



March 13, 2024

Ref: 296827

Their Worship Simon Yu
Mayor of Prince George
Email: mayoradmin@princegeorge.ca

Dear Mayor Yu:

Thank you for your letter of February 15, 2024, regarding our discussion at the recent UBCM conference in Vancouver (Meeting ID: 684). It was indeed a pleasure to be able to discuss the interest in the expansion of D.P. Todd Secondary School with the City of Prince George (the City).

British Columbia is experiencing unprecedented population growth, primarily driven by international migration. Over 2023, K-12 public school enrolment increased by over 13,000 students across the province. The Ministry of Education and Child Care (the Ministry) staff continue to work closely with school districts across the province to assess infrastructure needs and address capacity pressures.

Since September 2017, government has provided more than \$4 billion for new and improved schools as well as land purchases for future schools throughout the province. This has resulted in 25,000 new student spaces and 35,000 seismically safe seats at BC schools. The Ministry is also implementing new strategies (for example, providing funding for prefabricated classrooms) to further mitigate enrolment pressures.

The support and advocacy by the City for School District No. 57 – Prince George (the District), is commendable. As the annual deadline for school districts Five Year Capital Plan submission approaches in June 2024, Ministry staff will be meeting with District staff to review enrolment growth and discuss the District's capital priorities, including the expansion at D.P. Todd Secondary.

Through child care and education, the Ministry supports young people to develop compassionate worldviews and consider important issues including diversity, equity, and inclusion, as foundational values of healthy communities. To advance this goal, Premier David Eby announced in October 2023 that, beginning in the 2025/26 school year, the K-12 curriculum will include mandatory Holocaust education as part of an expanded Grade 10 social studies curriculum.

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The City's support of this announcement is appreciated, and I also value your advocacy for including Holocaust education in the elementary school curriculum. While Premier Eby's announcement is specifically focused on the Grade 10 Social Studies curriculum, we want all students to have education related to human rights and anti-racism throughout their K-12 experiences. I will share your feedback with Ministry staff and ensure that Holocaust education in the elementary school curriculum is considered as part of any future curriculum review and revision process.

Again, thank you for writing.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R Singh', with a horizontal line underneath.

Rachna Singh
Minister

cc: Honourable David Eby, Premier
Damien Crowell, Executive Director, Capital Management Branch, Ministry of
Education and Child Care
Pamela Spooner, Acting Superintendent, School District No. 57 (Prince George)