announcing a total of **\$43.6 million dollars**.
- This includes new COVID-specific, one-time funding of **\$25.6 million** for next school year. That is on top of the **\$7.1 billion we announced in Budget 2021 to operate K-12 schools in B.C.**
- The **\$25.6 million** in new one-time funding will be used to:
 - **Continue** enhanced cleaning measures in schools and support the continuation of rapid response teams.
 - It will **also be used to support** Indigenous students affected by the pandemic.
 - And it will **improve** mental health services and supports for students and staff to address the impacts of isolation, stress and anxiety due to the pandemic.
- Our mental health working group will continue to meet and develop strategies and assess recommended mental health resources to support students and staff.
- We know the pandemic has not only impacted mental health but has also impacted learning and educational equity.

- Early research is showing that those students most impacted are those who already faced structural barriers, including students living in poverty, Indigenous students, English Language Learners and those who need more support in school.
- Nothing is more important than addressing inequity and ensuring each-and-every child reaches their full potential in school, and in life.
- That's why **\$18 million** will directly address learning impacts to students.
- While school districts will have flexibility to use the **\$18 million** to address learning impacts in the best way to meet local needs, this funding is intended to:
 - **Assess** learning impacts on students due to the pandemic;
 - **Develop** and deliver additional resources to address learning impacts; and
 - **Deliver** learning recovery strategies designed by school districts
- Guidance on mask-wearing in school settings will be confirmed later this summer and will align with broader provincial direction.

- What will remain the same - students and staff must complete daily health checks, stay home when they feel sick and practice diligent hand hygiene.
- With more than 50% of children age 12 to 17 already receiving their first dose of vaccine – and those numbers continue to grow – we can plan for a much more typical school year starting in the fall.

Wrap-Up:

- The provincial K-12 education steering committee – which is made up of educators, parents, support workers, school leaders, trustees, representatives from the First Nations Education Steering Committee (FNESC) and Métis Nation BC and public health experts – has been invaluable in navigating the pandemic and keeping our schools safe this year.... and we will continue to work with the committee and the BC Centre for Disease Control over the summer to review and finalize health and safety guidelines for the fall.
- We will continue to follow the guidance and direction of public health and follow the evidence when making decisions.

- I'm proud of the work that has been done by everyone to ensure that B.C. is one of the few jurisdictions to develop and implement a system-wide plan to keep schools open and safe this school year.
- That accomplishment and commitment to keeping schools open is a testament to the tireless work of our education and health professionals, along with the dedication of students, parents and families throughout B.C.
- We are committed to continuing to work together so that we can prepare for a safe and near-normal return to school in September.
- I'd like to introduce our Provincial Health Officer, Dr. Bonnie Henry.

[DR. BONNIE HENRY SPEAKS]

[WHEN SHE IS FINISHED, THANK DR. BONNIE HENRY; INTRODUCE STEPHANIE HIGGINSON FROM BCSTA]

[STEPHANIE HIGGINSON SPEAKS]

[THANK STEPHANIE HIGGINSON AND INTRODUCE ANDREA SINCLAIR OF BCCPAC]

[ANDREA SINCLAIR SPEAKS]

[THANK ANDREA SINCLAIR]

- To staff and students and families – enjoy your summer break. You have certainly earned it.
- Now, we are ready to take your questions.

[Questions and Answers]

- Thank you everyone for tuning in.

----30----

Communication materials - Recovery Plan investment supports safe K-12 return

From: Leslie, Sean GCPE:EX <Sean.Leslie@gov.bc.ca>
To: Beale, William EDUC:EX <William.Beale@gov.bc.ca>, Lindsay-Baugh, Anna EDUC:EX <Anna.LindsayBaugh@gov.bc.ca>, Pelech, Keefer EDUC:EX <Keefer.Pelech@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Burton, Meribeth GCPE:EX <Meribeth.Burton@gov.bc.ca>, Silver, Matt GCPE:EX <Matt.Silver@gov.bc.ca>, McKenzie, Scott GCPE:EX <scott.1.mckenzie@gov.bc.ca>, Ralph, Kerri GCPE:EX <Kerri.Ralph@gov.bc.ca>, Pollen, Abby W GCPE:EX <Abby.Pollen@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: June 16, 2021 9:47:03 PM PDT
Attachments: 2021EDUC0044-001180.pdf, BCCPAC Andrea Sinclair - Speaking Notes - June 17.docx, SN - MJW - Back to School June 17_MJW edits June 16 7PM.docx, Itinerary - Education Restart - June 17.docx, QA - Back-to-school June 17.docx, BCSTA Stephanie Higginson - Speaking Notes - June 17.docx

Hello, please find the final package of materials for tomorrow morning. I will send up the stand alone Issues Scan in the morning, just want to make a few tweaks.

Thanks to Matt and Meribeth for getting this across the finish line. Matt's tweets below link to the NR – permalink is <https://news.gov.bc.ca/24712>

This will go live after MJW begins to speak, about 9:45am. Still time for a disaster check if needed – have also shared the NR with Exec.

Cheers!

Sean

From: Silver, Matt GCPE:EX

Sent: June 16, 2021 8:28 PM

To: Leslie, Sean GCPE:EX <Sean.Leslie@gov.bc.ca>; Burton, Meribeth GCPE:EX <Meribeth.Burton@gov.bc.ca>

Subject: Communication materials - Recovery Plan investment supports safe K-12 return

Importance: High

Hi Sean and Meribeth, here is the full package of communication materials for tomorrow morning's announcement.

- Event itinerary
- MJW's speaking points
- Stephanie Higginson's speaking points (BCSTA)
- Andrea Sinclair's speaking points (BCCPAC)
- Internal QA for announcement (removed yellow highlights)
- News Release

Tweets:

- Back to school plan! Students #bced can expect to be in class, full-time starting in September. We will follow PHO guidance over the summer and update families in August. @FNESC @BCCPAC @BCSTA_News [\[link\]](#)
- Near normal return to school next year with students in class, full-time. We are investing in learning impact recovery, cleaning measures, Indigenous students and mental health supports. @FNESC @BCCPAC @BCSTA_News [\[link\]](#)

Matt

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
2021EDUC0044-001180
June 17, 2021

Ministry of Education

Recovery Plan investment supports safe K-12 return

VICTORIA – Students, families, teachers and staff should plan for a near-normal return to school in September.

The Province is providing \$43.6 million to support ongoing health and safety measures, First Nations and Métis students, mental health services, rapid response teams, and to address learning impacts to students.

“B.C. is one of the few jurisdictions that has kept schools open all year despite the pandemic, thanks to the enormous collective efforts of everyone in the K-12 education system, and I extend my heartfelt thanks to them all,” said Jennifer Whiteside, Minister of Education. “We will continue to work with the experts in the provincial health office and our provincial K-12 education steering committee throughout the summer to finalize plans and guidelines to ensure students and staff are safe for the next school year.”

Throughout the 2020-21 school year, educators, staff and administrators have worked tirelessly to adapt to the challenges of the pandemic and support the health, well-being and learning of students, while parents and families have been flexible and adaptable to meet the needs of their children.

As part of the return to school in September 2021, students can expect to learn in classrooms full time. Similar to any other school year, online learning programs will remain available for students.

Of the \$43.6 million, there are \$25.6 million in new one-time, pandemic-specific funding to support necessary cleaning and disinfecting, hand hygiene for students and staff, improve ventilation and restock supplies of personal protection equipment (PPE). This funding will also strengthen the commitments to First Nations and Métis students and provide more mental health supports for students and staff.

Plus, money will be available to address learning impacts from the pandemic. Earlier this year, the ministry advised school districts that \$5.9 million was available to be allocated to address learning impacts. Today, an additional \$12.1 million are provided from the remaining 2020-21 school year operating grant.

Breakdown of the \$25.6 million in new one-time funding:

- \$14.4 million for health and safety, cleaning and supplies
- \$5 million to support First Nations students and build capacity within First Nations Education Steering Committee and Métis Nation BC
- \$5 million for mental health services

- \$1.2 million for independent schools

Based on guidance from the Office of the Provincial Health Officer, students will no longer be grouped into cohorts this September. Research has shown schools were not significant sources of COVID-19 transmission, and with high vaccination rates throughout B.C., these measures will no longer be necessary. This will allow normal timetabling. Should the current encouraging progress continue, it is anticipated the restrictions on gatherings, extracurricular activities and sports will no longer be required when the new school year begins.

