

From: s.22

Sent: Friday, June 24, 2016 8:15 PM

To: OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX

Subject: REEF

Dear Premier Clark,

I am writing to express my concern that the REEF program will fail to resolve the long term funding issue for schools such as Winlaw Elementary School, at which my children study. After attending an emergency meeting of the Kootenay Lake School District Board of Trustees, it is clear that the terms of the fund are, at best, vague and confusing. If our school must remain at risk of closure year after year in order to qualify for and continue receiving REEF money, our community will live a continued state of stress and certainly disenchantment with this government. In fact, in order for us to really benefit from the REEF monies, both the district trustees and community members would like to see a one -time application that confirms our continued funding for (at minimum) the duration of their 10 year plan.

You need to prove this is real problem solving and not just a poorly executed vote-buying.

s.22

Parent, Winlaw Elementary School

-----Original Message-----

From: s.22

Sent: Monday, June 20, 2016 2:45 PM

To: Minister, EDUC EDUC:EX; OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX;
coraleeoakes.MLA@leg.bc.ca; john.Woychesin@gov.bc.ca

Subject: School district #28 application for funds to keep Kersley and Parkland school open

Dear Minister Bernier, Premier Clark, and MLA Coral Oakes,

I have been very concerned since the school board monthly meeting we attended last Wednesday evening. This was just after Premier Clark announced the funding for the rural schools including Kersley and Parkland. When we went to the monthly board meeting that evening there was a sizeable delegation from Kersley and Parkland in Attendance. They did add the funding available to their agenda but were very reticent to speak to it. Chairperson Goulet said it might be too hard an application to fill out and they might not get enough money, but in the question period following the meeting he said they would try. He however was very hesitant to commit to actually doing this in a timely manner. In an article on the province he spoke about being thrown under the bus by this announcement. The district also complained about Coralee not attending their meetings but this is also not possible when she is in Victoria.

I phoned the school district office s.22 and the secretary didn't know if they even had the information on how to apply yet. I asked to get a return call and the Superintendent Sue-Ellen Miller called me back s.22 saying they had just received the request for whatever information the ministry of Education needed and said they would try to get it together in time. They have told us so many things and not followed thru on any of them that I am very concerned about this.

Can the ministry hold our school board accountable for following thru with this application so we can get the funds needed to keep our school open. I really need to know that the district will apply for this funding and keep Kersley and Parkland open.

Thank you very much for your help in this situation. s.22 the best
gift I could receive is to have Kersley and Parkland remain open.

Respectfully yours,

s.22

From: Clark.MLA, Christy [mailto:Christy.Clark.MLA@leg.bc.ca]
Sent: Friday, June 17, 2016 11:38 AM
To: OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX
Subject: FW: West Bench school Penticton

Not our constituent.
Becky

From: s.22
Sent: June 16, 2016 10:45 PM
To: Clark.MLA, Christy
Subject: West Bench school Penticton

Dear Ms. Clark

Why is West Bench Elementary school not included in the rural grant program? It is virtually identical to Trout Creek in Summerland. It must be because Dan Ashton doesn't live on the West Bench. If you are going to open one, you must open the other.

s.22

-----Original Message-----

From: s.22

Sent: Friday, June 17, 2016 2:02 PM

To: OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX; Minister, EDUC EDUC:EX

Cc: deJong.MLA, Mike LASS:EX

Subject: Funding for Public Education

Rural Education Enhancement Fund - new money from the same old pot of existing taxpayers dollars.

Wasn't there before, you said.

Is there now, you say?

Sometimes you see it, sometimes you don't!

Is it for one year, maybe?

Is it for the longer term, maybe not?

Where are the details for informed decision making? And an application process for a "grant" at this late stage in the school year.

After all that the local communities have been through and the hours spent by Administrators, Board Administration, Teachers, Educational Assistants, and locally elected Trustees...and with major changes already underway in several communities to adapt to the closures eg staff reassigned for September, layoffs formalized, facilities prepared etc.....

PATHETIC waste of human resources and dollars when your government plans the operations of public education in this shoddy manner.

And worst of the worst, not effective ways to plan for and deliver quality public education for our children and youth. Shameful.

Sincerely

s.22

From: s.22

Sent: Saturday, June 18, 2016 12:47 PM

To: OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX; Minister, EDUC EDUC:EX;
coraleeoakes.MLA@leg.bc.ca; Plecas.MLA, Darryl LASS:EX

Subject: Thank you for the opportunity to speak with you

June 18, 2016

Dear Premier Clark, Minister Oakes, Minister Bernier, and MLA Plecas,

I am writing this letter to thank you for the special time on Tuesday June 14th when I was able to interact with you and express my concerns face to face. s.22

s.22

We are so thankful that you have provided a way for us to keep our school. Delegation from Kersley and Parkland attended the school board meeting on Wednesday evening and were met with extreme coolness. There were about 50 of us and there was standing room only at the board office. They would not make eye contact with any of us. We sat quietly while the board and trustees went thru their meeting and nothing was discussed. Whatever Sue-Ellen Miller said was just blindly accepted. The big topic was a retreat they plan on going to in December at Whistler and they are reserving 10 rooms and it is in American funds. After the meeting we could ask questions so we asked if they were going to apply for the rural school money available. After humming and hawing, Chairperson Tony Goulet said they would try to fill out the application but it might be too difficult and they might not get enough funds. They were very reticent to commit to having the school remain open. One of the community members raised their hand and asked if they would apply every year and they thought they would. Another parent asked if they would consider going to a 2-week spring break like 82% of school districts are doing. They have always refused to discuss this because of putting their students at risk for not having breakfast or lunches for the extra week. And also for their CUPE workers missing a week's work. They didn't worry about that when so easily closing the schools. How do the students survive starvation during Christmas and summer break? If the children were their main concern they could contact social services and have a room set up in West Quesnel and open from Monday to Friday from 11-2 for at risk children to come for a meal and some snacks. Lastly a parent stood up and said the school board should thank the parents present for all their hard work in writing letters and campaigning for their kids to have their schools stay open. The meeting was adjourned and we were escorted out. We are thrilled that the funds were made available but really don't trust the school board and trustees at all. Hopefully someone in the Minister of Education's office will assist them in the application and the schools will be open in September.

We in Kersley would also still like to pursue having a rural library operating in the school. We will talk to our CRD representative Ted Armstrong. Since Ecole Baker is closing and they have the Strong Start program happening there we would like to have it available in Kersley. One of the school board members is in Charge of this and has refused us before so we really don't know whom to approach about this. Do we need to raise funds to have this in our school or would we be able to do this in our Community hall. We have young families in Kersley who would take advantage of this if they didn't have to travel so far to participate. I would appreciate some advice as to how to proceed with this. Thank you,

s.22

-----Original Message-----

From: s.22

Sent: Friday, June 17, 2016 8:45 AM

To: OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX

Cc: Minister, EDUC EDUC:EX; Larson.MLA, Linda LASS:EX; Barnett.MLA, Donna LASS:EX

Subject: Rural Education Enhancement Fund and Jewett School Closure

Dear Premier Christy Clark,

I write to you and the associated Minister and MLAs about the recent announcement. I live in the Kootenays and our only elementary school in the Lardeau Valley, Jewett School at Meadow Creek, is not included in your list of 9 eligible schools to remain open. Although this announcement at the last minute is welcome news, I ask you to please reconsider how this list was determined. Yak Elementary has no enrolment and the Jewett School enrolment is increasing, is located 40 minutes north of the nearest school in Kaslo (where the students would need to be bussed, some an hour one way, past bluffs that are often closed in winter due to avalanches), and appears to meet the other criteria. The closure of Jewett would be the last nail in the coffin for a community that has been hard time since the downturn in the forestry industry.

You say that it is important to make sure that economic benefits are shared by rural communities. If what we've heard so far about the Rural Education Enhancement Fund is the best that can be done for Education in rural communities that have enabled BC to have the strongest economy in Canada, then it is obvious that the rural communities are not sharing in the economic benefits.

I ask you to please reexamine and increase the funding for Rural Education Enhancement so that there is long term hope for our rural communities.

Respectfully,

s.22

From: Westcott, William PREM:EX On Behalf Of OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX
Sent: Friday, June 24, 2016 3:52 PM
To: s.22
Subject: FW: Rural Education Enhancement Fund and Jewett School Closure

Hello, s.22 and thank you for your email regarding the recently announced Rural Education Enhancement Fund. We appreciate your taking the time to write on this issue. We see that you have also shared your message with the Honourable Mike Bernier, Minister of Education. Please be assured your comments will be included in the Minister's related discussions.

Again, thank you for writing. We do appreciate hearing from you.

From: s.22

Sent: Thursday, June 16, 2016 12:48 PM

To: OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX; Bernier.MLA, Mike LASS:EX; Ashton.MLA, Dan LASS:EX

Subject: Trout Creek School

Dear Premier Clark:

Please accept my sincere thank you for the Rural Education Enhancement announcement yesterday, which will allow Trout Creek School to remain open.

We purchased our home in Trout Creek s.22, in part due to the positive reputation of Trout Creek School, and to allow our children to be a part of this wonderful community. I am so very pleased that the children of the area will be able to continue to receive such a great start to their formal education, in the community in which they live.

In particular, I would like to thank Dan Ashton, our MLA, for the leadership he shown in looking at all options to keep the School open.

A grateful and appreciative constituent,

s.22

Summerland

From: Westcott, William PREM:EX On Behalf Of OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX
Sent: Friday, June 24, 2016 3:45 PM
To: s.22
Subject: FW: Trout Creek School

Thank you, s.22 for your email and kind words. It was great to hear from you!

From: Clark.MLA, Christy [mailto:Christy.Clark.MLA@leg.bc.ca]
Sent: Thursday, June 16, 2016 1:31 PM
To: OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX
Subject: FW: Provincial Rural Education Enhancement Fund

From: s.22
Sent: June 16, 2016 12:09 PM
To: Clark.MLA, Christy ; Bernier.MLA, Mike ; Larson.MLA, Linda ; Ashton.MLA, Dan
Cc: lvanalphen@summer.com; bsheppard@summer.com; gmanning@summer.com;
bbidlake@summer.com; jplaniden@summer.com; seclarke@summer.com;
bjohnson@summer.com
Subject: Provincial Rural Education Enhancement Fund

Hon. Premier Clark, Hon. Ms. Larson and Hon. Mr. Ashton,

I would like to register my strong desire to see West Bench Elementary included in the schools to benefit from the recently announced Provincial Rural Education Enhancement Fund.

From the premier's press release:

Districts would be able to apply annually for Rural Education Enhancement Funding if they meet the following criteria:

- In a rural community or sub-community outside Greater Victoria, the Lower Mainland, and Kelowna areas with a population less than 15,000;
- Closure would eliminate specific grades within the community;
- Funding is used to keep the school open; and
- Closures due to facility condition or extreme enrolment decline are not included.

Trout Creek Elementary is included by the arbitrary choice of a population of under 15,000. This selection criteria unfairly excludes West Bench, which shares Trout Creek's geographic challenge of a highway separating it from other schools in the area. Closing the schools in either of these communities jeopardizes the safety and security of the youngest and most vulnerable students. Children of families in the West Bench community should not be put at risk simply because of a number.

West Bench Elementary can't be classed as a facility to be closed because of its condition. As for declining enrollment, the board is relying on the forecasts of a consultant to indicate that declines at WBE are imminent for the next 5 years. This is the same consultant who in 2011 predicted that enrollment would stabilize by 2015, so the credibility of the current data must be viewed in the light of this historical inaccuracy. Absent of a reliable forecast for future enrollment, I ask that you consider that West Bench is a community that is built for young families, right from when it was created through the Veteran's Land Act after World War II. The legacy of that initiative is a community of large properties with 4 and 5 bedroom homes. The likely buyer for a large, older home on a large property is a young family.

West Bench also has a rare and unique quality with the successful integration of First Nations students. One third of the current WBE student population have ancestry, and are the beneficiaries of an inclusive, safe and motivating educational environment. Students and staff alike respect and incorporate the traditions of the First Nations, and students of all heritage are learning a life of mutual understanding that can't be duplicated in a line item of a curriculum. You have a perfectly successful model for how to make this happen, so rather than being seen as a government and school board who eliminate this success story, I ask that you use it as a blueprint and incubator for all BC schools to benefit.

The West Bench/Penticton Indian Band area is and will continue to be a magnet for families with school-age children - unless the provincial government and the board of SD67 create a self-fulfilling prophecy and remove the critical component for these families by eliminating the elementary school in this area.

Respectfully,

s.22

From: Ross, Kara L PREM:EX
Sent: Thursday, June 16, 2016 1:57 PM
To: OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX
Subject: FW: Letter from BCSTA President re: predictable and sustainable funding for school districts
Importance: High

Policy, refer to Minister please

From: OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX
Sent: Thursday, June 16, 2016 1:41 PM
To: Ross, Kara L PREM:EX
Cc: Gjoka, Ina PREM:EX
Subject: FW: Letter from BCSTA President re: predictable and sustainable funding for school districts
Importance: High

From: Heather McKenzie-Beck [mailto:HM McKenzieBeck@BCSTA.ORG]
Sent: Thursday, June 16, 2016 1:33 PM
To: OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX
Cc: Minister, EDUC EDUC:EX; Minister, FIN FIN:EX
Subject: Letter from BCSTA President re: predictable and sustainable funding for school districts
Importance: High

Dear Premier Clark,
Please see the attached letter, which is being sent on behalf of BCSTA President Teresa Rezansoff.
Best regards,
Heather McKenzie-Beck.

