



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
of BRITISH COLUMBIA

Hon. Rob Fleming
Minister of Education
Room 124, Parliament Buildings
Victoria, B.C. V8V 1X4

July 06, 2020

Dear Minister Fleming,

I am writing to express concern with the provincial government's current back-to-school plan and timelines for the fall. All British Columbians are facing a great deal of uncertainty these days as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Everyone has felt the impact of the changes in our society stemming from public health restrictions and the shutdown of our economy to flatten the curve and protect society's most vulnerable.

As a result of the anxiety and fear that many are grappling with, it is now more important than ever to provide British Columbians with as much certainty as possible. Parents, students, and teachers have endured many hard months and I commend the hard work of both staff and families for their hard work. These families are now looking to this government to produce a viable and transparent education plan in order for them to be able to plan for the future and organize their lives in accordance with the "new normal" that is our provincial reality going forward.

Currently, we understand teachers will not find out how learning will be delivered this fall until August 20th. This is unacceptable and only serves to contribute to the ongoing pressures faced by parents, students, and teachers. People cannot be expected to plan for the future when they will not know what school will look like in the fall.

British Columbians were dismayed when your government, after having more than four months to develop plans for an economic recovery, released a six-week online survey. When it comes to the children of British Columbia and their futures, you cannot follow a similar strategy of procrastination and inaction. People deserve certainty.

On behalf of parents and teachers, the BC Liberal Caucus is respectfully requesting that your Ministry commits to publicly announcing the fall school delivery plan no later than August 3rd, 2020. This date would give our parents, teachers, and students adequate time to ensure they can properly prepare and plan accordingly for the start of the new school year in September.



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

of BRITISH COLUMBIA

In the midst of a global pandemic, which has been one of the greatest disruptions to British Columbia's education system in our history, we must do our best to provide stability and certainty as we embark upon our recovery.

For the betterment of our province and our children's futures, I hope that you will take this letter into consideration and provide parents and teachers with the appropriate information, and respect, that they deserve.

Thank you,

Dan Davies
MLA, Peace River-North
Critic for Education