Guidance on wearing masks in school settings will be confirmed later this summer and in alignment with broader provincial direction for the fall and winter. Students will continue to be required to complete daily health checks, stay home when feeling sick and practise diligent hand hygiene. Public health teams and school health officers will continue to closely monitor cases of COVID-19 in schools and the community, and will continue to provide support and guidance as schools return in the fall.

“This was a very different school year for everyone, and school communities have done an exemplary job adapting to the challenges we all faced,” said Dr. Bonnie Henry, B.C.’s provincial health officer. “Now, as we transition to a new phase and continue with immunizations throughout the province, students and educators can look forward to returning to a school environment that will be much closer to what they are accustomed to.”

The Province expects all eligible British Columbians will have been offered both vaccination doses by September, pending vaccine availability. More than 50% of kids aged 12 to 17 years old in B.C. have received their first vaccine dose.

Rapid response teams, which have been in place since February in each of the five health authority regions, will continue in the fall. The teams will focus on supporting recovery efforts in schools through a focus on academic, socio-emotional and mental health. They will also continue to provide streamlined communications at the local level to share information, support consistent practice of and update where necessary the K-12 health and safety guidelines.

“Boards of education across the province have worked hard in every community over the past year to ensure students were able to spend as much time as possible in school. We are thankful that the Province chose to prioritize the well-being of our children and youth by keeping B.C. schools open for in-person learning,” said Stephanie Higginson, president, BC School Trustees Association. “The funding announced today will help districts make sure our learners can continue to access the educational programs and services families and communities expect from our public school system. We look forward to starting a new school year in September with renewed hope and optimism.”

The provincial K-12 education steering committee – made up of educators, parents, support workers, school leaders, trustees, representatives from the First Nations Education Steering Committee (FNESC) and Métis Nation BC, and public health experts – will continue to work with the ministry and the BC Centre for Disease Control (BCCDC) in the summer to review and finalize school safety plans for the fall. It is expected the current guidelines used in schools over the past year will be replaced by updated guidelines in August 2021.

“Today’s announcement is an important step in recognizing the fundamental role of First

Nations in supporting the educational success of First Nations students,” said Tyrone McNeil, president, FNEC. “This funding will assist First Nations in addressing the impacts of the pandemic experienced by First Nations learners. We appreciate the ministry’s commitment to working with FNEC and B.C. First Nations as we recover from these challenging circumstances.”

Andrea Sinclair, president, BC Confederation of Parent Advisory Councils, said: “This school year has been challenging for us all. We relied on evidence and health and safety plans and together we kept schools open. We have represented parents and families on the K-12 steering and restart committees and influenced decisions and policies. I am impressed at how hard parents, educators, support staff and health-care professionals worked as teams to ensure schools remained open and safe. Our education partners have shown tremendous knowledge and dedication to overcoming adversity, and I am confident that our school system can overcome any future challenges while meeting the educational needs of our children.”

Quick Facts:

- There are approximately 1,900 K-12 schools in B.C. To date, 40 schools have closed temporarily for a short period of time during this school year, which has resulted in schools being open and safe 99.998% of total school days.
- Two studies conducted by health authorities during the 2020-21 school year found:
 - in Vancouver Coastal Health, 92% of school-associated cases of COVID-19 were acquired from outside of the school environment; and
 - in Fraser Health, 87% of school-associated cases were acquired through community/household transmission, not from the school setting.

Learn More:

B.C. COVID-19 Safe Schools website:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/education-training/k-12/covid-19-safe-schools>

Good News in Education stories from the K-12 system:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/education-training/k-12/covid-19-safe-schools/good-news>

BCCDC Outlook for September: http://www.bccdc.ca/Health-Info-Site/Documents/COVID_public_guidance/Schools_Outlook.pdf

Contact:

Ministry of Education
Government Communications and Public
Engagement
250 356-5963

Connect with the Province of B.C. at: news.gov.bc.ca/connect

Good afternoon and thank you Minister Whiteside,

I acknowledge I am speaking here today from my home on the unceded territories of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh Nations.

I'm Andrea Sinclair and I am the president of BC Confederation of Parent Advisory Councils. BCCPAC is the provincially mandated voice of parents who represents over 565,000 children attending public schools.

I wish to thank our dedicated Board and our CEO. Together we have attended over 125 meetings since March of 2020. I am proud to say BCCPAC has worked diligently to bring the parent perspective and voice to each committee.

It has been a challenging year for us all. I know these challenges first-hand as I have two children in high school. By working together, our schools have remained open and safe. By doing so, children were able to benefit from the social and emotional supports offered at their neighbourhood school. It also meant our children were able to have consistency in their lives by ensuring that their daily routines would remain. By schools remaining open, it meant our children could continue to interact with trusted adults and peers. It also allowed our children to take advantage of much needed supports like breakfast and hot lunch programs.

As I took my place on the K-12 Steering and Restart Committees, I was impressed with how hard parents, educators, support staff,

healthcare experts and ministry personnel worked as a team to ensure that schools met the health and safety guidelines. I am grateful to each of our education partners for their knowledge, effort, and dedication. Through this experience, I am more confident than ever that our school system can overcome any adversity it may face.

There is no substitute for the in-class experience. That is why we support the K-12 Recovery Plan and the return to school in September where students can be back learning full-time in their classrooms.

Children and families can expect that their school and school district will be prepared, responsive and flexible in meeting individual student needs, including acknowledging and addressing impacts from the pandemic on learning, mental health and well-being.

It has been a time of adaptation for all of us – children, families, and school staff. It's now time for parents to return to our schools to help reinvigorate our communities. It's now time for Parent Advisory Councils to re-engage.

It is important for us to share with families today so they can plan and adapt for September but also find time to rest, recharge, and reset over the summer.

As we look with hope to September and the near-normal return to school, BCCPAC will be working with our provincial education partners and the Ministry throughout the summer to finalize the

plans for September, while continuing to take our lead from the PHO. We will keep members and families informed as information is available.

We have listened and learned from each other; we have supported and leaned on each other. The phrase 'it takes a village' has never been truer.

Thank You.

Event Information / Speaking Notes – Minister Jennifer Whiteside

Event: Back-to-School planning announcement

When: June 17, 2021; 9:30 a.m.

Where: Events Studio – B.C. Legislature

Event Details: Minister Whiteside will be joined by Dr. Bonnie Henry, Stephanie Higginson and Andrea Sinclair to provide an update on back-to-school preparations underway for September. Minister Whiteside will announce a total of \$43.6 million, including \$25.6 million in new one-time pandemic-specific funding.

Length: 30 minutes

Key Participants: Jennifer Whiteside, Minister of Education, Dr. Bonnie Henry (PHO), Stephanie Higginson (BCSTA), Andrea Sinclair (BCCPAC)

Contact: Sean Leslie, Communications Director - (250) 893-4403

Event summary	Livestreamed virtual event on all government channels, broadcast from the Legislature studio and Zoom.
Zoom Login	s.15 Meeting ID: s.15 Passcode: s.15
Key contacts:	GCPE Events: Elena Banfield, 604-842-0984 (Zoom), Katie Wrona (studio), 250-213-1817 Ministry of Education: Sean Leslie, Communications Director, (250) 893-4403 GPCE Media Relations: Tara Gostelow, 250-893-7136
Time	Event Itinerary
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9:35 a.m.	Dr. Bonnie Henry delivers statement

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9:39 a.m.	Stephanie Higginson delivers statement
9:44 a.m.	Minister of Education Jennifer Whiteside thanks Stephanie Higginson and introduces Andrea Sinclair
9:44 a.m.	Andrea Sinclair delivers statement
9:48 a.m.	Minister of Education Jennifer Whiteside thanks Andrea Sinclair and invites questions from media.
9:48 a.m. to 10:15 a.m.	Media Availability / QA – moderated by Tara Gostelow
10:15 a.m.	Livestream concludes. Speakers remain in studio and on Zoom for group photo.