HEATHER McKENZIE-BECK
Manager of Communications | British Columbia School Trustees Association (BCSTA)
P (604) 734-2721 ext. 101 | C (604) 842-1167 | W bcsta.org | T @bc_sta



British Columbia
School Trustees
Association

June 16, 2016

The Honourable Christy Clark
Premier
PO Box 9041 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, B.C. V8W 9E2

Re: Predictable and Sustainable Funding for All BC School Districts

Dear Premier Clark:

Your announcement yesterday of the creation of a Rural Education Enhancement Fund has been received by B.C.'s boards of education with mixed emotions. While every trustee in this province is supportive of more money for public education, we are perplexed as to why all of the recent funding announcements could not have been made earlier this year. Communities and school districts across B.C. have been unnecessarily torn apart by the timing of this and other recent funding announcements.

Many times BCSTA has called on government to create a funding model for school districts that allows boards of education to implement long-range strategic plans that meet the needs of all students; rural, remote, urban and suburban. Likewise, we have on numerous occasions called for the establishment of co-constructed policy to address the needs of schools in rural B.C. We are frustrated that we find ourselves in a place that could have been avoided had our requests been answered earlier.

School trustees across B.C. have had the unenviable responsibility of implementing the very tough financial and educational decisions your government has called on them to make. They have had to close schools, cancel programs and lay off employees as the result of unsustainable funding and the realities of declining enrollment. Boards of education have acted honourably and responsibly to address a situation that they did not create.

Our issues with yesterday's announcement are in regard to process and timing. As co-governors of the public education system, it is our expectation that government will work with us in the best interest of students, parents and communities. Failure to consult and work with us only leads to the furthering of the conflict recently seen around the province. Had government consulted with us when requested and provided all of the recent funding announcements earlier this school year, communities, parents and students could have been spared both the disruption and the upset experienced over recent months and years.

In closing, I would like to make two strong, but sincere recommendations to you:

- Continue to provide B.C. school districts with additional funding, but do so within a predictable and sustainable co-constructed long-range vision.

www.bcsta.org
bcsta@bcsta.org

t 604 734 2721
f 604 732 4559

4th Floor - 1580 W. Broadway
Vancouver, BC V6J 5K9

- Work with boards of education as co-governors of public education to ensure the best educational and financial outcomes possible for our schools.

Boards of education are committed to the effective and efficient use of public dollars to build and sustain one of the best public education systems in the world. We cannot, however, do our jobs properly under the current practice of unpredictable and erratic funding and policy decisions. To protect and build an excellent public education system, we must work together to implement appropriate policy and financial decisions.

Recognition of the unique needs of schools in rural B.C. is a step in the right direction that I hope can now be followed by a much larger and more inclusive discussion of how public education in B.C. can be properly funded and managed. As always, I look forward to meeting with you and your ministers to put in place proper answers to the problems unnecessarily affecting our students, schools, families and communities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Teresa Rezansoff', with a large, stylized loop at the end.

Teresa Rezansoff
President
BCSTA

Cc: Mike Bernier – Minister of Education
Mike de Jong – Minister of Finance
All MLAs
All Boards of Education

From: Westcott, William PREM:EX On Behalf Of OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX
Sent: Friday, June 17, 2016 2:49 PM
To: 'HMcKenzieBeck@BCSTA.ORG'
Subject: FW: Letter from BCSTA President re: predictable and sustainable funding for school districts
Importance: High

Thank you for sharing this letter with us. It will be reviewed and you can expect a response at the earliest opportunity.

Again, we do appreciate hearing from you.

From: s.22
Sent: Thursday, June 16, 2016 5:13 PM
To: OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX
Subject: Rural Schools Grants

Hello,
Attached is the letter I sent to our school board trustees recently. Please read. Thank you.

Thank-you for your service to our community and our children. s.22
s.22

s.22 I know how passionate the
three of you are about public education and have seen your tireless work. I live on the West
Bench, and my children have gone through West Bench Elementary and Maggie.
s.22

s.22 It was exactly what we were looking for. A small school, where the teachers would
really know our kids. Both West Bench and Maggie have been incredible. s.22
s.22 in college, and I have no doubt it is because they were not just educated, they
were nurtured in these small, family schools.

Through a lack of education funding due to low taxes in our province, we have all seen the
degradation of the learning environment. The last ten years has been tough for educators. And I
know it has been tough on you, the board members. Trying to make a silk purse out of a sow's
ear does not look like fun. And I can see how the last year especially has been hell for you. I
apologize for the word, but there is no better to describe what you have been put through. I am
sure that making the decision to close schools has torn at each of you. I can't imagine how
difficult it must have been.

With this clawback reversal, you must be feeling manipulated in the extreme. What a terrible
position to be put in! Yet, it is also a blessing. You have a chance to turn back time. If you had
had this money in the beginning, I wonder what you might have decided. That is the decision
you should make now. As horrible as it is to reopen that wound, you not only have an
opportunity to right a wrong (the past decision to reorganize to K-5, which decreased capacity,
which was used as the reason to close schools), you have a chance to impact families like mine,
who chose a rural school for good reason. When we start shutting down these wonderful schools
and centralizing population, we lose much more than we gain.

When I talk to other teachers, they mostly say, well, what's done is done. Time to move on. No. I
disagree. I will never stop fighting for the right for children to be educated in their community.
Or for rural schools, or for public education. The fat lady has not sung, and I feel hopeful and
trust in your judgment. After all, it's just money. Numbers on paper.

Thank you for reading my quite long letter. s.22

s.22

Best of luck to you all,

s.22

From: s.22
Sent: Wednesday, June 22, 2016 5:00 AM
To: OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX
Subject: Do not close Jewett Elementary

Hello, I am s.22 resident of Meadow Creek, BC, and I attended the meeting last night at Jewett School, s.22
s.22

I am amazed at how hard the parents in the Lardeau Valley work for their kids, and things don't come easily to them here. From Johnsons' Landing, Argenta, Lardeau, Cooper Creek, Meadow Creek and Howser, and even north of Howser, they have to work together to provide opportunities for their children, and the school is an ESSENTIAL part of those opportunities! Education and socialization are so important for their development, and expecting parents to put their young children on a school bus for 10 hours a week is outrageous, is dangerous on our road to Kaslo, and unhealthy, in my opinion. Would you put your own children on a bus in winter on a dangerous road?

If you close the school, you will ruin the lives of so many families that have chosen to live here, because of the school! You heard them at the meeting.

To me, there is no valid reason to do this. As our elected official, Aimee Watson, stated, it is not mandatory. There are many children younger than kindergarten age that need that school to be there for them when they are of age, and squeezing them all into a portable is very disrespectful to them and their parents and teachers, and I will add, again, unhealthy. I'll ask you again, would you do this to your own kids?

There were so many people at the meeting last night who's children have grown up now, lots of people like me s.22 and people who probably would have otherwise stayed home because they are injured or ill, and we saw them all show up at this meeting because they CARE about the kids in our community! We all do! And we know that without a school our community will wither and die because new families will not move here. Keeping our school protects the kids and our quality of life as a community.

I hope that you, as a parent in this province, and our Premier, will listen to the residents of the Lardeau Valley. Your numbers are way off for trying to justify this closure and you know it and we know it.. that was obvious to everyone in the room. We talked about it for hours. Get it right this time, please, and do not close Jewett Elementary. It would ruin our community.

Thank you, sincerely,
s.22

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From: Westcott, William PREM:EX On Behalf Of OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX
Sent: Wednesday, July 6, 2016 3:52 PM
To: s.22
Subject: FW: Do not close Jewett Elementary

Hello, s.22 and thank you for your email regarding Jewett Elementary. We appreciate your taking the time to express your concerns with us.

As you may be aware, the Ministry of Education recently announced a list of schools that are successful applicants for funding under the Rural Education Enhancement Fund. Jewett Elementary is on this list and will qualify for funding for the 2017/2018 school year. For more information on this announcement, please see the following news release:

<https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2016EDUC0064-001191>

Again, thank you for writing and we hope this response will be helpful.

From: Clark.MLA, Christy [mailto:Christy.Clark.MLA@leg.bc.ca]
Sent: Wednesday, June 22, 2016 2:12 PM
To: OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX
Subject: FW: New submission from Contact Your Constituency Office

From: s.22
Sent: June 22, 2016 7:59 AM
To: Clark.MLA, Christy
Subject: New submission from Contact Your Constituency Office

Name
s.22

Email
s.22

Riding
s.22

Comments & Feedback

I have always been a supporter of the Liberal Government until the decision was made to close our high school in Osoyoos. Finally last week you announced funds to save our school, well as of today this has not happened and our school trustees are still dragging their heels and needed more answers from the government before they made their decision, these children are left in limbo because of a poor decision when Oliver secondary school was re-built with a capacity far exceeding their declining enrollment. So now our children are expected to pay for this mistake by filling in the shortfall of students in Oliver. It is time for this school board to make a decision one way or another and not drag this out any longer. The way this whole thing has been handled has not been good and everyone can see thru what their motives where in closing our school. If the ! decision is made to still close our school then I think that the school board needs to be fired and replaced with a board that the people can trust.

Thank you for taking the time to read this

In anticipation

s.22

From: Westcott, William PREM:EX On Behalf Of OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX
Sent: Thursday, July 7, 2016 11:57 AM
To: s.22
Subject: FW: New submission from Contact Your Constituency Office

Hello, s.22 and thank you for your message regarding Osoyoos Secondary School. We appreciate your taking the time to express your concerns with us.

As you may be aware, the Ministry of Education recently announced a list of schools that are successful applicants for funding under the Rural Education Enhancement Fund. Osoyoos Secondary is on this list and will qualify for funding for the 2016/2017 school year. For more information on this announcement, please see the following news release:

<https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2016EDUC0064-001191>

Again, thank you for writing and we hope this response will be helpful.

Wray, Stephanie PREM:EX

From: Henderson, Kim N PREM:EX
Sent: Tuesday, August 2, 2016 11:44 AM
To: Wray, Stephanie PREM:EX
Subject: Fwd: Rural Education Enhancement DN
Attachments: Rural Education Enhancement DN June 15 2016.dotx; ATT00001.htm; Assessment of School Representation in Rural Communities Jun 15 2016.pdf; ATT00002.htm

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Byng, Dave A EDUC:EX" <Dave.Byng@gov.bc.ca>
Date: June 15, 2016 at 2:23:37 PM PDT
To: "Henderson, Kim N PREM:EX" <Kim.Henderson@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: Fwd: Rural Education Enhancement DN

Kim,

Please find attached the draft decision nite and supporting documents currently with the minister for approval.

Cheers,

Dave

Dave Byng
Deputy Minister
Ministry of Education
Province of British Columbia

Begin forwarded message:

Page 002 to/à Page 004

Withheld pursuant to/removed as

s.13;s.17

**MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DECISION NOTE**

DATE:
CLIFF:

PREPARED FOR: Honourable Mike Bernier, Minister, for **Decision,**

SUBJECT: Temporary Funding for Rural Schools under Consideration for Closure

BACKGROUND:

The Ministry has undertaken a preliminary assessment of schools currently being considered for closure, by Boards of Education across the Province, in relation to their significance in supporting the local economy and viability of rural communities.

Numerous rural communities have requested government undertake a review of the importance of the schools as “anchor tenants” within rural communities, and their role in attracting or retaining businesses, professionals and other government services to rural communities.

The Ministry is considering undertaking a review and potentially developing a rural schools strategy. Until this work is completed, the Ministry is exploring options to delay further funding based closures in rural communities.

DISCUSSION:

The ministry applied the following criteria when assessing the list of schools currently being considered for closure. This criteria includes:

- School located within a rural community outside Greater Victoria, Vancouver, Kelowna areas with a community population less than 15,000.
- School closure will eliminate grade offerings within K-12 from the community or a sub-community. (Sub-community could be an area within a community with a distinct economic area or an area physically separated from neighbouring schools by a unique geographic features such as a major highway, active railway, or body of water such as a river or lake; which pose a significant accessibility issue for students.)
- School closure will threaten the ongoing viability of the community.

Exceptions to the criteria include:

- School closures based on condition.
- School closures based on inability to offer fundamental educational programming due to lack of enrollment and or available educators.

The analysis resulted in the determination that nine schools across six rural school districts meet the above criteria and 13 schools across nine school districts do not meet the criteria and an undetermined number of schools within Vancouver and Richmond do not meet the criteria.

s.13

Attachment(s): Assessment of School Representation in Rural Communities

Options 1: Approve the application of the above criteria and provide additional, term limited dedicated funding to School Districts listed as meeting the criteria in Appendix A.

s.13

Option Approved:

Signature

Date

Contact Information Department Name Department Phone # Department File		Agree / Disagree:	Agree / Disagree:
	ADM initial	Dave Byng Deputy Minister	Honourable Mike Bernier Minister
		Date signed:	Date signed:

Merrifield, Katy PREM:EX

From: Merrifield, Katy PREM:EX
Sent: Wednesday, June 29, 2016 11:40 AM
To: Chawrun, Jessica GCPE:EX
Cc: Kerr, Carleen GCPE:EX
Subject: RE: Rural Education Enhancement Fund - Tomorrow

Checking something on this. Will advise back.

From: Chawrun, Jessica GCPE:EX
Sent: Wednesday, June 29, 2016 11:08 AM
To: Merrifield, Katy PREM:EX
Cc: Kerr, Carleen GCPE:EX
Subject: Rural Education Enhancement Fund - Tomorrow

Hi Katy,

Just want to confirm if this NR is good to go at 10:00 am tomorrow. Please let me know if there are any concerns.

