



October 25, 2016

The Honourable Mike Bernier
Room 134, Parliament Buildings
Victoria, British Columbia V8V 1X4

The Honourable Stephanie Cadieux
PO Box 9057 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, British Columbia V8W 9E2

The Honourable Dr. Terry Lake
Room 337, Parliament Buildings
Victoria, British Columbia V8V 1X4

Re: Provincial Standards for Addressing Drug Use and Possible Incidents of Overdose in B.C. Schools

Dear Ministers Bernier, Cadieux and Lake,

The Board of Education for School District 42 (Maple Ridge – Pitt Meadows) adopted a motion that requests that the Ministries of Education, Children and Family Development, and Health work jointly to create provincial standards for strategies addressing drug use and possible incidents of overdose in our schools. A piece of this broader set of strategies should address protocols for training and administering of Naloxone (Narcan) in all middle and secondary schools in B.C..

In the development of these strategies, we encourage the ministries to seek input from stakeholders including educational partner groups (i.e. BCPVPA, BCTF, CUPE, BCCPAC). Consideration should also be given to collective agreements and liabilities in the event Naloxone is administered by school staff.

Our school district and community share the concerns of the provincial government and B.C. Health Officer around the current fentanyl health crisis. Saving lives is the province's first priority in this public health emergency so intervening during an overdose is imperative to preventing fatal outcomes.

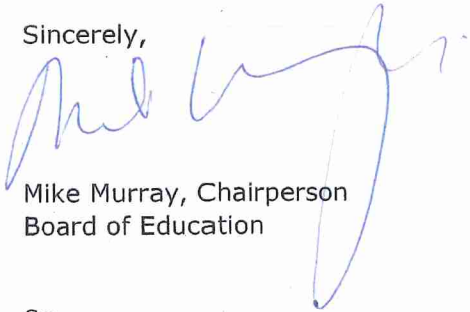
While we realize the undertaking of establishing Naloxone training and administering protocols in schools will require thorough consideration, consultation and expertise, it is the opinion of this board that the establishment of such protocols should be given high priority.

In our school district, provincially mandated student health and safety preparedness protocols include diabetes, anaphylaxis, physical restraint and seclusion, as well as practice drills addressing earthquake, lockdown and fires. We ask our provincial government to provide all school districts in B.C. with guidance regarding preparedness plans that potentially include lifesaving Naloxone intervention.

"Every day families and friends are losing loved ones to deaths that could have been prevented. No one is immune. People with long histories of drug use are overdosing, as are people trying drugs for the very first time. It's crucial to remind people that no matter who you are, illicit drugs can be deadly, and that there are steps you can take to reduce the chance of overdose." - Dr. Perry Kendall, Provincial Health Officer

We thank you for your attention and action on this emergent issue.

Sincerely,



Mike Murray, Chairperson
Board of Education

Cc:

The Honourable Christy Clark, Premier Province of British Columbia
Mr. Dan Ruimy, MP House of Commons
Dr. Doug Bing, MLA Maple Ridge - Pitt Meadows
Mr. Marc Dalton, MLA Maple Ridge - Mission
Board of Education for School District 42 Maple Ridge-Pitt Meadows
Sylvia Russell, Superintendent of School, School District 42 Maple Ridge-Pitt Meadows
Flavia Coughlan, Secretary Treasurer, School District 42 Maple Ridge-Pitt Meadows
Mayor Nicole Read, Maple Ridge
Mayor John Becker, Pitt Meadows
Kiersten Duncan, Maple Ridge City Councillor, Co-Chair Strong Kids Team
Tony Cotroneo, Strong Kids Team Maple Ridge
Teresa Rezansoff, President, BCSTA for distribution to All Boards of Education
Sherry Elwood, President BCSSA
Mary Ellen Turpel-Lafond, Representative for Children and Youth
Dr. Perry Kendall, Provincial Health Officer, Co-Chair BC Joint Task Force on Overdose Response
Dr. Bonnie Henry, Deputy Provincial Health Officer
Dave Fleugel, Officer in Charge Ridge Meadows RCMP
Kit Krieger, Executive Director BCPVA
Catharine Watkins, President, Maple Ridge Principals' and Vice Principals' Association
Glen Hansman, President BCTF
George Serra, President, Maple Ridge Teachers' Association
Paul Faoro, President CUPE BC
Leslie Franklin, President, CUPE Local 703
John Bird, President BCCPAC
Kim Dunmore, Chair, District Parent Advisory Council
Sherri Skerratt, District Student Advisory Council
Annika Polegato, Executive Director, Alouette Addictions
Ingrid Tyler, Medical Health Officer
Clair Hall, Unit Chief Maple Ridge BCEHS
Barbara Fitzsimmons, Sr. Provincial. Executive Director Learning and Medical Programs BCEHS
Helena Swinkels, Fraser Health