Speaking Notes
for the

Hon. Jennifer Whiteside
Minister of Education

Back to School for 2021/22:
Update on planning for B.C. parents, families and staff

June 17, 2021
9:30 a.m.

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

KEY MESSAGES:

- With the successful rollout of B.C.'s vaccination program, we can now expect the next school year will be much closer to normal than the past year with students learning in-class and no more learning cohorts.
- The Province is providing a total of \$43.6 million to support enhanced cleaning measures, First Nations and Métis students, mental health services, learning impacts to students as well as rapid response teams.
- We will continue to work under the direction and advice of public health experts and with our provincial K-12 education steering committee over the summer to finalize plans and guidelines to best support the health and safety of students and staff for next school year.
- B.C. is one of the few jurisdictions that has kept schools open all year despite the pandemic, thanks to the collective efforts of teachers, school administration and staff, and public health experts.

PEOPLE TO RECOGNIZE:

- Dr. Bonnie Henry (PHO), Stephanie Higginson (BCSTA) and Andrea Sinclair (BCCPAC)

TRADITIONAL TERRITORY:

- I would like to acknowledge I am on the traditional territory of the **Lekwungen speaking people of the Songhees and Esquimalt First Nations.**

INTRODUCTION:

- Good morning, everyone. My name is Jennifer Whiteside. I'm BC's Minister of Education.

[ACKNOWLEDGE DR. BONNIE HENRY (PHO), STEPHANIE HIGGINSON (BCSTA) AND ANDREA SINCLAIR (BCCPAC)]

- I would like to acknowledge I am speaking to you today from the traditional territory of the Lekwungen speaking people of the Songhees and Esquimalt First Nations.
- Today we are providing an update on back-to-school planning for September.
- Before we look at what's ahead, I want to take a moment to extend my profound gratitude to teachers, school staff and administrators. You have worked with compassion, strength and determination, and you have shown remarkable fortitude and leadership while supporting the changing needs of students throughout this unprecedented school year.
- And I also want to thank parents and families for your tremendous commitment and hard work in ensuring your children have been able to learn in spite of the challenges of the pandemic.

- Our government is committed to following the direction and guidance of Public health and working collaboratively with our education partners and with Rightsholders. The way we have all worked together has been remarkable.
- It reaffirms the compassionate, resilient and caring nature of British Columbians.
- The vast majority of students returned to class full-time this school year.
- School safety plans were in place to reduce the spread of COVID – and the evidence shows these plans were indeed successful.

Upcoming School Year

- There is no question this was a difficult year – and in some parts of the province much more challenging than others.

- Since the start of the 2020/21 school year, the vast majority of schools in BC were open and operating every day of the school year.
- And British Columbians are showing just how much they care about each other by getting vaccinated at amazing rates.
- It's expected that all eligible British Columbians will have been offered both vaccination doses by September – which is fantastic news. And we will hear more from Dr. Henry on that in a moment.
- So, what this means is students will be back in the classroom for full-time, in-person instruction and the return to a near-normal start to school in September.
- Based on guidance from the Office of the Provincial Health Officer, students will no longer be grouped into cohorts or learning groups.
- Pending further public health guidance, it is also expected that current restrictions on gatherings, extra-curricular activities and sports will be relaxed in time for the new school year.
- And that's good news for everyone. I know that we want to move past the pandemic together and we are currently moving in the right direction.

- To support the safe operation of schools – and the health and safety of students and staff, today we are announcing a total of **\$43.6 million dollars**.
- This includes new COVID-specific, one-time funding of **\$25.6 million** for next school year. That is on top of the **\$7.1 billion we announced in Budget 2021 to operate K-12 schools in B.C.**
- The **\$25.6 million** in new one-time funding will be used to:
 - **Continue** enhanced cleaning measures in schools and support the continuation of rapid response teams.
 - It will **also be used to support** Indigenous students affected by the pandemic.
 - And it will **improve** mental health services and supports for students and staff to address the impacts of isolation, stress and anxiety due to the pandemic.
- Our mental health working group will continue to meet and develop strategies and assess recommended mental health resources to support students and staff.
- We know the pandemic has not only impacted mental health but has also impacted learning and educational equity.

- Early research is showing that those students most impacted are those who already faced structural barriers, including students living in poverty, Indigenous students, English Language Learners and those who need more support in school.
- Nothing is more important than addressing inequity and ensuring each-and-every child reaches their full potential in school, and in life.
- That's why **\$18 million** will directly address learning impacts to students.
- While school districts will have flexibility to use the **\$18 million** to address learning impacts in the best way to meet local needs, this funding is intended to:
 - **Assess** learning impacts on students due to the pandemic;
 - **Develop** and deliver additional resources to address learning impacts; and
 - **Deliver** learning recovery strategies designed by school districts
- Guidance on mask-wearing in school settings will be confirmed later this summer and will align with broader provincial direction.

- What will remain the same - students and staff must complete daily health checks, stay home when they feel sick and practice diligent hand hygiene.
- With more than 50% of children age 12 to 17 already receiving their first dose of vaccine – and those numbers continue to grow – we can plan for a much more typical school year starting in the fall.

Wrap-Up:

- The provincial K-12 education steering committee – which is made up of educators, parents, support workers, school leaders, trustees, representatives from the First Nations Education Steering Committee (FNESC) and Métis Nation BC and public health experts – has been invaluable in navigating the pandemic and keeping our schools safe this year.... and we will continue to work with the committee and the BC Centre for Disease Control over the summer to review and finalize health and safety guidelines for the fall.
- We will continue to follow the guidance and direction of public health and follow the evidence when making decisions.

- I'm proud of the work that has been done by everyone to ensure that B.C. is one of the few jurisdictions to develop and implement a system-wide plan to keep schools open and safe this school year.
- That accomplishment and commitment to keeping schools open is a testament to the tireless work of our education and health professionals, along with the dedication of students, parents and families throughout B.C.
- We are committed to continuing to work together so that we can prepare for a safe and near-normal return to school in September.
- I'd like to introduce our Provincial Health Officer, Dr. Bonnie Henry.

[DR. BONNIE HENRY SPEAKS]

[WHEN SHE IS FINISHED, THANK DR. BONNIE HENRY; INTRODUCE STEPHANIE HIGGINSON FROM BCSTA]

[STEPHANIE HIGGINSON SPEAKS]

[THANK STEPHANIE HIGGINSON AND INTRODUCE ANDREA SINCLAIR OF BCCPAC]

[ANDREA SINCLAIR SPEAKS]

[THANK ANDREA SINCLAIR]

- To staff and students and families – enjoy your summer break. You have certainly earned it.
- Now, we are ready to take your questions.

[Questions and Answers]

- Thank you everyone for tuning in.

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Ministry of Education

Education Restart Announcement

Date: Thursday, June 17

Time: 9:30am

Event summary	Livestreamed virtual event on all government channels, broadcast from the Legislature studio and Zoom.
Zoom Login	s.15 Meeting ID: s.15 Passcode: s.15
Key contacts:	GCPE Events: Elena Banfield, 604-842-0984 (Zoom), Katie Wrona (studio), 250-213-1817 Ministry of Education: Sean Leslie, Communications Director, (250) 893-4403 GPCE Media Relations: Tara Gostelow, 250-893-7136
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**Questions & Answers for:
Jennifer Whiteside, Minister of Education
Back-to-school for 2021/22 announcement
June 17, 2021**

Key Messages:

- With the successful rollout of B.C.'s vaccination program, we can now expect the next school year will be much closer to normal – with full day, full time, in school learning in September.
- We will continue to work with public health experts and our provincial K-12 steering committee during the summer to finalize plans to ensure the safety of students and staff.
- To support a safe return to school, our government providing \$43.6 million for enhanced cleaning measures, and to support First Nations and Métis students, mental health services, learning impacts to students as well as rapid response teams.
- B.C. is one of the few jurisdictions that has kept schools open all year despite the pandemic, thanks to the collective efforts of teachers, school administration and staff, and public health experts.

[Section 1: Announcement and funding](#) (Questions 1-14)

[Section 2: Reflection on 2020/21 school year](#) (Questions 15-19)

Q1: Why are you making an announcement now when this is a fluid situation and September is nearly three months away?