Thanks,

Jess

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
[release number]
[Date]

Ministry of Education

Seven rural schools get \$2.2 million funding to help them stay open

VICTORIA – Close to \$2.2 million from the new Rural Education Enhancement Fund will flow to four school districts to help keep seven rural schools open.

Students at schools like Osoyoos Secondary, Trout Creek Elementary, and Kersley Elementary will see their schools remain open, while the communities will see the benefits of classes continuing.

Premier Christy Clark announced the new Rural Education Enhancement Fund on June 15 to help school districts with the unique challenges of keeping schools open in rural communities.

To be eligible for funding, the amount of funding districts could receive needed to be equal to their expected savings from closing the school. Districts who were successful met the following criteria:

- A rural community or sub-community outside Greater Victoria, the Lower Mainland, and Kelowna areas with a population less than 15,000;
- The potential school closure would eliminate specific grades within the community;
- Funding is used to keep the school open; and
- Closures due to facility condition or extreme enrolment decline are not included.

As well, three districts that applied for support for schools slated to close in 2017/18 received confirmation that four of their schools will be eligible for funding that year. The Ministry will make all districts aware of the application process for the 2017/18 year before the end of February 2017.

A full list of schools is included in the backgrounder.

Quotes:

Minister of Education Mike Bernier –

"Rural schools are vitally important to students, families and communities and it is great that school districts have stepped up to take advantage of this funding opportunity to keep those schools open."

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

BACKGROUND

School district funding applications approved

Rural Education Enhancement Funding approved to help keep the following schools open in 2016/17

Quesnel School District (SD 28)

- Kersley Elementary, Kersley - \$282,090
- Parkland Elementary, Ten Mile Lake - \$248,802

Okanagan Similkameen School (SD 53)

- Osoyoos Secondary School, Osoyoos - \$490,000*

Okanagan Skaha School District (SD 67)

- Trout Creek Elementary, Trout Creek / Summerland - \$369,815
- West Bench Elementary, West Bench / Penticton - \$369,404

Campbell River School District (SD72)

- Discovery Passage Elementary, Duncan Bay / Campbell River - \$171,372
- Oyster River Elementary, Oyster River - \$238,005

* Note that only a portion of this funding is ongoing – some of it is made up of one-time funding associated with re-opening the schools for September 2016.

A number of districts applied for schools slated to close in 2017/18. The Ministry has indicated that these schools would be supported by the Rural Education Enhancement Fund to remain open in that that school year, with funding amounts to be determined.

Kootenay Lake School District (SD 8)

- Winlaw Elementary, Winlaw or WE Graham Community School, Slocan City
- Jewett Elementary, Meadow Creek

Powell River School District (SD 47)

- Texada Elementary, Texada Island

Sooke School District (SD 62)

- Port Renfrew Elementary, Port Renfrew

Merrifield, Katy PREM:EX

From: Merrifield, Katy PREM:EX
Sent: Wednesday, June 29, 2016 11:49 AM
To: Koolsbergen, Nick LASS:EX
Cc: Haince, Micah LASS:EX
Subject: RE: rural education enhancement

Thanks. Micah let me know if 10am works for you or if you'd like it adjusted.

From: Koolsbergen, Nick [<mailto:Nick.Koolsbergen@leg.bc.ca>]
Sent: Wednesday, June 29, 2016 11:44 AM
To: Merrifield, Katy PREM:EX
Cc: Haince, Micah LASS:EX
Subject: RE: rural education enhancement

Adding Micah.

We are doing local press conferences with news releases. He is working to confirm times now with MLAs. I think the prov wide one should go concurrently with the three press conferences on the ground.

From: Merrifield, Katy PREM:EX [<mailto:Katy.Merrifield@gov.bc.ca>]
Sent: June 29, 2016 11:42 AM
To: Koolsbergen, Nick <Nick.Koolsbergen@leg.bc.ca>
Subject: rural education enhancement

Hi Nick,

Can you remind me if you're doing local releases for this? Currently we have this tracking for 10am tomorrow but I can hold it based on the preference of the MLA's involved.

Thanks,

Katy Merrifield
Director of Communications
Office of the Premier
Office: (250) 387-1514
Katy.Merrifield@gov.bc.ca

Mills, Shane PREM:EX

From: Mills, Shane PREM:EX
Sent: Wednesday, June 15, 2016 11:36 AM
To: Koolsbergen, Nick LASS:EX
Subject: Fwd: final draft

Sent from my Samsung Galaxy smartphone.

----- Original message -----

From: "Chin, Ben PREM:EX" <Ben.Chin@gov.bc.ca>
Date: 06-15-2016 11:30 AM (GMT-08:00)
To: "Smart, Stephen PREM:EX" <Stephen.Smart@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: "Mills, Shane PREM:EX" <Shane.Mills@gov.bc.ca>, "Kay, Maclean PREM:EX" <Maclean.Kay@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: Fw: final draft

From: Keenan, Jason GCPE:EX <Jason.Keenan@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: Wednesday, June 15, 2016 11:25 AM
To: Chin, Ben PREM:EX
Subject: final draft

Rural Education Enhancement Fund to keep rural schools open

QUESNEL – To help rural schools in British Columbia stay open, Premier Christy Clark announced a new Rural Education Enhancement Fund.

Districts outside Greater Victoria, Vancouver, and Kelowna will be able to apply for ongoing provincial funding that recognizes the unique challenges faced in keeping schools open in rural communities.

"Closing the only high school or elementary school in a rural community has a large economic impact on that local economy," Clark said. "With Canada's strongest economy it's important that we make sure the benefits are shared by rural communities throughout our province to ensure they have the infrastructure they need to grow, attract talent, and provide critical services like health care. Our rural education strategy will help us accomplish this."

The amount of funding districts will be eligible for is to be equal to their expected savings from closing the school. Districts would be able to apply annually for Rural Education Enhancement Funding if they meet the following criteria:

- In a rural community or sub-community outside Greater Victoria, the Lower Mainland, and Kelowna areas with a population less than 15,000;
- Closure would eliminate specific grades within the community;
- Funding is used to keep the school open; and
- Closures due to facility condition or extreme enrolment decline are not included.

While the ongoing Rural Education Enhancement Fund will help keep schools open starting this coming school year, the Premier also tasked newly-appointed Parliamentary Secretary for Rural Education, Linda Larson, and Parliamentary Secretary for Rural Development, Donna Barnett to conduct a full study of rural education funding in the province to seek a long term solution.

The Rural Education Strategy will look at rural school district budgets and the role education and schools play in communities outside the Lower Mainland, Greater Victoria, and Kelowna. The strategy will aim to find solutions for the unique challenges facing rural school districts while recognizing the economic impact of single schools in small communities. Details of the review will be announced in the near future.

“For students, families, and rural areas, the local school is the centre of the community and the local economy. In my time as minister I’ve seen that our education funding model doesn’t take all the unique rural factors into account,” Bernier said. “My Ministry will work with the Parliamentary Secretaries to take a hard look at how we can make sure the unique community and economic role of rural schools is supported in how we fund school districts.”

A list of potentially closing schools eligible for the funding is in the attached backgrounder.

Contact: Stephen Smart
Office of the Premier
778 389-6202

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

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

BACKGROUND

Schools eligible for Rural Education Enhancement Funding in 2016-17

Kootenay Lake School District (SD 8)

Yahk Elementary School – Yahk
Winlaw Elementary School - Winlaw

Quesnel School District (SD 29)

Kersley Elementary School – Kersley
Parkland Elementary School – 10 Mile Lake

Okanagan Similkameen School District (SD 53)

Osoyoos Secondary School – Osoyoos

Bulkley Valley School District (SD 54)

Kathlyn Lake Elementary School – Lake Kathlyn

Okanagan Skaha School District (SD 67)

Trout Creek Elementary School – Summerland

Campbell River School District (SD 72)

Discovery Passage School – Duncan Bay

Oyster River Elementary School – Oyster River

Contact: Stephen Smart
Office of the Premier
778 389-6202

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

Jason A Keenan

Communications Director
Ministry of Education
Government Communications and Public Engagement
Office: 250-356-8713 Mobile: 778-679-5546

Mills, Shane PREM:EX

From: Mills, Shane PREM:EX
Sent: Wednesday, June 15, 2016 11:39 AM
To: Keenan, Jason GCPE:EX
Subject: Re: Release

No worries. Just flip corrected when you can...

Sent from my Samsung Galaxy smartphone.

----- Original message -----

From: "Keenan, Jason GCPE:EX" <Jason.Keenan@gov.bc.ca>
Date: 06-15-2016 11:37 AM (GMT-08:00)
To: "Mills, Shane PREM:EX" <Shane.Mills@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: RE: Release

Oh soprry I did and then it changes - sorry

From: Mills, Shane PREM:EX
Sent: Wednesday, June 15, 2016 11:37 AM
To: Keenan, Jason GCPE:EX
Subject: Release

Can you change to lower mainland?

Sent from my Samsung Galaxy smartphone.

Mills, Shane PREM:EX

From: Mills, Shane PREM:EX
Sent: Wednesday, June 15, 2016 11:48 AM
To: Koolsbergen, Nick LASS:EX
Subject: Fwd: Final draft of release
Attachments: NR Rural Grants.docx

Sent from my Samsung Galaxy smartphone.

----- Original message -----

From: "Keenan, Jason GCPE:EX" <Jason.Keenan@gov.bc.ca>
Date: 06-15-2016 11:47 AM (GMT-08:00)
To: "Chin, Ben PREM:EX" <Ben.Chin@gov.bc.ca>, "Mills, Shane PREM:EX" <Shane.Mills@gov.bc.ca>, "Smart, Stephen PREM:EX" <Stephen.Smart@gov.bc.ca>, "Kay, Maclean PREM:EX" <Maclean.Kay@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: "Holme, Matt EDUC:EX" <Matt.Holme@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: Final draft of release

All changes have been made.

Let me know if this should go to the editors – and what time it will go out (likely 12:15 ish when Stephen gives the nod).

Cheers
Jason

Jason A Keenan

Communications Director
Ministry of Education
Government Communications and Public Engagement
Office: 250-356-8713 Mobile: 778-679-5546

Rural Education Enhancement Fund to keep rural schools open

QUESNEL – To help rural schools in British Columbia stay open, Premier Christy Clark announced a new Rural Education Enhancement Fund.

Districts outside Greater Victoria, the Lower Mainland, and Kelowna will be able to apply for ongoing provincial funding that recognizes the unique challenges faced in keeping schools open in rural communities.

"Closing the only high school or elementary school in a rural community has a large economic impact on that local economy," Clark said. "With Canada's strongest economy it's important that we make sure the benefits are shared by

rural communities throughout our province to ensure they have the infrastructure they need to grow, attract talent, and provide critical services like health care. Our rural education strategy will help us accomplish this.”

The amount of funding districts will be eligible for is to be equal to their expected savings from closing the school. Districts would be able to apply annually for Rural Education Enhancement Funding if they meet the following criteria:

- In a rural community or sub-community outside Greater Victoria, the Lower Mainland, and Kelowna areas with a population less than 15,000;
- Closure would eliminate specific grades within the community;
- Funding is used to keep the school open; and
- Closures due to facility condition or extreme enrolment decline are not included.

While the ongoing Rural Education Enhancement Fund will help keep schools open starting this coming school year, the Premier also tasked newly-appointed Parliamentary Secretary for Rural Education, Linda Larson, and Parliamentary Secretary for Rural Development, Donna Barnett to conduct a full study of rural education funding in the province to seek a long term solution.

The Rural Education Strategy will look at rural school district budgets and the role education and schools play in communities outside the Lower Mainland, Greater Victoria, and Kelowna. The strategy will aim to find solutions for the unique challenges facing rural school districts while recognizing the economic impact of single schools in small communities. Details of the review will be announced in the near future.

“For students, families, and rural areas, the local school is the centre of the community and the local economy. In my time as minister I’ve seen that our education funding model doesn’t take all the unique rural factors into account,” Bernier said. “My Ministry will work with the Parliamentary Secretaries to take a hard look at how we can make sure the unique community and economic role of rural schools is supported in how we fund school districts.”

A list of potentially closing schools eligible for the funding is in the attached backgrounder.

Contact: Stephen Smart
Office of the Premier
778 389-6202

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

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

BACKGROUND

Schools eligible for Rural Education Enhancement Funding in 2016-17

Kootenay Lake School District (SD 8)
Yahk Elementary School – Yahk
Winlaw Elementary School - Winlaw

Quesnel School District (SD 29)

Kersley Elementary School – Kersley

Parkland Elementary School – 10 Mile Lake

Okanagan Similkameen School District (SD 53)

Osoyoos Secondary School – Osoyoos

Bulkley Valley School District (SD 54)

Kathlyn Lake Elementary School – Lake Kathlyn

Okanagan Skaha School District (SD 67)

Trout Creek Elementary School – Summerland

Campbell River School District (SD 72)

Discovery Passage School – Duncan Bay

Oyster River Elementary School – Oyster River

Contact:

Stephen Smart

Office of the Premier

778 389-6202

Government Communications and Public Engagement

Ministry of Education

250 356-5963

Cadario, Michele PREM:EX

From: Cadario, Michele PREM:EX
Sent: Thursday, June 30, 2016 11:35 AM
To: Koolsbergen, Nick LASS:EX; Chin, Ben PREM:EX; Mills, Shane PREM:EX; Smart, Stephen PREM:EX
Subject: Re: Osoyoos Mayor on today's announcement

This is great.

Michele

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the TELUS network.

From: Koolsbergen, Nick
Sent: Thursday, June 30, 2016 11:00 AM
To: Cadario, Michele PREM:EX; Chin, Ben PREM:EX; Mills, Shane PREM:EX; Smart, Stephen PREM:EX
Subject: Osoyoos Mayor on today's announcement

I told Linda we need to promote and use this quote. It is great.

- Mayor McKortoff: "I want to thank you Linda. Thank heavens she was named parliamentary secretary for rural education. We couldn't think of a better person to be on our side."

<http://www.osoyoostimes.com/school-district-getting-all-the-funds-it-asked-for-to-keep-oss-open/>

Page 019 to/à Page 034

Withheld pursuant to/removed as

s.13

McPhee, Adam PREM:EX

From: James, Ben <Ben.James@leg.bc.ca>
Sent: Friday, June 17, 2016 1:07 PM
Subject: News You Can Use: Rural Education Enhancement Fund

News You Can Use: Rural Education Enhancement Fund

This week, Premier Clark announced the new Rural Education Enhancement Fund, to help rural schools stay open.

Key Messages:

- We know that closing the only school in a rural community has a large impact on the local economy and way of life. This is why we putting so much effort into trying to keep as many rural schools open as possible.
- By launching the Rural Education Enhancement Fund, our government recognizes the unique challenges faced in keeping rural schools open and the importance of sharing the benefits of Canada's strongest economy with rural communities.
- The Fund allows for school districts outside Greater Victoria, the Lower Mainland, and Kelowna to apply for money to keep their rural schools open.
- The amount of funding districts will be eligible for is to be equal to their expected savings from closing the school. Districts would be able to apply annually for Rural Education Enhancement Funding if they meet the following criteria:
- In a rural community or sub-community outside Greater Victoria, the Lower Mainland, and Kelowna areas with a population less than 15,000;
 - Closure would eliminate specific grades within the community;
 - Funding is used to keep the school open; and
 - Closures due to facility condition or extreme enrolment decline are not included.
- The Premier has also tasked the newly appointed parliamentary secretary for rural education Linda Larson and parliamentary secretary for rural development Donna Barnett to conduct a full study of rural education funding in B.C., in order to seek a long-term solution.
- The study will aim to find solutions for the unique challenges facing rural school districts while recognizing the economic impact of single schools in small communities.
- For students, families, and rural areas, the local school is the centre of the community and the local economy, and we are fight to keep as many open as possible.

Link to News Release: <http://ow.ly/U8EC301nuEG>

On Rural Education Enhancement Fund Eligibility:

- If a school district believes it has a school that meets Rural Education Enhancement Fund criteria and have questions about funding, it should contact the Ministry of Education.

Ben James
Director of Communications
BC Liberal Government Caucus
250-356-9131 (office)
250-208-7052 (mobile)

Dolan, Chelsea PREM:EX

From: Government of British Columbia <GCPE.News@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: Thursday, June 30, 2016 9:00 AM
To: Dolan, Chelsea PREM:EX
Subject: Seven rural schools get \$2.05 million in funding to help them stay open

For Immediate Release
2016EDUC0064-001191
June 30, 2016

Ministry of Education

INFORMATION BULLETIN

Seven rural schools get \$2.05 million in funding to help them stay open

VICTORIA - More than \$2 million from the new Rural Education Enhancement Fund will flow to four school districts to help keep seven rural schools open.

Students at schools in rural areas throughout the province will see their schools remain open, while the communities will see the benefits of classes continuing.

Premier Christy Clark announced the new Rural Education Enhancement Fund on June 15, 2016, to help school districts with the unique challenges of keeping schools open in rural communities.

To be eligible for funding, the amount of funding that districts could receive needed to be equal to their expected savings from closing the school. Districts that were successful met the following criteria:

- * A rural community or sub-community outside Greater Victoria, the Lower Mainland, and Kelowna areas with a population less than 15,000;
- * The potential school closure would eliminate specific grades within the community;
- * Funding is used to keep the school open; and
- * Closures due to facility condition or extreme enrolment decline are not included.

As well, three districts that applied for support for schools slated to close in 2017-18 received confirmation that four of their schools will be eligible for funding that year. The Ministry of Education will make all districts aware of the application process for the 2017-18 year before the end of February 2017.

Media Contact:

Media Relations
Ministry of Education
250 356-5963

BACKGROUNDER

School district funding applications approved

Rural Education Enhancement Funding approved to help keep the following schools open in 2016-17.

Quesnel School District (SD 28)

- * Kersley Elementary, Kersley - \$282,090
- * Parkland Elementary, Ten Mile Lake - \$248,802

Okanagan Similkameen School (SD 53)

- * Osoyoos Secondary School, Osoyoos - \$387,300

Okanagan Skaha School District (SD 67)

- * Trout Creek Elementary, Trout Creek/ Summerland - \$369,815
- * West Bench Elementary, West Bench/ Penticton - \$369,404

Campbell River School District (SD72)

- * Discovery Passage Elementary, Duncan Bay/ Campbell River - \$161,372
- * Oyster River Elementary, Oyster River - \$228,005

A number of districts applied for schools slated to close in 2017-18. The ministry has indicated that these schools would be supported by the Rural Education Enhancement Fund to remain open in that that school year, with funding amounts to be determined.

Kootenay Lake School District (SD 8)

- * Winlaw Elementary, Winlaw or WE Graham Community School, Slocan City
- * Jewett Elementary, Meadow Creek

Powell River School District (SD 47)

- * Texada Elementary, Texada Island

Sooke School District (SD 62)

- * Port Renfrew Elementary, Port Renfrew

Media Contact:

Media Relations
Ministry of Education
250 356-5963

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

Dolan, Chelsea PREM:EX

From: Government of British Columbia <GCPE.News@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: Thursday, June 16, 2016 9:43 AM
To: Dolan, Chelsea PREM:EX
Subject: Rural Education Enhancement Fund puts students and families first

For Immediate Release
NEWS-11271

OPINION-EDITORIAL
Rural Education Enhancement Fund puts students and families first

By Mike Bernier
Minister of Education
(261 words)

June 16, 2016

As a parent proud to call rural B.C. home, my family understands the unique opportunities and some of the challenges that come with living in a rural area.

We've just launched a new program that recognizes these challenges - the Rural Education Enhancement Fund. When a school closes, it impacts more than K-12 education - it negatively affects the local community and economy.

The Rural Education Enhancement Fund is ongoing and is ready today so districts can get the funding needed to keep eligible schools open this September. Districts will receive the amount equal to the expected savings from closing their school if the application is successful.

To be eligible, a district must be located in a rural community or sub-community outside of Greater Victoria, the Lower Mainland and Kelowna. As well, the closure would eliminate education for specific grades from a community. Finally, the funds must be used to keep the school open.

In addition to the fund, the Province has launched the Rural Education Strategy to find solutions to those unique challenges rural school district face. Linda Larson, my new parliamentary secretary for Rural Education, along with Donna Barnett, the parliamentary secretary for Rural Development, will lead the study.

As an MLA and as a minister I have seen that our current funding model may create challenges for rural districts. We are going to find a solution for students, teachers, and parents from rural B.C.

Ensuring stability for schools in rural B.C. is a foundation to making sure communities can continue to attract new opportunities in Canada's strongest provincial economy.

Media Contact:

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

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

Dolan, Chelsea PREM:EX

From: Holme, Matt EDUC:EX
Sent: Thursday, June 16, 2016 9:54 AM
To: Dolan, Chelsea PREM:EX; Koolsbergen, Andrew EDUC:EX
Subject: RE: Q
Attachments: 2016PREM0067-001044.pdf

The Rural Education Enhancement Fund? It is new money. Correct. It will be ongoing funding as well.

From: Dolan, Chelsea PREM:EX
Sent: Thursday, June 16, 2016 9:38 AM
To: Holme, Matt EDUC:EX; Koolsbergen, Andrew EDUC:EX
Subject: Q

Good morning,
We've received the following question on social media. From what I understand from the news release, this is new money. Correct?

Is this new money? Will it be in the budget for next year?

Chelsea Dolan
Communications Coordinator | Office of the Premier
Telephone: 250-952-7250 | E-mail: chelsea.dolan@gov.bc.ca

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
2016PREM0067-001044
June 15, 2016

Office of the Premier
Ministry of Education

Rural Education Enhancement Fund to keep rural schools open

QUESNEL – To help rural schools in British Columbia stay open, Premier Christy Clark announced a new Rural Education Enhancement Fund today.

Districts outside Greater Victoria, the Lower Mainland, and Kelowna will be able to apply for ongoing provincial funding that recognizes the unique challenges faced in keeping schools open in rural communities.

“Closing the only high school or elementary school in a rural community has a large impact on that local economy,” Premier Clark said. “With Canada’s strongest economy it’s important that we make sure the benefits are shared by rural communities throughout our province to ensure they have the infrastructure they need to grow, attract talent, and provide critical services like health care. Our rural education strategy will help us accomplish this.”

The amount of funding districts will be eligible for is to be equal to their expected savings from closing the school. Districts would be able to apply annually for Rural Education Enhancement Funding if they meet the following criteria:

- In a rural community or sub-community outside Greater Victoria, the Lower Mainland, and Kelowna areas with a population less than 15,000;
- Closure would eliminate specific grades within the community;
- Funding is used to keep the school open; and
- Closures due to facility condition or extreme enrolment decline are not included.

While the ongoing Rural Education Enhancement Fund will help keep schools open starting this coming school year, Premier Clark also tasked newly appointed parliamentary secretary for rural education Linda Larson and parliamentary secretary for rural development Donna Barnett to conduct a full study of rural education funding in the province to seek a long-term solution.

The Rural Education Strategy will look at rural school district budgets and the role education and schools play in communities outside the Lower Mainland, Greater Victoria, and Kelowna. The strategy will aim to find solutions for the unique challenges facing rural school districts while recognizing the economic impact of single schools in small communities. Details of the review will be announced in the near future.

“For students, families, and rural areas, the local school is the centre of the community and the local economy. In my time as minister I’ve seen that our education funding model doesn’t take all the unique rural factors into account,” Minister of Education Mike Bernier said. “My ministry will work with the parliamentary secretaries to take a hard look at how we can make sure the unique community and economic role of rural schools is supported in how we fund school districts.”

A list of potentially closing schools eligible for the funding is in the attached backgrounder.

Media Contacts:

Stephen Smart
Office of the Premier
778 389-6202

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

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

BACKGROUND

For Immediate Release
2016PREM0067-001044
June 15, 2016

Office of the Premier
Ministry of Education

Schools eligible for Rural Education Enhancement Funding in 2016-17

Kootenay Lake School District (SD 8)

- Yahk Elementary School – Yahk
- Winlaw Elementary School - Winlaw

Quesnel School District (SD 29)

- Kersley Elementary School – Kersley
- Parkland Elementary School – 10 Mile Lake

Okanagan Similkameen School District (SD 53)

- Osoyoos Secondary School – Osoyoos

Bulkley Valley School District (SD 54)

- Kathlyn Lake Elementary School – Lake Kathlyn

Okanagan Skaha School District (SD 67)

- Trout Creek Elementary School – Summerland

Campbell River School District (SD 72)

- Discovery Passage School – Duncan Bay
- Oyster River Elementary School – Oyster River

Media Contacts:

Stephen Smart
Office of the Premier
778 389-6202

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

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

Dolan, Chelsea PREM:EX

From: McCray, Lindsay GCPE:EX
Sent: Wednesday, June 15, 2016 3:24 PM
To: Dolan, Chelsea PREM:EX; Surovy, Kyle GCPE:EX
Cc: GCPE Newsroom; Keenan, Jason GCPE:EX; Lowther, Brett GCPE:EX
Subject: RE: New video for approval: Rural Education Enhancement Fund to keep rural schools open

Hi Chelsea,

This video is now public: <https://youtu.be/NtPd0GYmOiM>

Kyle will send you the file via hightail.

Thanks!

Lindsay

From: Dolan, Chelsea PREM:EX
Sent: Wednesday, June 15, 2016 3:21 PM
To: Surovy, Kyle GCPE:EX
Cc: GCPE Newsroom
Subject: RE: New video for approval: Rural Education Enhancement Fund to keep rural schools open

Good to go.

Pls send me the hightail file

From: Surovy, Kyle GCPE:EX
Sent: Wednesday, June 15, 2016 3:12 PM
To: Dolan, Chelsea PREM:EX
Cc: GCPE Newsroom
Subject: New video for approval: Rural Education Enhancement Fund to keep rural schools open

Hi Chelsea,

Here's a clip from the Premier's speech talking about the Rural Education Enhancement Fund:
<https://youtu.be/NtPd0GYmOiM>

Let us know if it is approved and we'll post it. Thanks!

Kyle

Dolan, Chelsea PREM:EX

From: Smart, Stephen PREM:EX
Sent: Wednesday, June 15, 2016 2:17 PM
To: Dolan, Chelsea PREM:EX; Kay, Maclean PREM:EX
Subject: RE: social media

Brilliant. Let's get the tweet out asap. Once Kyle sends you pics/video then we can do a FB version. Cool?

From: Dolan, Chelsea PREM:EX
Sent: Wednesday, June 15, 2016 2:15 PM
To: Smart, Stephen PREM:EX; Kay, Maclean PREM:EX
Subject: RE: social media

There is!

I'm so proud of you.