- We know parents and families need time to plan for the fall.
- Last year, parents (and BC Confederation of Parent Advisory Councils) said they wanted to know the province's back-to-school plan earlier in the summer. So, this year we are giving families as much notice as we can.
- We are also letting families know the pandemic is unpredictable and we will have more to say in late-August.
- Staff also have to plan for the coming school year.
- We have heard clearly from the provincial K-12 steering committee that the sector wants preliminary guidance before the end of the school year to keep the

lines of communication open with students, parents, families and British Columbians alike.

- Announcing the guidelines and the funding now allows Boards of Education to prepare for September and put plans in place to create safe, supportive learning environments for students. It also ensures everyone is updated on the planning and preparations underway.

Q2: Will the 5-stage approach stay in place for the 2021/22 school year?

- No, it will not.
- Health and safety guidelines will continue to be in place to support the health and safety measures identified by public health authorities in all K-12 schools in the fall. And with strong vaccine uptake across the province, students can expect the next school year will be much closer to normal than the past year.
- The 2020 5-stage will be archived and is available to the sector should we need to pivot due to developments in the pandemic.

Q3: How will the \$43.6 million be allocated?

- Of the \$43.6 million announced:
 - \$25.6 million is new one-time pandemic-specific funding.
 - \$18 million is holdback enrolment funds from 2020/21 school year that have been earmarked for school districts to use to support students who experienced learning impacts. (School districts were informed earlier this year that \$5.9 million was available and now it's a total of \$18 million).
- The new one-time pandemic-specific funding of \$25.6 million will be used to align with the public health guidance for K-12 to support enhanced cleaning measures, and support First Nations and Métis students while providing more mental health supports for students and staff.
- Breakdown of the \$25.6 million:
 - \$14.4 million for health and safety, cleaning and supplies;
 - \$5.0 million for mental health supports for students and staff;
 - \$5.0 million to support First Nations students and build capacity within First Nations Education Steering Committee and Métis Nation BC;
 - \$1.2 million for Independent schools.
- Breakdown of the \$14.4 million for health and safety within the \$25.6 million:
 - Ongoing cleaning and disinfecting schedules to address high-touch areas in schools;
 - Continued hand hygiene practices for students and staff;
 - Restock supplies of non-medical masks;
 - Maintain operation of the Rapid Response Teams in each of the five health authorities and independent schools through the 2021/22 school year.
- While school districts will have flexibility to use the \$18 million to address learning impacts in the best way to meet local needs, they should use the funding to:
 - Assess the learning impacts on students because of the pandemic;
 - Develop and deliver additional resources to address learning impacts on students caused by the pandemic; and

- Deliver learning recovery strategies designed by school districts – see SD 23 example, below.
- **School district example:**
 - On June 15, media reported that Central Okanagan (SD 23) will use Ministry funds to offer literacy summer camps in July to ensure students and families can receive additional support because of the pandemic.
 - The camps are expected to run for two weeks in July at seven elementary schools and meals will be provided to participating students.
 - Teachers will check in with students at home in August.
 - As well, the school district is providing mental health counselling at middle and secondary schools during the summer. According to the Ministry, they are also undertaking specific outreach with First Nations families and refugee/newcomer families.
 - According to the media story, SD 23's superintendent Kevin Kaardal said the programs are aimed at helping students who are struggling with underperformance, disengagement and non-attendance.

Q4: How will the \$5 million be used to support mental health services?

- We recognize this past year has been challenging for many B.C. students as the pandemic has created uncertainty, anxiety and stress.
- A total of \$5 million from the \$25.6 million is new one-time pandemic-specific funding will support the mental health of students and staff.
- Funding will be allocated in conjunction with the Ministry of Education's Mental Health Working Group and will complement the work being done through the Mental Health in Schools Strategy which outlines a vision and pathway for mental health promotion in the K-12 education system along with Foundry BC and the erase strategy.
- The funding provided will allow school districts to enhance and develop strategies already in place under the Mental Health in Schools strategy.
- The most common supports funded by school districts are:
 - Mental health literacy (e.g. workshops, training) – both at school and through parent information nights and resources;
 - Trauma-informed practice training for teachers and staff;
 - Additional counselling support.
- Current SD examples:
 - SD 42 (Maple Ridge-Pitt Meadows) offers student well-being grants and is supporting student leadership mental health initiatives and workshops with mental health experts.
 - SD 37 (Delta) has increased the number of Child and Youth Care Workers to provide additional supports to students and families, particularly students who are learning remotely.
 - SD 5 (Southeast Kootenay) has created a designated space in each school for mental, physical and social well-being. These spaces include counselling supports, supports for Indigenous students, calming/self-regulating spaces and outdoor spaces.
 - SD 51 (Boundary) has hired an Elder in Residence to support socio-emotional learning.

Q5: How will the \$5 million be used to support First Nations and Métis students?

- The \$5 million for First Nations and Métis students will be allocated to the First Nations Education Steering Committee (FNESC) and Métis Nation BC (MNBC):
 - \$600 for each of the approximately 8,000 First Nations students living on reserve (\$4.8 million) will enhance the work that FNESC already has underway with First Nations communities.
 - Based on FNESC's recent allocation of other funding provided by Ministry, they could allocate these funds to support the following (ultimately it's up to FNESC):
 - Tutoring supports, particularly for students who were learning remotely;
 - Setting up classrooms within the community and collaborating with the school district on staffing and learning support;
 - Hiring additional teachers;
 - Traditional meals prepared by Elders;
 - Purchasing desktop computers, laptops, pens, paper and learning materials;
 - Mental health workshops and hiring additional counsellors
 - Activities such as traditional medicine classes and cultural activities on the land.
 - \$160,000 will help build capacity in FNESC as they support First Nations students living on reserve and who attend public and independent schools. FNESC will engage with the local school districts on the supports and services that students in their communities require.
 - \$40,000 to build capacity in MNBC as it works to support Métis students living in the broader community and help school districts provide appropriate supports for these students.
- We are in regular communication with Emergency Management BC to monitor the status of First Nations communities around the province.

Q6: Why was \$288 million provided by the provincial and federal governments for this past school year (2020/21) but only \$43.6 million in total for next school year?

- For the 2020/21 school year, there was \$288 million in one-time combined provincial and federal COVID-19 relief funding to support health and safety in our K-12 education system.
 - \$242.2 million was federal funding and \$45.6 million provincial, compared to \$43.6 million in total provincial funding for 2021/22.
- As the 2020/21 school year was under Stage 2 of our Restart Plan, a larger allocation of funding was used to support the development and creation of health and safety plans and protocols, purchases of PPE and other supplies as well as the creation and operations of the rapid response teams for the K-12 sector. The bulk of the funding was spent on staffing, primarily hiring additional teachers for transition programs and additional custodians.
- Some of the health and safety costs are one-time – for example purchasing an electrostatic sprayer or upgrading a ventilation system – and those will continue to be available this upcoming school year.

- Of the \$25.6 million in one-time pandemic-specific funding
 - \$20.6 million will be provided to school districts (and independent schools) for the 2021/22 school year to allow them to align with the Public Health Guidance for K-12 and maintain rapid response teams already in place, and also provide additional supports for mental health services.
 - There is \$5.0 million to provide supports to First Nations students and to build capacity within First Nations Education Steering Committee (FNESC) and Métis Nation BC.
- In addition to the \$25.6 million in new one-time pandemic-specific funding, a total of \$18 million from 2020/21 school year funding will be provided to address learning impacts.
- The funding aligns with government's mandate to ensure quality public education continues to be delivered during and after the COVID-19 pandemic through implementation of appropriate health and safety guidelines.

Q7: Will you commit to additional funding beyond the total of \$43.6 million for next school year?

- We are confident the \$25.6 million in additional one-time new pandemic-specific funding and the \$18 million to address learning impacts will allow school districts to implement the health and safety guidelines and assess and address learning impacts due to the pandemic.
- The new one-time funding announced today builds on our total of \$7.1 billion for K-12 education in B.C. for 2021/22 – that's \$1.5 billion more than in 2016-2017 and a 6.6% increase over last year's budget.