From: Smart, Stephen PREM:EX
Sent: Wednesday, June 15, 2016 2:10 PM
To: Kay, Maclean PREM:EX; Dolan, Chelsea PREM:EX
Subject: RE: social media

Slight additional tweak... Chels, is there space with the link?

T: We're taking action to ensure rural schools stay open with our new Rural Education Enhancement Fund. (link to release) #bcd

From: Kay, Maclean PREM:EX
Sent: Wednesday, June 15, 2016 2:07 PM
To: Dolan, Chelsea PREM:EX; Smart, Stephen PREM:EX
Subject: RE: social media

Slight tweak:

T: We're taking action to ensure rural schools stay open. #bcd

From: Dolan, Chelsea PREM:EX
Sent: Wednesday, June 15, 2016 12:45 PM
To: Smart, Stephen PREM:EX; Kay, Maclean PREM:EX
Subject: social media

today and the rest of the week all in once batch.

Wednesday

Rural schools

T: We're providing grants for rural schools for the next five years so students can stay in their communities. #bcd

FB: BC is leading the country in economic growth and it's important that all communities benefit in that success. We're providing funding to nine rural schools across six districts to prevent closures while we develop a sustainable rural education strategy. This ensures students can continue attending school in their communities.

Quesnel Chamber

T: Pleasure to meet local business and community leaders at the #Quesnel Chamber of Commerce with [@coraleeoakes](#).

Thursday

Transit

T: In partnership with the federal government, today's investment of nearly \$1B will improve transit across #BC.

FB: In partnership with the federal government, we're investing nearly \$1 billion to make transit across BC more accessible, comprehensive, and green.

Friday

Microsoft

T: Microsoft's new innovation centre in #vancouver is a vote of confidence in the future of #BCTech and BC's workforce.

FB: Microsoft's new Center of Excellence is a vote of confidence in BC's tech sector, and our highly-skilled workforce. This new expansion will more than double the number of developers working here from 300 to over 750, and a projected economic impact of \$181 million per year.

Ironworkers Memorial

T: Honouring the survivors of the #SecondNarrowsCrossing collapse, the single worst industrial accident in BC history.

FB: At the Ironworkers Memorial to honour those who lost their lives and the survivors of the Second Narrows Crossing collapse. It remains the single worst industrial accident in BC history, and serves as a reminder of the responsibility we all have to improve health and safety in the workplace.

Dolan, Chelsea PREM:EX

From: Government of British Columbia <GCPE.News@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: Wednesday, June 15, 2016 1:00 PM
To: Dolan, Chelsea PREM:EX
Subject: Rural Education Enhancement Fund to keep rural schools open

For Immediate Release
2016PREM0067-001044
June 15, 2016

Office of the Premier
Ministry of Education

NEWS RELEASE
Rural Education Enhancement Fund to keep rural schools open

QUESNEL - To help rural schools in British Columbia stay open, Premier Christy Clark announced a new Rural Education Enhancement Fund today.

Districts outside Greater Victoria, the Lower Mainland, and Kelowna will be able to apply for ongoing provincial funding that recognizes the unique challenges faced in keeping schools open in rural communities.

"Closing the only high school or elementary school in a rural community has a large impact on that local economy," Premier Clark said. "With Canada's strongest economy it's important that we make sure the benefits are shared by rural communities throughout our province to ensure they have the infrastructure they need to grow, attract talent, and provide critical services like health care. Our rural education strategy will help us accomplish this."

The amount of funding districts will be eligible for is to be equal to their expected savings from closing the school. Districts would be able to apply annually for Rural Education Enhancement Funding if they meet the following criteria:

- * In a rural community or sub-community outside Greater Victoria, the Lower Mainland, and Kelowna areas with a population less than 15,000;
- * Closure would eliminate specific grades within the community;
- * Funding is used to keep the school open; and
- * Closures due to facility condition or extreme enrolment decline are not included.

While the ongoing Rural Education Enhancement Fund will help keep schools open starting this coming school year, Premier Clark also tasked newly appointed parliamentary secretary for rural education Linda Larson and parliamentary secretary for rural development Donna Barnett to conduct a full study of rural education funding in the province to seek a long-term solution.

The Rural Education Strategy will look at rural school district budgets and the role education and schools play in communities outside the Lower Mainland, Greater Victoria, and Kelowna. The strategy will aim to find solutions for the unique challenges facing rural school districts while recognizing the economic impact of single schools in small communities.

Details of the review will be announced in the near future.

"For students, families, and rural areas, the local school is the centre of the community and the local economy. In my time as minister I've seen that our education funding model doesn't take all the unique rural factors into account," Minister of Education Mike Bernier said. "My ministry will work with the parliamentary secretaries to take a hard look at how we can make sure the unique community and economic role of rural schools is supported in how we fund school districts."

A list of potentially closing schools eligible for the funding is in the attached backgrounder.

Media Contacts:

Stephen Smart
Office of the Premier
778 389-6202

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

BACKGROUNDER

Schools eligible for Rural Education Enhancement Funding in 2016-17

Kootenay Lake School District (SD 8)

- * Yahk Elementary School - Yahk
- * Winlaw Elementary School - Winlaw

Quesnel School District (SD 29)

- * Kersley Elementary School - Kersley
- * Parkland Elementary School - 10 Mile Lake

Okanagan Similkameen School District (SD 53)

- * Osoyoos Secondary School - Osoyoos

Bulkley Valley School District (SD 54)

- * Kathlyn Lake Elementary School - Lake Kathlyn

Okanagan Skaha School District (SD 67)

- * Trout Creek Elementary School - Summerland

Campbell River School District (SD 72)

- * Discovery Passage School - Duncan Bay
- * Oyster River Elementary School - Oyster River

Media Contacts:

Stephen Smart
Office of the Premier
778 389-6202

Government Communications and Public Engagement
Ministry of Education

250 356-5963

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

Subject: Re: social media

Date: Friday, June 17, 2016 at 8:30:08 AM Pacific Daylight Time

From: Smart, Stephen PREM:EX

To: Dolan, Chelsea PREM:EX

CC: Kay, Maclean PREM:EX

Good on today's posts. Will send videos from both events.

On Jun 15, 2016, at 12:45 PM, Dolan, Chelsea PREM:EX <Chelsea.Dolan@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

today and the rest of the week all in once batch.

-
Wednesday

Rural schools

T: We're providing grants for rural schools for the next five years so students can stay in their communities. #bcd

FB: BC is leading the country in economic growth and it's important that all communities benefit in that success. We're providing funding to nine rural schools across six districts to prevent closures while we develop a sustainable rural education strategy. This ensures students can continue attending school in their communities.

Quesnel Chamber

T: Pleasure to meet local business and community leaders at the #Quesnel Chamber of Commerce with [@coraleedakes](https://twitter.com/coraleedakes).

-
Thursday

Transit

T: In partnership with the federal government, today's investment of nearly \$1B will improve transit across #BC.

FB: In partnership with the federal government, we're investing nearly \$1 billion to make transit across BC more accessible, comprehensive, and green.

Friday

-
Microsoft

T: Microsoft's new innovation centre in #vancouver is a vote of confidence in the future of #BCTech and BC's workforce.

FB: Microsoft's new Center of Excellence is a vote of confidence in BC's tech sector, and our highly-skilled workforce. This new expansion will more than double the number of developers working here from 300 to over 750, and a projected economic impact of \$181 million per year.

Subject: Fwd: request for Premier

Date: Wednesday, June 15, 2016 at 3:16:03 PM Pacific Daylight Time

From: Smart, Stephen PREM:EX

To: Keenan, Jason GCPE:EX

Hey Jason,

Email exchange with Chris Walker from CBC Daybreak below. Not sure if the Minister can take part, but if they are planning an entire show on this issue then it would be good to have some BC Gov representation.

Just my thought,

S.

Begin forwarded message:

From: Chris Walker <chris.walker@cbc.ca>

Date: June 15, 2016 at 3:03:25 PM PDT

To: "Smart, Stephen PREM:EX" <Stephen.Smart@gov.bc.ca>

Subject: Re: request for Premier

Hi Stephen,

Too bad that the premier can't join us. Despite her being our MLA, we haven't had much luck booking her, unfortunately.

We have had requests in to Bernier's office for a week about our Friday show and again, are getting nowhere.

Any suggestions?

As for what really matters -- I'm lovin all your great family pics on fb!

Nice to hear from you,

C

Sent from my iPhone

On Jun 15, 2016, at 2:45 PM, Smart, Stephen PREM:EX <Stephen.Smart@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

Hey Chris,

Great to hear from you... I hope life is treating you well! And hello Adrian.

I'm afraid that the Premier won't be available either of those days, but you might reach out to Mike Bernier's office to see if he can join.

I did also send Josh Page the audio of the Premier's remarks and Q&A with local media here in Quesnel in case that might be of help to you.

Thanks so much and chat soon,

Stephen

On Jun 15, 2016, at 11:46 AM, Chris Walker
<chris.walker@cbc.ca<<mailto:chris.walker@cbc.ca>>> wrote:

Hi Stephen!

I see the Premier has made comments to the Quesnel Chamber of Commerce about rural school closures and education funding.

Here in the Okanagan and Kootenays, we have a large number of rural schools closing this year. In fact, on Friday, we have a special show from Osoyoos on this very topic. (We've even -- gasp -- dropped the ol' Friday political panel to focus on this!)

We'd be interested in speaking with the Premier about rural schools either tomorrow morning or Friday morning at 7:15 or 8:15.

Please let me know if that's possible. My colleague Adrian Nieoczym <<mailto:adrian.nieoczym@cbc.ca>> will take over this request. He's cc'd.

Thanks!

Chris

Host - CBC Daybreak

Kelowna, BC

o. 250.861.3781

m. 250.869.5624

t. @CBCKelowna @ChrisWalkerCBC

Subject: RE: Can I get sound from premier speech in quesnel

Date: Wednesday, June 15, 2016 at 2:36:02 PM Pacific Daylight Time

From: Smart, Stephen PREM:EX

To: 'Richard Zussman'

Here you go! Rural schools announcement is near the end of her speech.

https://www.dropbox.com/sh/mnw6djdzv3ipyr/AAD0G3i8ibd4imuW_JetXVI2a?dl=0

From: Richard Zussman [mailto:richard.zussman@cbc.ca]

Sent: Wednesday, June 15, 2016 1:08 PM

To: Smart, Stephen PREM:EX

Subject: Can I get sound from premier speech in quesnel

Interested in the rural education fund

--

Richard Zussman

Provincial Affairs Reporter

CBC News - British Columbia

richard.zussman@cbc.ca

desk 250-384-2685

cell 250-858-9696

@richardzussman

Subject: Re: Final draft of release

Date: Wednesday, June 15, 2016 at 12:05:50 PM Pacific Daylight Time

From: Smart, Stephen PREM:EX

To: Keenan, Jason GCPE:EX

CC: Chin, Ben PREM:EX, Mills, Shane PREM:EX, Kay, Maclean PREM:EX, Holme, Matt EDUC:EX

Content is good by me. I will email the editors the green light to distribute the NR. Likely just after 12:30.

On Jun 15, 2016, at 11:47 AM, Keenan, Jason GCPE:EX <Jason.Keenan@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

All changes have been made.

Let me know if this should go to the editors – and what time it will go out (likely 12:15 ish when Stephen gives the nod).

Cheers
Jason

Jason A Keenan

Communications Director
Ministry of Education
Government Communications and Public Engagement
Office: 250-356-8713 Mobile: 778-679-5546

Rural Education Enhancement Fund to keep rural schools open

QUESNEL – To help rural schools in British Columbia stay open, Premier Christy Clark announced a new Rural Education Enhancement Fund.

Districts outside Greater Victoria, the Lower Mainland, and Kelowna will be able to apply for ongoing provincial funding that recognizes the unique challenges faced in keeping schools open in rural communities.

“Closing the only high school or elementary school in a rural community has a large economic impact on that local economy,” Clark said. “With Canada’s strongest economy it’s important that we make sure the benefits are shared by rural communities throughout our province to ensure they have the infrastructure they need to grow, attract talent, and provide critical services like health care. Our rural education strategy will help us accomplish this.”

The amount of funding districts will be eligible for is to be equal to their expected savings from closing the school. Districts would be able to apply annually for Rural Education Enhancement Funding if they meet the following criteria:

- In a rural community or sub-community outside Greater Victoria, the Lower Mainland, and Kelowna areas with a population less than 15,000;
- Closure would eliminate specific grades within the community;
- Funding is used to keep the school open; and
- Closures due to facility condition or extreme enrolment decline are not included.

While the ongoing Rural Education Enhancement Fund will help keep schools open starting this coming school year, the Premier also tasked newly-appointed Parliamentary Secretary for Rural Education, Linda Larson, and Parliamentary Secretary for Rural Development, Donna Barnett to conduct a full study of rural education funding in the province to seek a long term solution.

The Rural Education Strategy will look at rural school district budgets and the role education and schools play in communities outside the Lower Mainland, Greater Victoria, and Kelowna. The strategy will aim to find solutions for the unique challenges facing rural school districts while recognizing the economic impact of single schools in small communities. Details of the review will be announced in the near future.

"For students, families, and rural areas, the local school is the centre of the community and the local economy. In my time as minister I've seen that our education funding model doesn't take all the unique rural factors into account," Bernier said. "My Ministry will work with the Parliamentary Secretaries to take a hard look at how we can make sure the unique community and economic role of rural schools is supported in how we fund school districts."

A list of potentially closing schools eligible for the funding is in the attached backgrounder.