Q8: Why isn't there more funding for independent schools?

- We have approximately 550,000 public school students and 85,000 independent school students in B.C.
- All funding continues to be allocated proportionately and based on the existing funding formula to support public school students and independent school students in an equitable way.
- We have fully met our commitments to funding independent schools for parents who choose them.

Q9: What happens if there's another spike in COVID-19 cases before the start of the school year?

- As we have since the beginning of the pandemic, we will work closely with public health and follow their advice to ensure schools continue to operate safely.
- Any potential spike in cases would be evaluated carefully in terms of the overall public health risk and the provincial context, including vaccination uptake.
- If the Province has to increase provincial restrictions, or reinstate circuit breaker or emergency measures, the Ministry will work with public health to assess the situation and determine the safest approach for delivery of K-12 education.

Q10: Will cleaning in schools be reduced? If cleaning is reduced, can government estimate how many jobs will be lost?

- The CDC is no longer requiring specific cleaning on a specific schedule.

- We are providing \$14 million to school districts for health and safety including supplies and enhanced cleaning.
- It will be up to school districts to determine how they prioritize that funding.
- It is too early to determine any impact on jobs.
- We won't know final enrollment figures until September – and enrollment drives funding to districts.
- We do know that many school districts have based their budgets on conservative projections because of the pandemic.
- Things are changing – we expect we will see a rebound in international student populations and the picture will look a lot different in September.

Q11: Will students still be able to take online courses if they don't feel safe returning to school? What about immune-compromised students?

- Parents and caregivers will continue to have a range of choices in September.
- As has always been the case, any student who cannot safely attend school due to medical reasons, including immune-compromised students, will be accommodated by their school district through locally developed approaches described by the school district's Hospital/Homebound programs.
- Other students who do not feel safe returning to school can enroll in online learning or choose homeschooling.
- I encourage parents who have questions about the options for their children to contact their school.
- I expect schools to be accommodating and flexible to meet their students' needs.

Q12: What will health and safety plans for summer school look like?

- The current K-12 health and safety guidelines will remain in place over the summer.
- Any summer school activities will follow the current guidelines. The Ministry has engaged with stakeholders and school districts who provide the largest summer programs and there is broad support to maintain the current K-12 guidance over the summer.
- Now that BCCDC has provided preliminary guidance for September, the Ministry will work with the provincial K-12 education steering committee and BCCDC in the summer to finalize the K-12 guidelines that will be in place for next school year.
- Masks will still be required indoors. It's important to note that even under step three of the Restart plan, masks are recommended in indoor settings.
- Summer school classes are also much different than during the regular school year – there are often only a few students in school for a few hours a day, and there is not the same level of activities as during normal school days.

Q13: Can you say what back-to-school in the fall will look like with Step 4 starting on Sept. 7?

- We do expect K-12 schools in B.C. will operate under near-normal conditions next school year. Full day, full time, in person classes for BC students.

- We continue to work with public health officials as they review what health and safety measures will be necessary in September.
- The government's vaccine roll-out is going well and all signs point to a strong start for B.C. schools.
- We will continue to move forward carefully, informed by data and guided by science and public health advice.
- The safety of students and education staff is our top priority.

Q14: Why are cohorts being eliminated for next school year?

- Based on guidance from the Office of the Provincial Health Officer, students will no longer be learning groups or cohorts in September.
- The evidence and science have shown these measures had a significant impact on normal school operations and did not contribute to reducing COVID-19 transmission.
- Pending further public health guidance, it is also expected that current restrictions on gatherings, extra-curricular activities and sports will be relaxed in time for the new school year.

Q15: Will the mask mandate be in place for next school year?

- Guidance on mask-wearing in school settings will be confirmed later this summer and in alignment with broader provincial direction.
- Any changes to the K-12 guidelines will be made in consultation with the provincial K-12 education steering committee, made up of education staff, administrators, parents, representatives from the First Nations Education Steering Committee (FNESC) and Métis Nation BC and public health officials.
- Students and staff will be required to complete daily health checks – to stay home when feeling sick – and to practice diligent hand hygiene.

Section 2: Reflection on 2020/21 school year

Q16: What has been the impact on students through this current school year?

- All British Columbians have had to adapt as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- We've been challenged in our lives to take on different approaches in our daily routines. And for many students, that has resulted in shifts in how and where they learn each day.
- That's not easy to do for anyone. We applaud the strengths and resiliency of B.C. students who have excelled in the face of adversity.
- While most students returned to in-person instruction full-time this year, we know that there were impacts on learning for some students. Many secondary school students were not able to attend school full-time. Some students were impacted by community closures or the requirement to self-isolate.
- The Ministry is also engaged in a multi-phase research project to better understand the impacts of COVID-19.
- While the long-term impacts of the pandemic on student learning and mental health are not yet known, early research from Phase 2 of the project (June 2020 – Feb 2021) indicates the students most likely to be impacted are those with pre-

existing equity gaps in academic outcomes, attendance, graduation and mental well-being.

- That's why we have provided \$18 million to address learning impacts.
- While school districts will have flexibility to use the \$18 million to address learning impacts in the best way to meet local needs, it is intended to:
 - Assess learning impacts on students because of the pandemic;
 - Develop and deliver additional resources to address learning impacts on students caused by the pandemic; and
 - Deliver learning recovery strategies designed by school districts.
- To address and support the findings of Phase 2 research, government allocated \$5 million for mental health services and \$5 million to support First Nations and Métis students.
- Phase 3 of the research project is planned for July 2021 and will delve into mental health, absences and academic achievement. The Ministry will take this and other research into consideration during 2022/23 budget planning process and prioritization.

Q17: Over the course of the 2020/21 school year, how many students and staff have been exposed to COVID-19?

- I'd like to thank students, parents, teachers and school staff for the enormous efforts they made to keep schools in BC open this year – one of the few jurisdictions to do so.
- While of course there some exposures in schools that mirrored transmission in community, the vast majority of schools were open and operating every day of the school year.
- There were very few occasions when classes were self-isolated due to exposures.

Q18: Will there be any graduation ceremonies for high school students in June or July?

- We know that graduation is an important milestone for young adults but we encourage celebrations to be small, safe and meaningful.
- We recognize that this is not the graduation students and families had hoped for.
- We have worked with the BCCDC and our provincial K-12 education steering committee to develop guidelines and safe options for grad ceremonies that will give students long-lasting memories of graduating during a global pandemic.
- A number of grad ceremonies have already happened, and many more will be underway based on the existing guidelines.
- Some suggestions for graduates include outdoor or drive-thru ceremonies, livestreaming or recording the small service so families can watch in a safe way.

Q19: Why isn't K-12 mentioned in the provincial restart plan?

- We already have an established process to determine required health and safety guidelines for schools, working with the Office of the Provincial Health Officer, the CDC, and the provincial K-12 education steering committee since last summer.

- They provided input and advice into today's announcement and will continue to work on finalizing the health and safety guidelines and overall plan in advance of September.

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I am honoured to be on the territories of the Lekwungen speaking peoples of the Esquimalt and Songhees first nations.

The COVID-19 pandemic has been hard on all of us. It has been hard on communities, hard on businesses, and hard on families. It has been particularly difficult for children and youth, who lost connections to supports and sacrificed activities and experiences many of us remember so fondly from our own formative years.

Schools are where we learn, but they are also where we make life-long connections: to friends, to teachers and mentors, to teams and groups and activities that shape our lives.

In British Columbia we have been fortunate.

Boards of education, in cooperation with the Ministry of Education and the provincial health office, pulled out all the stops to keep students in school all year long to make sure that learners would benefit from the critical supports provided by schools while they navigated the challenges presented by a global pandemic in their daily lives.

We are proud that British Columbia prioritized the health and well-being of children and youth by keeping schools open for the entire school year.

Together, we proved that with appropriate health and safety measures, education can and should always remain a priority, even during a global pandemic.

It was a monumental task that asked a lot of every person in this sector and we rose to the challenge. We did so because of how much we care for the students we serve.

We are grateful to everyone for the sacrifices they made in recognition of the critical role schools play in the lives of students, communities and society at large.

Thank you to the dedicated staff across the entire k-12 sector who made all this possible. Each and every one of you played an integral role in this extremely complicated but successful year.

Thank you to the families and students who worked hard to comply with the safety

measures that made this past school year possible.

It has been an extraordinarily difficult but successful year that will set us up for a smoother transition into the recovery phase.

With hope on the horizon, we can look back and feel a tremendous sense of achievement in the incredible efforts we took to keep kids in schools during an extraordinarily challenging school year.

Building on this same diligence and care, it is an honour to be here today delivering a message of hope based on the most up-to-date science that has guided B.C. so successfully through this pandemic.

We are here today to signal the first careful steps towards a post-pandemic school year.

Boards of education will be working closely with their local medical health officers over the summer to roll out a return to school that parallels the province's staged recovery plan.

Boards will work with the same diligence we demonstrated this school year to meet the needs of students in a post-pandemic world. We recognize and understand that the pandemic has impacted each community differently and each board of education will build a COVID-19 recovery plan that meets the nuanced needs of the communities they serve.

Over the last year and half, British Columbians in every community pulled together to keep

each other safe. As we move forward, boards of education will continue working with their communities to keep kids learning, growing and thriving in every part of the province.

RE: DBH quote

From: Pelech, Keefer EDUC:EX <Keefer.Pelech@gov.bc.ca>
To: Ho, Theresa HLTH:EX <Theresa.Ho@gov.bc.ca>, Lindsay-Baugh, Anna EDUC:EX <Anna.LindsayBaugh@gov.bc.ca>, Beale, William EDUC:EX <William.Beale@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: June 17, 2021 9:16:42 AM PDT
Attachments: 2021EDUC0044-001180NR.pdf

Here's the final NR with quote.

-Keefer

From: Ho, Theresa HLTH:EX <Theresa.Ho@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: June 17, 2021 9:13 AM
To: Lindsay-Baugh, Anna EDUC:EX <Anna.LindsayBaugh@gov.bc.ca>; Pelech, Keefer EDUC:EX <Keefer.Pelech@gov.bc.ca>; Beale, William EDUC:EX <William.Beale@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: RE: DBH quote

Awesome. Thanks.

From: Lindsay-Baugh, Anna EDUC:EX <Anna.LindsayBaugh@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: June 17, 2021 9:12 AM
To: Pelech, Keefer EDUC:EX <Keefer.Pelech@gov.bc.ca>; Beale, William EDUC:EX <William.Beale@gov.bc.ca>; Ho, Theresa HLTH:EX <Theresa.Ho@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: Fwd: DBH quote

Yes this is the quote that we got from Amanda it is in the NR.

Anna

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Beale, William EDUC:EX" <William.Beale@gov.bc.ca>
Date: June 17, 2021 at 8:35:13 AM PDT
To: "Leslie, Sean GCPE:EX" <Sean.Leslie@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: "Lindsay-Baugh, Anna EDUC:EX" <Anna.LindsayBaugh@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: Fwd: DBH quote

From: "van Baarsen, Amanda HLTH:EX" <Amanda.vanBaarsen@gov.bc.ca>
Date: June 17, 2021 at 8:18:13 AM PDT
To: "Beale, William EDUC:EX" <William.Beale@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: FW: DBH quote

Making sure you have this quote for the PHO? ☺

From: Nicola Lambrechts <nicola@nlkstrategies.ca>
Sent: June 17, 2021 8:18 AM
To: van Baarsen, Amanda HLTH:EX <Amanda.vanBaarsen@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: DBH quote

[EXTERNAL] This email came from an external source. Only open attachments or links that you are expecting from a known sender.

Here you go.

"This was a very different school year for everyone, and school communities have done an exemplary job adapting to the challenges we all faced. Now, as we transition to a new phase, and continue with immunizations throughout the province, students and educators can look forward to returning to a school environment that will be much closer to what they are accustomed to."

Nicola Lambrechts
NLK Strategies
604.970.9113
nicola@nlkstrategies.ca
www.nlkstrategies.ca

RE: EDUC Media Request: Back to school funding -- Surrey allocation - 4:30 p.m. deadline

From: Silver, Matt GCPE:EX <Matt.Silver@gov.bc.ca>
To: Lindsay-Baugh, Anna EDUC:EX <Anna.LindsayBaugh@gov.bc.ca>, Beale, William EDUC:EX <William.Beale@gov.bc.ca>, Pelech, Keefer EDUC:EX <Keefer.Pelech@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Leslie, Sean GCPE:EX <Sean.Leslie@gov.bc.ca>, McKenzie, Scott GCPE:EX <Scott.1.McKenzie@gov.bc.ca>, Craik, Jason GCPE:EX <Jason.Craik@gov.bc.ca>, Burton, Meribeth GCPE:EX <Meribeth.Burton@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: June 18, 2021 4:23:31 PM PDT
Hi all, we've added in Surrey's additional COVID-specific funding from earlier this year. Is this good to go?

s.13

From: Lindsay-Baugh, Anna EDUC:EX <Anna.LindsayBaugh@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: June 18, 2021 3:16 PM
To: Burton, Meribeth GCPE:EX <Meribeth.Burton@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Silver, Matt GCPE:EX <Matt.Silver@gov.bc.ca>; Beale, William EDUC:EX <William.Beale@gov.bc.ca>; Pelech, Keefer EDUC:EX <Keefer.Pelech@gov.bc.ca>; Leslie, Sean GCPE:EX <Sean.Leslie@gov.bc.ca>; McKenzie, Scott GCPE:EX <Scott.1.McKenzie@gov.bc.ca>; Craik, Jason GCPE:EX <Jason.Craik@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: Re: EDUC Media Request: Back to school funding -- Surrey allocation - 4:30 p.m. deadline

Sounds good

Anna

On Jun 18, 2021, at 3:15 PM, Burton, Meribeth GCPE:EX <Meribeth.Burton@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

I think we could add Surrey's portion of the 288M\$ given it's pandemic-specific funding Q.

Mb

From: Lindsay-Baugh, Anna EDUC:EX <Anna.LindsayBaugh@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: June 18, 2021 3:11 PM
To: Silver, Matt GCPE:EX <Matt.Silver@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Beale, William EDUC:EX <William.Beale@gov.bc.ca>; Pelech, Keefer EDUC:EX <Keefer.Pelech@gov.bc.ca>; Burton, Meribeth GCPE:EX <Meribeth.Burton@gov.bc.ca>; Leslie, Sean

GCPE:EX <Sean.Leslie@gov.bc.ca>; McKenzie, Scott GCPE:EX <Scott.1.McKenzie@gov.bc.ca>; Craik, Jason GCPE:EX <Jason.Craik@gov.bc.ca>

Subject: Re: EDUC Media Request: Back to school funding -- Surrey allocation - 4:30 p.m. deadline

Wondering if we should include what Surrey received in maintenance grants and earlier Covid relief funding to give a broader picture? Thoughts?

Anna

On Jun 18, 2021, at 2:53 PM, Silver, Matt GCPE:EX <Matt.Silver@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

Hi everyone, we have a media request response for approval with a 4:30 p.m. deadline.

The reporter would like Surrey's (SD 36) allocations from the back-to-school funding announcement.

See below and let us know if this is good to go.