Contact: Stephen Smart
Office of the Premier
778 389-6202

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

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

BACKGROUND

Schools eligible for Rural Education Enhancement Funding in 2016-17

Kootenay Lake School District (SD 8)

Yahk Elementary School – Yahk

Winlaw Elementary School - Winlaw

Quesnel School District (SD 29)

Kersley Elementary School – Kersley

Parkland Elementary School – 10 Mile Lake

Okanagan Similkameen School District (SD 53)

Osoyoos Secondary School – Osoyoos

Bulkley Valley School District (SD 54)

Kathlyn Lake Elementary School – Lake Kathlyn

Okanagan Skaha School District (SD 67)

Trout Creek Elementary School – Summerland

Campbell River School District (SD 72)

Discovery Passage School – Duncan Bay

Oyster River Elementary School – Oyster River

Contact:

Stephen Smart
Office of the Premier
778 389-6202

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

<NR Rural Grants.docx>

Subject: To print

Date: Wednesday, June 15, 2016 at 11:44:08 AM Pacific Daylight Time

From: Smart, Stephen PREM:EX

To: Nowakowski, Melissa LASS:EX

Stephen Smart

Press Secretary

Office of the Premier of British Columbia

Phone: (778) 389-6202

Email: stephen.smart@gov.bc.ca

Education - Announcement

MLA's like Coralee – Donna Barnett – and Linda Larson have also been very up front about some of the challenges facing schools in this district and some tough decisions that have been made by trustees in the face of declining enrollment.

She has been fighting for us to do something that recognizes the importance of these schools to their communities and the local economy.

So – I am proud to announce today we are establishing a new Rural Education Enhancement Fund.

This will allow districts outside of Greater Victoria, Vancouver and Kelowna to apply for ongoing provincial funding that recognizes the unique challenges to keep schools open in rural communities.

There are currently 9 schools that would meet the eligibility for this funding provided that they allocate the money to keep these schools open.

This includes Parkland and Kersley here around Quesnel as well as Trout Creek and Osoyoos in the Okanagan.

We're also launching a study to help us determine the best way to meet the unique needs of rural schools going forward,,,

The study will be led by MLA Linda Larson, our new parliamentary secretary for rural education and by Donna Barnett and the Rural Advisory Council.

Here is the reality – in communities like Quesnel, like Kersley – rural schools are about much more than just education.

They are also critical to the local community and the economy.

Parkland School – for example – is also a community hall and an important gathering place.

Both Parkland and Kersley are vital to educating the next generation of ranchers and farmers with their unique agriculture programs.

These facilities are key to attracting investment – families – even attracting local doctors and encouraging more people to move to the community.

So we have heard from our MLA's like Coralee – like Donna Barnett and we are taking action because it is the right thing to do.

Chin, Ben PREM:EX

From: Mills, Shane PREM:EX
Sent: Tuesday, June 28, 2016 7:21 PM
To: Holme, Matt EDUC:EX; Chin, Ben PREM:EX; Cadario, Michele PREM:EX; Koolsbergen, Andrew EDUC:EX
Subject: Re: Draft NR - Rural Education Enhancement Fund

Hi Matt

Looks good. Have some edits to come.

Thanks
Shane

Sent from my Samsung Galaxy smartphone.

----- Original message -----

From: "Holme, Matt EDUC:EX" <Matt.Holme@gov.bc.ca>
Date: 06-28-2016 4:53 PM (GMT-08:00)
To: "Mills, Shane PREM:EX" <Shane.Mills@gov.bc.ca>, "Chin, Ben PREM:EX" <Ben.Chin@gov.bc.ca>, "Cadario, Michele PREM:EX" <Michele.Cadario@gov.bc.ca>, "Koolsbergen, Andrew EDUC:EX" <Andrew.Koolsbergen@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: "Koolsbergen, Andrew EDUC:EX" <Andrew.Koolsbergen@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: Draft NR - Rural Education Enhancement Fund

Hi all,

Attached is the first cut of the news release for the Rural Education Enhancement Fund, slated for release at 1 pm on Thursday.

Note the schools that were named for 17/18. The schools meet the criteria but the districts need to come back at a later date to determine funding amounts. If you have any questions please let me know.

Thanks,
Matt

Chin, Ben PREM:EX

From: Holme, Matt EDUC:EX
Sent: Tuesday, June 28, 2016 4:54 PM
To: Mills, Shane PREM:EX; Chin, Ben PREM:EX; Cadario, Michele PREM:EX; Koolsbergen, Andrew EDUC:EX
Cc: Koolsbergen, Andrew EDUC:EX
Subject: Draft NR - Rural Education Enhancement Fund
Attachments: NR Rural Education Enhancement Fund(2).docx

Hi all,

Attached is the first cut of the news release for the Rural Education Enhancement Fund, slated for release at 1 pm on Thursday.

Note the schools that were named for 17/18. The schools meet the criteria but the districts need to come back at a later date to determine funding amounts. If you have any questions please let me know.

Thanks,

Matt

Chin, Ben PREM:EX

From: Holme, Matt EDUC:EX
Sent: Tuesday, June 21, 2016 3:10 PM
To: Chin, Ben PREM:EX; Mills, Shane PREM:EX
Cc: Koolsbergen, Andrew EDUC:EX
Subject: FW: Media Request 3 - Rob Shaw, Vancouver Sun, rural education enhancement fund

This one too... fyi

From: Holme, Matt EDUC:EX
Sent: Tuesday, June 21, 2016 3:04 PM
To: Sorochan, Craig GCPE:EX; Koolsbergen, Andrew EDUC:EX
Cc: Keenan, Jason GCPE:EX; Lowther, Brett GCPE:EX; Gordon, Matt GCPE:EX
Subject: RE: Media Request 3 - Rob Shaw, Vancouver Sun, rural education enhancement fund

I just added the one portion in red below.
MMB is on a plane to Cranbrook, so let's just send this. Thanks Craig.

From: Sorochan, Craig GCPE:EX
Sent: Tuesday, June 21, 2016 3:01 PM
To: Holme, Matt EDUC:EX; Koolsbergen, Andrew EDUC:EX
Cc: Keenan, Jason GCPE:EX; Lowther, Brett GCPE:EX; Gordon, Matt GCPE:EX
Subject: Media Request 3 - Rob Shaw, Vancouver Sun, rural education enhancement fund

NEW

Media Request 3

Rob Shaw, Legislative Reporter, The Vancouver Sun, cell 250-893-0841 rshaw@vancouver.sun.com

Topic: rural education enhancement fund

Request: Questions followed by Ministry responses.

Recommended Responses: *Send information from the Ministry:*

- 1) Has ministry addressed the issue of Yahk elementary and if it's willing to provide funding for a school with no students?
- 2) Bridge Lake Elementary – closing, rural school in Cariboo, why doesn't it qualify for list?

The list of schools included with the news release was based on an initial scan of available data within the Ministry and the eligibility criteria.

It's up to school districts if they want to apply for the funding to keep a school open if it meets the criteria – whether it's on the list we provided or not.

If a school district feels that an application should be made for a particular school based on the eligibility criteria, then they are encouraged to make application for that school.

3) What is total number of school closures in province since 2001?

There have been approximately 300 school closures since 2001.

However, since 2001, we've built 48 new schools, replaced 70 aging schools, added space at 186 schools, and seismically upgraded 153 schools.

Date/Time: June 21 Deadline: asap

OUTSTANDING

Chin, Ben PREM:EX

From: Holme, Matt EDUC:EX
Sent: Thursday, June 16, 2016 11:33 AM
To: Chin, Ben PREM:EX; Mills, Shane PREM:EX
Cc: Koolsbergen, Andrew EDUC:EX; Smart, Stephen PREM:EX
Subject: Education Media Requests

Ben, Shane,
Our outstanding media requests. Minister Bernier is touring schools in the Fraser Valley today and tomorrow. We will try to do these, but if he is unavailable would you have any issue with Linda Larson taking interviews on the Rural Education Enhancement Fund if she is available?
Thanks,
Matt

NEW

Media Request 3

Elizabeth Young, News Director, Vista Radio Van Island, 250-331-4033 or eyoung@vistaradio.ca

Topic: Interview request – Rural education fund

Questions: Two Campbell river schools are on the eligibility list... why the decision now to support these schools?

Times available:

today anytime from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m.

tomorrow anytime between 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Request: Can MMB call for a 5 minute phone interview?

No calls or other guests.

Recommendation: Please advise if MMB can call for an interview.

Suggested messaging:

- Closing the only high school or elementary school in a rural town or city has a major impact on that community and local economy.
- We recognize the unique challenges rural schools face, so we created the Rural Education Fund to help keep these schools open.
- The amount of funding districts will be eligible for is equal to their expected savings from closing a school.
- Districts are able to apply annually for funding if they meet the following criteria:
 - The school is located in a rural community or sub-community – and is in an area with a population less than 15,000.
 - The closure would eliminate specific grades within the community.
 - Only if the funding is used to keep the school open.

- The Ministry will continue to work to make sure the unique role of rural schools is supported in how we fund school districts.
- Closures due to poor facility condition or extreme enrolment decline are not included.

Date & time: June 16 at 11 a.m. **Deadline:** June 17 mid-day

OUTSTANDING

Media Request 2

Jeremy Allingham, producer, On the Coast – CBC radio Vancouver), jeremy.allingham@cbc.ca 604-662-6467

Topic: Interview request – Rural education fund

Host: Gloria Macarenko

Times available: today at 1:40, 1:50, 2:15 or 4:34 p.m.

Request: Can MMB call for a 6 minute phone interview at 4:45 p.m.

Questions: Why the need for this announcement?

No calls or other guests.

Recommendation: Please advise if MMB can call in for an interview.

Date & time: June 16 at 10:30 a.m. **Deadline:** ASAP

Media Request 1

Will Johnson, reporter, Nelson Star, 250-352-1890 reporter@nelsonstar.com

Topic: rural education fund – why Yakh?

Request: Reporter is asking for clarity about the list of schools on the back of the NR eligible for Rural Education Enhancement Funding in 2016-17. They have highlighted the fact Yakh elementary has no students slated to be enrolled next year and are wondering why it's on the list. They claim there is another school Jewett elementary - that is pending closure and is more suitable for the funding, considering it has students.

Can schools districts apply for 2016/17 Rural Enhancement Funding this year if the school was not on the list of eligible schools?

If not, why is Yakh on the list?

Recommendation: Send information from the Ministry:

“The schools listed as eligible are based on the information in the Ministry’s system at the time of the announcement.

“It’s up to school districts if they want to apply for the funding to keep a school open - and we will work with them to determine eligibility on these or other schools. “

Time: June 16 at 10 a.m.

Deadline: June 16 at Noon

Chin, Ben PREM:EX

From: Keenan, Jason GCPE:EX
Sent: Thursday, June 16, 2016 8:15 AM
To: Smart, Stephen PREM:EX; Chin, Ben PREM:EX
Cc: Gordon, Matt GCPE:EX
Subject: RE: CKNW: Palmer - rural school fund & transit announcement

That was going to be my first call when I got in the office...may as well go home now!

Cheers
Jason

From: Smart, Stephen PREM:EX
Sent: Thursday, June 16, 2016 8:00 AM
To: Chin, Ben PREM:EX
Cc: Keenan, Jason GCPE:EX; Gordon, Matt GCPE:EX
Subject: Re: CKNW: Palmer - rural school fund & transit announcement

Done. He apologizes. Says he misinterpreted a line in the news release.

On Jun 16, 2016, at 7:56 AM, Chin, Ben PREM:EX <Ben.Chin@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

Yes can you?

From: Smart, Stephen PREM:EX
Sent: Thursday, June 16, 2016 7:56 AM
To: Chin, Ben PREM:EX; Keenan, Jason GCPE:EX; Gordon, Matt GCPE:EX
Subject: Fwd: CKNW: Palmer - rural school fund & transit announcement

Just flagging Vaughn's wording that the fund only applies for one year. Both PCC and MMB were fairly clear that this is ongoing funding. Might be worth following up with him?

Begin forwarded message:

From: <tno@gov.bc.ca>
Date: June 16, 2016 at 7:49:57 AM PDT
To: Undisclosed recipients;;
Subject: CKNW: Palmer - rural school fund & transit announcement

CKNW (Vancouver)
CKNW View From Victoria
16-Jun-2016 06:38

Copyright

Page 069 to/à Page 071

Withheld pursuant to/removed as

Copyright

Chin, Ben PREM:EX

From: Smart, Stephen PREM:EX
Sent: Thursday, June 16, 2016 7:57 AM
To: Chin, Ben PREM:EX
Cc: Keenan, Jason GCPE:EX; Gordon, Matt GCPE:EX
Subject: Re: CKNW: Palmer - rural school fund & transit announcement

Yup.

On Jun 16, 2016, at 7:56 AM, Chin, Ben PREM:EX <Ben.Chin@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

Yes can you?

From: Smart, Stephen PREM:EX
Sent: Thursday, June 16, 2016 7:56 AM
To: Chin, Ben PREM:EX; Keenan, Jason GCPE:EX; Gordon, Matt GCPE:EX
Subject: Fwd: CKNW: Palmer - rural school fund & transit announcement

Just flagging Vaughn's wording that the fund only applies for one year. Both PCC and MMB were fairly clear that this is ongoing funding. Might be worth following up with him?

Begin forwarded message:

From: <tno@gov.bc.ca>
Date: June 16, 2016 at 7:49:57 AM PDT
To: Undisclosed recipients;;
Subject: CKNW: Palmer - rural school fund & transit announcement

CKNW (Vancouver)
CKNW View From Victoria
16-Jun-2016 06:38

Copyright

Page 073 to/à Page 075

Withheld pursuant to/removed as

Copyright

Chin, Ben PREM:EX

From: Holme, Matt EDUC:EX
Sent: Thursday, June 16, 2016 7:16 AM
To: Chin, Ben PREM:EX; Mills, Shane PREM:EX
Cc: Koolsbergen, Andrew EDUC:EX
Subject: Rural Education Enhancement Fund puts students and families first

FYI – The op-ed below is approved by MMB. It will be sent to regional media in affected areas this morning.
Matt

Rural Education Enhancement Fund puts students and families first

By Mike Bernier
Minister of Education
June 2016

As a parent proud to call rural B.C. home, my family understands the unique opportunities and some of the challenges that come with living in a rural area.

We've just launched a new program that recognizes these challenges -- the Rural Education Enhancement Fund. When a school closes, it impacts more than K-12 education—it negatively affects the local community and economy.

The Rural Education Enhancement Fund is ongoing and is ready today so districts can get the funding needed to keep eligible schools open this September. Districts will receive the amount equal to the expected savings from closing their school if the application is successful.

To be eligible, a district must be located in a rural community or sub-community outside of Greater Victoria, the Lower Mainland and Kelowna. As well, the closure would eliminate education for specific grades from a community. Finally, the funds must be used to keep the school open.

In addition to the fund, the Province has launched the Rural Education Strategy to find solutions to those unique challenges rural school district face. Linda Larson, my new parliamentary secretary for Rural Education, along with Donna Barnett, the parliamentary secretary for Rural Development, will lead the study.

As an MLA and as a Minister I have seen that our current funding model may create challenges for rural districts. We are going to find a solution for students, teachers, and parents from rural B.C.

Ensuring stability for schools in rural B.C. is a foundation to making sure communities can continue to attract new opportunities in Canada's strongest provincial economy.

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

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

<Op Ed_Rural Education Enhancement Fund.docx>

Chin, Ben PREM:EX

From: Keenan, Jason GCPE:EX
Sent: Wednesday, June 15, 2016 10:53 AM
To: Chin, Ben PREM:EX; Smart, Stephen PREM:EX; Mills, Shane PREM:EX; Kay, Maclean PREM:EX
Cc: Holme, Matt EDUC:EX
Subject: NR Rural Grants
Attachments: NR Rural Grants.docx

I didn't hit the ongoing nature of funding hard enough – please see revised.

Rural Education Enhancement Fund keep rural schools open

QUESNEL – A new Rural Education Enhancement Fund to help keep rural schools open was announced today by Premier Christy Clark.

Districts outside Greater Victoria, Vancouver, Kelowna will be able to apply for ongoing provincial funding that recognizes the unique challenges faced in keep schools open in rural communities.

"Closing the only high school or elementary school in a community has a large economic impact on a local economy," Clark said. "With Canada's strongest economy it's important the benefits are felt everywhere in the province – and that we take steps to further build our economy. Our rural education strategy will help us accomplish this."

The amount of funding districts would be eligible for would be equal to their expected savings from closing the school. Schools would be able to apply annually for Rural Education Enhancement Funding if they meet the following criteria:

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"For students, families, and rural areas, the local school is the centre of the community and the local economy. In my time as minister I've seen that our education funding model doesn't take those unique rural factors into account," Bernier said. "My Ministry will take a hard look at how we can make sure the unique community and economic role of rural schools is supported in how we fund school districts."

A list of potentially closing schools eligible for the funding is in the attached backgrounder.

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

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

BACKGROUND

Schools eligible for Rural Education Enhancement Funding in 2016-17

Kootenay Lake School District (SD 8)

Yahk Elementary School – Yahk
Winlaw Elementary School - Winlaw

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Trout Creek Elementary School – Summerland

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NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
[release number]
June 15, 2016

Office of the Premier
Ministry of Education

Rural Education Enhancement Fund keep rural schools open

QUESNEL – A new Rural Education Enhancement Fund to help keep rural schools open was announced today by Premier Christy Clark.

Districts outside Greater Victoria, Vancouver, Kelowna will be able to apply for ongoing provincial funding that recognizes the unique challenges faced in keep schools open in rural communities.

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Oyster River Elementary School – Oyster River

Chin, Ben PREM:EX

From: Chin, Ben PREM:EX
Sent: Wednesday, June 15, 2016 11:30 AM
To: Smart, Stephen PREM:EX
Cc: Mills, Shane PREM:EX; Kay, Maclean PREM:EX
Subject: Fw: final draft

From: Keenan, Jason GCPE:EX <Jason.Keenan@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: Wednesday, June 15, 2016 11:25 AM
To: Chin, Ben PREM:EX
Subject: final draft

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Bernier said. "My Ministry will work with the Parliamentary Secretaries to take a hard look at how we can make sure the unique community and economic role of rural schools is supported in how we fund school districts."

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Contact: Stephen Smart
Office of the Premier
778 389-6202

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

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778 389-6202

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

Jason A Keenan

Communications Director

Ministry of Education

Government Communications and Public Engagement

Office: 250-356-8713 Mobile: 778-679-5546

INTRODUCTION: Hon. Coralee Oakes

ACKNOWLEDGE: Michelle Daniels, President, Quesnel Chamber

I want to thank Coralee for everything she's done for Quesnel – and for being a relentless force for optimism in the community and at the cabinet table.

Right now, BC is getting some attention – finally – across the country. It can be hard to perceive what's happening out here from Toronto...but they seem to have awoken to the fact that Canada is changing.

And right now, Canada is being led from BC.

- #1 in Economic growth
- Growing at 2 times the national average
- 4 consecutive balanced budgets
- Over 148,000 jobs since we launched the BC Jobs Plan.
- For the first time since 1976, BC has the lowest unemployment rate in Canada. In the Cariboo,

unemployment is less than half what it was the worst of the '90s.

- 99% of BC's public sector has negotiated settlements.
- And we're on track to being able to eliminate our operating debt by 2020.

Yes, we borrow. But there's a difference between borrowing to pay for the groceries, or buying a house. And we only borrow to build.

Over the next three years, the Province and BC Hydro are investing \$20 billion in capital spending.

That includes big projects like Site C. But it's also hundreds of smaller projects that are no less important to the people who depend on them.

Like more than \$1.5 million to upgrade Correlieu Secondary School's A/C and electrical systems, and upgrade to biomass heating.

And almost \$6 million to upgrade Highway 97 just outside town.

There's more coming. Coralee has been working hard to secure more funding to support tourism in the Cariboo.

You asked me to touch on the rural dividend, LNG, and softwood.

RURAL DIVIDEND

Let me start with the rural dividend, the result of a lot of hard work from Donna Barnett and people like Coralee when she was on city council.

It boils down to fairness. Small, rural, resource dependent communities are fed up with sending all the money out of their communities...

And not seeing enough of it come back.

We have to make sure that communities who do the heavy lifting see more of the benefits.

So, we created the Rural Dividend so that smaller communities can diversify their economies...

see some more of wealth they generate stay closer to home...
and position them to start growing again.

The first round of applications closed on May 31st.

We received 180 applications, a great response for a first intake on a new program.

21 came from the Cariboo Development Region – that's 10 per cent of the applications received across BC.

They came from a broad cross-section of communities, non-profits and First Nations from the Cariboo.

Steve Thomson's ministry staff are reviewing applications and making decisions quickly, with announcements starting in July.

There's going to be a second intake for the program in October.

We anticipate that the response will be even stronger, as more and more people learn about the program.

SOFTWOOD

The second topic you asked me to discuss was softwood. And it's no surprise. Quesnel has always depended on forestry.

In the Second World War, BC was the largest manufacturer of airplane veneer in the British Empire – most of that was birch from Quesnel.

After the war, the North American transportation network expanded quickly...and the market for our timber followed those new roads and rail lines, and shifted south.

In just four years, the number of mills here went from 33 to 180.

Ever since then, we have depended on the US...
Not just to buy our products...
But to pay a fair price.

Lately, that hasn't been the case.

We need to make sure that we get a softwood lumber deal
with America that works for BC.

BC accounts for more than half of the softwood that
Canada exports.
Our softwood lumber interests must be protected.

What that means is this: under no circumstances
whatsoever will we accept an agreement that includes
quotas.

I want you to know: we have been fighting for BC.

In my first conversation with Prime Minister Trudeau, I
congratulated him – then I raised softwood.

In my first meeting with him, I raised softwood.

In my trade mission to Ottawa with 100 people, many from the forest industry, we talked about softwood.

When our Forests Minister, Steve Thomson met with his minister and his offices federally he has raised softwood.

Every single one of our MLAs and ministers has a firm instruction and they have carried it out:

When we meet with any Member of Parliament, from the government or opposition, we raise softwood.

Because it's urgent not only to get the deal done – but to get the right deal done.

Because we have been so persistent, we have a public commitment between the Prime Minister and President Obama to get to a deal, and a timeline to get there.

That's progress. But we haven't got it across the finish line.

I want you to know that we're still working every day, not just to get a deal, but to get the right deal.

Whatever deal we get to, it will one that is good for BC.

LNG

You also asked me to touch on LNG.

Currently, there are approximately 20 potential LNG projects in British Columbia that have already invested more than \$20 billion on natural gas assets and infrastructure.

To answer the obvious question: yes, prices are low right now, and that has delayed our original timelines.

But we are optimistic. Because it's not about prices today.

As the Paris Climate Conference has made clear...the world is changing in two major ways:

First, there is a growing and inexorable shift in demand away from fuel sources like coal, and towards clean energy.

Second, as the middle class expands exponentially in China and India – demand for energy is increasing with it, and it will be met, one way or another.

LNG is the only transition fuel that can meet rising demand and still bring emissions down.

There is a challenge right now with low global prices. But it's not about what prices will be today – but 5, 10, or 50 years from now.

Ask the 8 businesses in Quesnel who registered for the LNG Buy BC Program. Or better yet, ask the up to 470 people who depend on them for work.

INVESTING IN PEOPLE

A growing economy is the only way to create jobs and opportunity. But it also gives us the ability to invest in people. I want to touch on two examples.

I hope you've heard about the Single Parent Employment Initiative. To help get single parents off the welfare treadmill, the Province pays for training, childcare, transportation, and keeps benefits coming until they find a job.

It's been running for about nine months, and it has transformed lives – 2,800 single parents have taken us up on the offer in just nine months. 30 of them are here in Quesnel.

I also want to touch on the record year we had in placing kids in care in permanent adoptive homes.

How many times have you told your kids: "Whatever happens, I will be there for you?" How many times did your own parents say that when you needed to hear it?

At any given time in BC, about a thousand kids are waiting to be adopted into a permanent home.

So we invested millions more to provide more supports and speed up the process.

What difference has that made? We set a record, placing 644 children in forever homes.

Last fiscal year, we placed one child in a forever home in Quesnel. This year – 7.

That may not seem like much. But ask those seven kids who, for the first time, know where they will be spending their next birthday.

CONCLUSION

We're going to continue on the path we've set out.

Because we believe in it.

We believe in growing the middle class, not making poverty a little easier.

We believe in investing in people.

We believe in protecting our resource industry, not trying to shut it down.

We believe the best way to ensure a better life for British Columbians is a bigger economy, not a bigger government.

We believe that to create jobs we need to have the ambition to get to yes.

The results are good so far. But we can't lose our focus.

We have a unique opportunity here. To write a new Canadian story.

A Canada led from BC.

Thank you.

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

INTRODUCTION: Hon. Coralee Oakes

ACKNOWLEDGE: Michelle Daniels, President, Quesnel Chamber

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- 644 children in forever homes, 7 in Quesnel.

Kay, Maclean PREM:EX

From: Kay, Maclean PREM:EX
Sent: Wednesday, June 15, 2016 11:48 AM
To: Keenan, Jason GCPE:EX
Subject: RE: NR Rural Grants

FINE. 😊

From: Keenan, Jason GCPE:EX
Sent: Wednesday, June 15, 2016 11:48 AM
To: Kay, Maclean PREM:EX
Subject: RE: NR Rural Grants

Can we slip a today in at the end of the first sentence?

From: Kay, Maclean PREM:EX
Sent: Wednesday, June 15, 2016 11:13 AM
To: Keenan, Jason GCPE:EX; Mills, Shane PREM:EX; Chin, Ben PREM:EX; Smart, Stephen PREM:EX
Subject: RE: NR Rural Grants

Quick change to lose passive voice in the lead:

QUESNEL –To help rural schools in British Columbia stay open, Premier Christy Clark announced a new Rural Education Enhancement Fund.

Second paragraph is missing a word and there's a typo:

Districts outside Greater Victoria, the Lower Mainland, and Kelowna will be able to apply for provincial funding that recognizes the unique challenges faced in keeping schools open in rural communities.

From: Keenan, Jason GCPE:EX
Sent: Wednesday, June 15, 2016 11:09 AM
To: Mills, Shane PREM:EX; Chin, Ben PREM:EX; Smart, Stephen PREM:EX; Kay, Maclean PREM:EX
Subject: RE: NR Rural Grants

yes

From: Mills, Shane PREM:EX
Sent: Wednesday, June 15, 2016 11:08 AM
To: Keenan, Jason GCPE:EX; Chin, Ben PREM:EX; Smart, Stephen PREM:EX; Kay, Maclean PREM:EX
Subject: Re: NR Rural Grants

Should we be defining lower mainland as the region, rather than just naming Vancouver?