Reporter

Lauren Collins, Reporter
Surrey Now-Leader
lauren.collins@surreynowleader.com
604-575-5335

Deadline Friday, June 18, 2021 4:30 PM

Request

Reporter is looking for the Surrey School District portion of the 2021/22 return to school funding

Recommendation – provide the following below on background:

s.13

End of Day Media Request Report - June 18, 2021

From: McKenzie, Scott GCPE:EX <Scott.1.McKenzie@gov.bc.ca>
To: MacDonald, Scott D EDUC:EX <D.Scott.MacDonald@gov.bc.ca>, Purdy, Sheila EDUC:EX <Sheila.Purdy@gov.bc.ca>, Beale, William EDUC:EX <William.Beale@gov.bc.ca>, Nicholls, Cloe EDUC:EX <Cloe.Nicholls@gov.bc.ca>, McLeod, Tamara EDUC:EX <Tamara.McLeod@gov.bc.ca>, Mayhew, Marnie EDUC:EX <Marnie.Mayhew@gov.bc.ca>, Higgs, Jeremy EDUC:EX <Jeremy.Higgs@gov.bc.ca>, Godin, Keith EDUC:EX <Keith.Godin@gov.bc.ca>, McCrea, Jennifer EDUC:EX <Jennifer.McCrea@gov.bc.ca>, Craik, Jason GCPE:EX <Jason.Craik@gov.bc.ca>, Nyikes, Michael EDUC:EX <Michael.Nyikes@gov.bc.ca>, Kovacs, Patricia EDUC:EX <Patricia.Kovacs@gov.bc.ca>, Gostelow, Tara GCPE:EX <Tara.Gostelow@gov.bc.ca>, Lindsay-Baugh, Anna EDUC:EX <Anna.LindsayBaugh@gov.bc.ca>, Zadravec, Don GCPE:EX <Don.Zadravec@gov.bc.ca>, Sanderson, Melanie PSSG:EX <Melanie.Sanderson@gov.bc.ca>, Bawa, Reg R EDUC:EX <Reg.Bawa@gov.bc.ca>, Sanderson, Melanie EDUC:EX <Melanie.Sanderson@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Ralph, Kerri GCPE:EX <Kerri.Ralph@gov.bc.ca>, Burton, Meribeth GCPE:EX <Meribeth.Burton@gov.bc.ca>, Silver, Matt GCPE:EX <Matt.Silver@gov.bc.ca>, Leslie, Sean GCPE:EX <Sean.Leslie@gov.bc.ca>, Pollen, Abby W GCPE:EX <Abby.Pollen@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: June 18, 2021 5:34:22 PM PDT

Media Responses

Lauren Collins - Surrey Now-Leader
ISSUE: Back to school funding -- Surrey portion
STATUS: Provided Background

- Surrey School District (SD 36) will receive a total of \$1.76 million of the \$25.6 million province-wide one-time pandemic-related funding for the next school year.
See the last page of the Restart funding table (Table E).
Please note: a school district specific breakdown of the \$5 million provincial investment in additional mental health programs and services for the 2021/22 school year has yet to be confirmed.
- From the \$18 million to address learning impacts, Surrey (SD 36) is allocated an additional \$2.27 million in 2020/21. The allocation is based on Surrey's proportion of operating funding.
- In the 2020/21 school year, Surrey (SD 36) also received a total of \$34.35 million in provincial and federal COVID-19 relief funding to support health and safety, along with other measures.
Funding tables E and F

Priyanka Dhamija - Zee TV Canada
ISSUE: MJW Interview - Back to School
STATUS: Scheduled Interview

- Booked for June 24 at 3 p.m.

In Progress:

Manda Aufochs Gillespie - Cortes Currents
ISSUE: Distributed Learning
STATUS: With GCPE

Stephanie Jack - CFUR Radio 88.7 (University of Northern BC)

ISSUE: MJW Interview - residential schools

STATUS: With GCPE

EDUC Media Request: Mental health in schools - The Philanthropist (Deadline: Friday, June 25 at 12 p.m.)

From: Silver, Matt GCPE:EX <Matt.Silver@gov.bc.ca>
To: Beale, William EDUC:EX <William.Beale@gov.bc.ca>, Lindsay-Baugh, Anna EDUC:EX <Anna.LindsayBaugh@gov.bc.ca>, Pelech, Keefer EDUC:EX <Keefer.Pelech@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Burton, Meribeth GCPE:EX <Meribeth.Burton@gov.bc.ca>, Leslie, Sean GCPE:EX <Sean.Leslie@gov.bc.ca>, McKenzie, Scott GCPE:EX <Scott.1.McKenzie@gov.bc.ca>, Finn, Heather GCPE:EX <Heather.Finn@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: June 24, 2021 10:22:31 AM PDT

Hi all, for your approval - we have the responses to the questions from the reporter at the Philanthropist Journal.

Matt

Reporter

Rachel Chen, Reporter

[The Philanthropist](#)

s.22

Deadline Friday, June 25, 2021 12:00 PM

Request

- 1) What are you expecting the situation will be like in fall, especially in regards to mental health of students?
- 2) The organizers of the campaign are anticipating residual trauma and the psychological impact of the pandemic will continue to be present in classrooms. Does the ministry of education have a plan in place for addressing these potential issues?
- 3) In This Together's research noted some key issues: lack of culturally sensitive care, not enough early intervention/too much focus on crisis lines, and ineffective treatment for youth who do reach out for help. Does the ministry of education have any plans or resources for addressing these needs?
- 4) Finally, it would be helpful to know if the ministry of education collaborates (or plans to) with any non-profit organizations, and if so, in what capacities.

Recommendation:

s.13

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Withheld pursuant to/removed as

s.13

RE: Media Request - MJW Interview - Zee TV - Back to School June 23/24

From: McKenzie, Scott GCPE:EX <Scott.1.McKenzie@gov.bc.ca>
To: Waters, Leah EDUC:EX <Leah.Waters@gov.bc.ca>, Lindsay-Baugh, Anna EDUC:EX <Anna.LindsayBaugh@gov.bc.ca>, Beale, William EDUC:EX <William.Beale@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Pelech, Keefer EDUC:EX <Keefer.Pelech@gov.bc.ca>, Burton, Meribeth GCPE:EX <Meribeth.Burton@gov.bc.ca>, Baxter, Breanne EDUC:EX <Breanne.Baxter@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: June 24, 2021 11:33:50 AM PDT
Attachments: Media Prep - MJW - Zee TV BC Roundup.docx

Hi all, please see the attached QA/interview info for today's 3 p.m. Zoom interview with Zee TV.

Note the Ventilation portion is still with Reg for final review but wanted to get this to you for time's sake. I'll let you know if he has any changes.

Thanks,

Scott

From: Waters, Leah EDUC:EX <Leah.Waters@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: June 18, 2021 3:06 PM
To: McKenzie, Scott GCPE:EX <Scott.1.McKenzie@gov.bc.ca>; Lindsay-Baugh, Anna EDUC:EX <Anna.LindsayBaugh@gov.bc.ca>; Beale, William EDUC:EX <William.Beale@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Pelech, Keefer EDUC:EX <Keefer.Pelech@gov.bc.ca>; Burton, Meribeth GCPE:EX <Meribeth.Burton@gov.bc.ca>; Baxter, Breanne EDUC:EX <Breanne.Baxter@gov.bc.ca>; Craik, Jason GCPE:EX <Jason.Craik@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: RE: Media Request - MJW Interview - Zee TV - Back to School June 23/24

Hi Scott,

How about 3PM on the 24th?

From: McKenzie, Scott GCPE:EX <Scott.1.McKenzie@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: June 18, 2021 2:14 PM
To: Lindsay-Baugh, Anna EDUC:EX <Anna.LindsayBaugh@gov.bc.ca>; Beale, William EDUC:EX <William.Beale@gov.bc.ca>; Waters, Leah EDUC:EX <Leah.Waters@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Pelech, Keefer EDUC:EX <Keefer.Pelech@gov.bc.ca>; Burton, Meribeth GCPE:EX <Meribeth.Burton@gov.bc.ca>; Baxter, Breanne EDUC:EX <Breanne.Baxter@gov.bc.ca>; Craik, Jason GCPE:EX <Jason.Craik@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: RE: Media Request - MJW Interview - Zee TV - Back to School June 23/24

Great thanks. Leah – let me know what works best and I'll take it to the producer.

From: Lindsay-Baugh, Anna EDUC:EX <Anna.LindsayBaugh@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: June 18, 2021 2:13 PM
To: McKenzie, Scott GCPE:EX <Scott.1.McKenzie@gov.bc.ca>; Beale, William EDUC:EX <William.Beale@gov.bc.ca>; Waters, Leah EDUC:EX <Leah.Waters@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Pelech, Keefer EDUC:EX <Keefer.Pelech@gov.bc.ca>; Burton, Meribeth GCPE:EX <Meribeth.Burton@gov.bc.ca>; Baxter, Breanne EDUC:EX <Breanne.Baxter@gov.bc.ca>; Craik, Jason GCPE:EX <Jason.Craik@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: RE: Media Request - MJW Interview - Zee TV - Back to School June 23/24

Hi Scott,

The Minister is available to do this!