From: Keenan, Jason GCPE:EX
Sent: June-15-16 10:41 AM

To: Chin, Ben PREM:EX; Smart, Stephen PREM:EX; Mills, Shane PREM:EX; Kay, Maclean PREM:EX
Subject: NR Rural Grants

Revised

Rural Education Enhancement Fund keep rural schools open

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Kay, Maclean PREM:EX

From: Kay, Maclean PREM:EX
Sent: Wednesday, June 15, 2016 12:17 PM
To: Chant, Jon GCPE:EX; Keenan, Jason GCPE:EX; Smart, Stephen PREM:EX; Dolan, Chelsea PREM:EX
Subject: RE: For final review/approval: Rural Education Enhancement Fund to keep rural schools open

Looks good from our end.

-----Original Message-----

From: Chant, Jon GCPE:EX
Sent: Wednesday, June 15, 2016 12:15 PM
To: Keenan, Jason GCPE:EX; Smart, Stephen PREM:EX; Kay, Maclean PREM:EX; Dolan, Chelsea PREM:EX
Subject: For final review/approval: Rural Education Enhancement Fund to keep rural schools open
Importance: High

Hi,
Once you approve, we'll await the green light.
Cheers,
Jon

-----Original Message-----

From: Chant, Jon GCPE:EX [<mailto:Jon.Chant@gov.bc.ca>]
Sent: Wednesday, June 15, 2016 12:14 PM
To: Chant, Jon GCPE:EX
Subject: DRAFT: Rural Education Enhancement Fund to keep rural schools open

Please refer to the files attached to this email. The following is the summary of the News Release

NR Number: Not Approved
NR Type: News Release
State: Planned
Planned Release Date: June 15, 2016 at 12:30 pm No Lead Organization
Headline: Rural Education Enhancement Fund to keep rural schools open

This email was auto-generated.

Not Approved
June 15, 2016

Office of the Premier
Ministry of Education

NEWS RELEASE
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"For students, families, and rural areas, the local school is the centre of the community and the local economy. In my time as minister I've seen that our education funding model doesn't take all the unique rural factors into account," Minister of Education Mike Bernier said. "My ministry will work with the parliamentary secretaries to take a hard look at how we can make sure the unique community and economic role of rural schools is supported in how we fund school districts."

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Media Contacts:

Stephen Smart
Office of the Premier
778 389-6202

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

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

Kay, Maclean PREM:EX

From: Kay, Maclean PREM:EX
Sent: Wednesday, June 15, 2016 12:20 PM
To: Chant, Jon GCPE:EX; Keenan, Jason GCPE:EX; Dolan, Chelsea PREM:EX; Smart, Stephen PREM:EX
Cc: Stagg, Linda R GCPE:EX; Boudreau, Marc GCPE:EX; Carruthers, Dana GCPE:EX; Kerr, Grant GCPE:EX
Subject: RE: could be final: Rural Education Enhancement Fund to keep rural schools open

Sorry Jon- one last change to the quote:

"Closing the only high school or elementary school in a rural community has a large impact on that local economy," Premier Clark said. "With Canada's strongest economy it's important that we make sure the benefits are shared by rural communities throughout our province to ensure they have the infrastructure they need to grow, attract talent, and provide critical services like health care. Our rural education strategy will help us accomplish this."

-----Original Message-----

From: Chant, Jon GCPE:EX
Sent: Wednesday, June 15, 2016 12:19 PM
To: Keenan, Jason GCPE:EX; Kay, Maclean PREM:EX; Dolan, Chelsea PREM:EX; Smart, Stephen PREM:EX
Cc: Stagg, Linda R GCPE:EX; Boudreau, Marc GCPE:EX; Carruthers, Dana GCPE:EX; Kerr, Grant GCPE:EX
Subject: could be final: Rural Education Enhancement Fund to keep rural schools open

...and we'll await further developments.
Cheers,
Jon

-----Original Message-----

From: Chant, Jon GCPE:EX [mailto:Jon.Chant@gov.bc.ca]
Sent: Wednesday, June 15, 2016 12:19 PM
To: Chant, Jon GCPE:EX
Subject: Rural Education Enhancement Fund to keep rural schools open

Please refer to the files attached to this email. The following is the summary of the News Release

Permalink: <https://news.gov.bc.ca/11254>

News ID: NEWS-11254
NR Number: 2016PREM0067-001044
NR Type: News Release
State: Planned
Planned Release Date: June 15, 2016 at 12:30 pm Lead Organization: Office of the Premier
Headline: Rural Education Enhancement Fund to keep rural schools open

This email was auto-generated.

For Immediate Release
2016PREM0067-001044
June 15, 2016

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While the ongoing Rural Education Enhancement Fund will help keep schools open starting this coming school year, Premier Clark also tasked newly appointed parliamentary secretary for rural education Linda Larson and parliamentary secretary for rural development Donna Barnett to conduct a full study of rural education funding in the province to seek a long-term solution.

The Rural Education Strategy will look at rural school district budgets and the role education and schools play in communities outside the Lower Mainland, Greater Victoria, and Kelowna. The strategy will aim to find solutions for the unique challenges facing rural school districts while recognizing the economic impact of single schools in small communities. Details of the review will be announced in the near future.

"For students, families, and rural areas, the local school is the centre of the community and the local economy. In my time as minister I've seen that our education funding model doesn't take all the unique rural factors into account," Minister of Education Mike Bernier said. "My ministry will work with the parliamentary secretaries to take a hard look at how we can make sure the unique community and economic role of rural schools is supported in how we fund school districts."

A list of potentially closing schools eligible for the funding is in the attached backgrounder.

Media Contacts:

Stephen Smart
Office of the Premier

778 389-6202

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

BACKGROUNDER

Schools eligible for Rural Education Enhancement Funding in 2016-17

Kootenay Lake School District (SD 8)

- * Yahk Elementary School - Yahk

- * Winlaw Elementary School - Winlaw

Quesnel School District (SD 29)

- * Kersley Elementary School - Kersley

- * Parkland Elementary School - 10 Mile Lake

Okanagan Similkameen School District (SD 53)

- * Osoyoos Secondary School - Osoyoos

Bulkley Valley School District (SD 54)

- * Kathlyn Lake Elementary School - Lake Kathlyn

Okanagan Skaha School District (SD 67)

- * Trout Creek Elementary School - Summerland

Campbell River School District (SD 72)

- * Discovery Passage School - Duncan Bay

- * Oyster River Elementary School - Oyster River

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Kay, Maclean PREM:EX

From: Kay, Maclean PREM:EX
Sent: Wednesday, June 15, 2016 2:07 PM
To: Dolan, Chelsea PREM:EX; Smart, Stephen PREM:EX
Subject: RE: social media

Slight tweak:

T: We're taking action to ensure rural schools stay open. #bced

From: Dolan, Chelsea PREM:EX
Sent: Wednesday, June 15, 2016 12:45 PM
To: Smart, Stephen PREM:EX; Kay, Maclean PREM:EX
Subject: social media

today and the rest of the week all in once batch.

Wednesday

Rural schools

T: We're providing grants for rural schools for the next five years so students can stay in their communities. #bced

FB: BC is leading the country in economic growth and it's important that all communities benefit in that success. We're providing funding to nine rural schools across six districts to prevent closures while we develop a sustainable rural education strategy. This ensures students can continue attending school in their communities.

Quesnel Chamber

T: Pleasure to meet local business and community leaders at the #Quesnel Chamber of Commerce with [@coraleeoakes](#).

Thursday

Transit

T: In partnership with the federal government, today's investment of nearly \$1B will improve transit across #BC.

FB: In partnership with the federal government, we're investing nearly \$1 billion to make transit across BC more accessible, comprehensive, and green.

Friday

Microsoft

T: Microsoft's new innovation centre in #vancouver is a vote of confidence in the future of #BCTech and BC's workforce.

FB: Microsoft's new Center of Excellence is a vote of confidence in BC's tech sector, and our highly-skilled workforce. This new expansion will more than double the number of developers working here from 300 to over 750, and a projected economic impact of \$181 million per year.

Ironworkers Memorial

T: Honouring the survivors of the #SecondNarrowsCrossing collapse, the single worst industrial accident in BC history.

FB: At the Ironworkers Memorial to honour those who lost their lives and the survivors of the Second Narrows Crossing collapse. It remains the single worst industrial accident in BC history, and serves as a reminder of the responsibility we all have to improve health and safety in the workplace.

Kay, Maclean PREM:EX

From: Chin, Ben PREM:EX
Sent: Wednesday, June 15, 2016 11:00 AM
To: Keenan, Jason GCPE:EX
Cc: Smart, Stephen PREM:EX; Mills, Shane PREM:EX; Kay, Maclean PREM:EX; Holme, Matt EDUC:EX
Subject: Re: NR Rural Grants

Couple of typos to clean up in the opening paragraphs...

On study, will be led by linda larson and donna barnett and rural advisory council ...linda is being appointed ps for rural education

Ben Chin
Executive Director
Communications & Issues Mgmt
Office of Premier Christy Clark
Government of British Columbia
250-588-3113

On Jun 15, 2016, at 10:52 AM, Keenan, Jason GCPE:EX <Jason.Keenan@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

I didn't hit the ongoing nature of funding hard enough – please see revised.

Rural Education Enhancement Fund keep rural schools open

QUESNEL – A new Rural Education Enhancement Fund to help keep rural schools open was announced today by Premier Christy Clark.

Districts outside Greater Victoria, Vancouver, Kelowna will be able to apply for ongoing provincial funding that recognizes the unique challenges faced in keep schools open in rural communities.

"Closing the only high school or elementary school in a community has a large economic impact on a local economy," Clark said. "With Canada's strongest economy it's important the benefits are felt everywhere in the province – and that we take steps to further build our economy. Our rural education strategy will help us accomplish this."

The amount of funding districts would be eligible for would be equal to their expected savings from cloning the school. Schools would be able to apply annually for Rural Education Enhancement Funding if they meet the following criteria:

- In a rural community or sub-community outside Greater Victoria, Vancouver, Kelowna areas with a population less than 15,000;
- In a community or sub-community meeting these criteria and separated from the next closest school by a major geographic barrier for students – such as a major highway, railway, or waterway;
- Closure would eliminate specific grades within the community;
- Funding is used to keep the school open; and
- Closures due to condition or extreme enrolment decline are not included.

While the ongoing Rural Education Enhancement Funding will help keep schools open starting this coming school year, the Premier also launched a full study of rural education funding in the province to seek a long term solution.

The development of the rural education strategy will look rural school district budgets and the role education and schools play in communities outside the Lower Mainland, Greater Victoria, and Kelowna. The strategy will aim to find solutions for the unique challenges facing rural school districts while recognizing the economic impact of single schools in small communities. Details of the review will be announced in the near future.

“For students, families, and rural areas, the local school is the centre of the community and the local economy. In my time as minister I’ve seen that our education funding model doesn’t take those unique rural factors into account,” Bernier said. “My Ministry will take a hard look at how we can make sure the unique community and economic role of rural schools is supported in how we fund school districts.”

A list of potentially closing schools eligible for the funding is in the attached backgrounder.

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

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Trout Creek Elementary School – Summerland

Campbell River School District (SD 72)

Discovery Passage School – Duncan Bay

Oyster River Elementary School – Oyster River

<NR Rural Grants.docx>

Kay, Maclean PREM:EX

From: Chin, Ben PREM:EX
Sent: Wednesday, June 15, 2016 12:05 PM
To: Keenan, Jason GCPE:EX; Mills, Shane PREM:EX; Smart, Stephen PREM:EX; Kay, Maclean PREM:EX
Cc: Holme, Matt EDUC:EX
Subject: Re: Final draft of release

Super

From: Keenan, Jason GCPE:EX
Sent: Wednesday, June 15, 2016 11:47 AM
To: Chin, Ben PREM:EX; Mills, Shane PREM:EX; Smart, Stephen PREM:EX; Kay, Maclean PREM:EX
Cc: Holme, Matt EDUC:EX
Subject: Final draft of release

All changes have been made.

Let me know if this should go to the editors – and what time it will go out (likely 12:15 ish when Stephen gives the nod).

Cheers
Jason

Jason A Keenan

Communications Director
Ministry of Education
Government Communications and Public Engagement
Office: 250-356-8713 Mobile: 778-679-5546

Rural Education Enhancement Fund to keep rural schools open

QUESNEL – To help rural schools in British Columbia stay open, Premier Christy Clark announced a new Rural Education Enhancement Fund.

Districts outside Greater Victoria, the Lower Mainland, and Kelowna will be able to apply for ongoing provincial funding that recognizes the unique challenges faced in keeping schools open in rural communities.

“Closing the only high school or elementary school in a rural community has a large economic impact on that local economy,” Clark said. “With Canada’s strongest economy it’s important that we make sure the benefits are shared by rural communities throughout our province to ensure they have the infrastructure they need to grow, attract talent, and provide critical services like health care. Our rural education strategy will help us accomplish this.”

The amount of funding districts will be eligible for is to be equal to their expected savings from closing the school. Districts would be able to apply annually for Rural Education Enhancement Funding if they meet the following criteria:

- In a rural community or sub-community outside Greater Victoria, the Lower Mainland, and Kelowna areas with a population less than 15,000;
- Closure would eliminate specific grades within the community;

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While the ongoing Rural Education Enhancement Fund will help keep schools open starting this coming school year, the Premier also tasked newly-appointed Parliamentary Secretary for Rural Education, Linda Larson, and Parliamentary Secretary for Rural Development, Donna Barnett to conduct a full study of rural education funding in the province to seek a long term solution.

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