I think the afternoon of the 24th may work best but I am adding in Leah Waters who will help with coordination.

Thank you!

Cheers,
Anna

From: McKenzie, Scott GCPE:EX <Scott.1.McKenzie@gov.bc.ca>

Sent: June 18, 2021 9:30 AM

To: Beale, William EDUC:EX <William.Beale@gov.bc.ca>; Lindsay-Baugh, Anna EDUC:EX <Anna.LindsayBaugh@gov.bc.ca>; Craik, Jason GCPE:EX <Jason.Craik@gov.bc.ca>

Cc: Pelech, Keefer EDUC:EX <Keefer.Pelech@gov.bc.ca>; Burton, Meribeth GCPE:EX <Meribeth.Burton@gov.bc.ca>

Subject: Media Request - MJW Interview - Zee TV - Back to School June 23/24

Good morning, please see the below multicultural media request for MJW, and let me know if you'd like me to book this one.

Thanks,

Scott

Reporter

Priyanka Dhamija, Reporter

Zee TV Canada

priyanka.dhamija9@gmail.com

604-928-5625

Deadline Friday, June 18, 2021 12:00 PM

Request

We would like to have the opportunity to interview Hon. Education minister on her recent announcement on back to school on BC Roundup

We would be happy to do this interview next week, either June 23 or June 24. The interview will be over zoom and it's going to be 6 to 7 minutes long.

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Withheld pursuant to/removed as

s.13

Media Prep - MJW - Zee TV BC Roundup.docx

From: Beale, William EDUC:EX <William.Beale@gov.bc.ca>
To: Whiteside, Jennifer EDUC:EX <Jennifer.Whiteside@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Lindsay-Baugh, Anna EDUC:EX <Anna.LindsayBaugh@gov.bc.ca>, Leslie, Sean GCPE:EX <Sean.Leslie@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: June 24, 2021 2:49:10 PM PDT
Attachments: Media Prep - MJW - Zee TV BC Roundup.docx
Pls use this version

Sent from my iPhone

Media Prep – BC Roundup (Zee TV)

Details:

Date: Thursday, June 24, 2021

Time: 3:00 p.m. (six to seven minutes)

Format: Zoom (video)

Interviewer: Priyanka Dhamija

Outlet/Show: Zee TV/BC Roundup (shown on Zee TV channel at 8 p.m. and BC Roundup Facebook page)

Key Messages:

- With the successful rollout of B.C.'s vaccination program, we can now expect the next school year will be much closer to normal – with full day, full time, in school learning in September.
- We will continue to work with public health experts and our provincial K-12 steering committee during the summer to finalize plans to ensure the safety of students and staff.
- To support a safe return to school, our government providing \$43.6 million for enhanced cleaning measures, and to support First Nations and Métis students, mental health services, learning impacts to students as well as rapid response teams.
- B.C. is one of the few jurisdictions that has kept schools open all year despite the pandemic, thanks to the collective efforts of teachers, school administration and staff, and public health experts.

Questions and Answers

1. Please tell us about the back to school plan for September.
 - We are expecting a near normal return to school in September with students full-time in school.
 - Before we look at what's ahead, I want to take a moment to extend my profound gratitude to teachers, school staff and administrators.
 - They have worked with compassion, strength and determination, and they have shown remarkable fortitude and leadership while supporting the changing needs of students throughout this unprecedented school year.
 - And I also want to thank parents and families for your tremendous commitment and hard work in ensuring your children have been able to learn in spite of the challenges of the pandemic.
 - Our government will continue to follow the guidance of Public health and work collaboratively with our education partners and with Rightsholders for fall school planning.

- It's expected that all eligible British Columbians will have been offered both vaccination doses by September – which is fantastic news and will be a significant help in keeping school communities safer too.
- Along with students in class, full-time and based on guidance from the Office of the Provincial Health Officer, students will no longer be grouped into cohorts or learning groups.
- Pending further public health guidance, it is also expected that current restrictions on gatherings, extra-curricular activities and sports will be relaxed in time for the new school year.

2. Will there be online learning options for students whose parents don't feel ready for in-person learning?

- Parents and caregivers will continue to have a range of choices in September.
- As has always been the case, any student who cannot safely attend school due to medical reasons, including immune-compromised students, will be accommodated by their school district through locally developed approaches described by the school district's Hospital or Homebound programs.
- Other students who do not feel safe returning to school can enroll in online learning or choose homeschooling. And as is the case every school year, families can move students between programs.
- I encourage parents who have questions about the options for their children to contact their school, and I expect schools to be accommodating and flexible to meet their students' needs.

3. Medical experts say, for a safe return to school, proper ventilation systems are needed in schools. What is being done to ensure that happens?

- Proper ventilation is one of our many tools we are using to ensure students are learning in safe and healthy schools.
- Our government has made great progress ensuring districts have the resources they need to maintain their facilities so more funding can be directed to directly supporting students – and keep them safe.
- We have increased funding to our annual maintenance programs every year since forming government, for a total of \$240.5 million this year – a 20% increase from 2016-17.
- These programs have helped upgrade HVAC systems at over 400 schools in the last four years, with \$77 million invested for 2020 to 2022 alone – with more to come.
- This past school year, districts used \$10 million of their federal pandemic-specific funding to upgrade more than 45,000 air or ventilation filters in B.C. schools.
- And as we are expecting a near normal return to school in September, we are investing an additional \$14.4 million which can be used by districts to improve air quality in schools.
- We have also formed a ventilation working group that has already surveyed school districts in high COVID-19 exposure areas.
- Results to date are positive, and demonstrate districts have implemented a variety of air quality measures to keep students and staff safe.
- This data will help us plan and prioritize ongoing maintenance projects and programs moving forward.

- We welcome this opportunity to collaborate with the BCTF to ensure schools are safe environments for students and staff.

4. What other precautions are we going to take for a safe return to school?

- This pandemic has taught us that we need be vigilant, and adaptable.
- We will continue taking the advice of public health experts and working with our education steering committee to ensure the health and safety of our students and staff is protected.
- Students and staff will be still be required to complete daily health checks – to stay home when feeling sick – and to practice diligent hand hygiene.
- As we get closer to the school year and we have more knowledge of the state of the pandemic at that time, we will be able to issue more specific guidelines about what further precautions need to be in place to keep our schools safe.

5. Since masks will be a personal choice in September, will there be any exception for schools considering many parents are still worried?

- As Dr. Henry has said, masks have been one of our many layers of defence as we worked to slow the spread of COVID.
- We expect that guidance on masks in schools will be confirmed later this summer, and in alignment with broader provincial direction.
- The government's vaccine roll-out is going well and all signs point to a strong start for B.C. schools.
- We will continue to move forward carefully, informed by data and guided by science and public health advice.
- And any changes that we make for schools will be done in consultation with our education steering committee.

6. Tell us about the investment that the ministry is making to support the back to school plan.

- To support the safe operation of schools – and the health and safety of students and staff, last week we announced \$43.6 million dollars for school districts to ensure our schools continue to be healthy places to learn and work.
- This includes new COVID-specific, one-time funding of \$25.6 million for next school year, and it's on top of the \$7.1 billion we announced in Budget 2021 to operate K-12 schools in B.C.
- The \$25.6 million in new one-time funding will be used to:
 - Continue enhanced cleaning measures in schools and support the continuation of rapid response teams.
 - It will also be used to support Indigenous students affected by the pandemic.
 - And it will improve mental health services and supports for students and staff to address the impacts of isolation, stress and anxiety due to the pandemic.
- We are also investing \$18 million to directly address learning impacts to students.
- And while school districts will have flexibility to use the \$18 million to address learning impacts in the best way to meet local needs, this funding is intended to:
 - Assess learning impacts on students due to the pandemic;
 - Develop and deliver additional resources to address learning impacts; and

- Deliver learning recovery strategies designed by school districts
- With this funding in place, school districts have the resources they need to continue providing the quality education that students deserve in a way that supports their social and emotional well-being, and to continue to do so in classrooms full-time.