



# SCHOOL DISTRICT 5

S O U T H E A S T K O O T E N A Y

June 14<sup>th</sup>, 2017

School District No. 42 Maple Ridge – Pitt Meadows  
Chairperson Mike Murray and SD42 Board  
22225 Brown Avenue  
Maple Ridge BC V2X 8N6

Dear Chairperson Murray and Board,

RE: SD42 letter to Hon. Minister Philpott re: Youth Mental Health  
Funding for Provinces

The School District 5 (SD5), Southeast Kootenay Board of Education wishes to thank your Board for your letter dated April 26<sup>th</sup>, 2017, to Federal Health Minister, Hon. Jane Philpott echoing the need for Youth Mental Health Funding for Provinces. We also appreciate that your Board referenced both the March 13<sup>th</sup> SD5 letter to Minister Philpott, and the 2016 Select Standing Committee on Children and Youth (SSCCY) Report.

The SD5 Board believes it is vital that Boards support one another in their advocacy, and that advocacy continue to be built upon until results are realized. Thank you for continuing that advocacy.

On May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2017, our Board received a response from Minister Philpott's office, which we have included as an enclosure. The letter indicates that the Federal Budget 2017 has earmarked \$5 Billion over ten years to the provinces and territories to support mental health issues. Further research by our Board specifies that BC's allotment of these monies is \$665 million.

At our June 13<sup>th</sup>, 2017 Board meeting, the Board carried the following motion:

Frank Lento (Chair) • Trina Ayling • Bev Bellina • Jacqueline Blumhagen • Gail Brown  
• Curtis Helgesen • Chris Johns • Doug McPhee • Patricia Whalen

*That the Board write a letter to Premier Christy Clark, the Ministers of Finance, Education and Health re: the Federal transfer of \$655 million over 10 years and request that additional monies be invested in schools to assist students struggling with mental health issues.*

Consistent with our practice, all Boards will receive a copy of this letter shortly following its delivery to the Premier and Ministers. It is our hope that your Board will also consider advocating to the provincial government to ensure that our students are adequately funded to receive the services they require.

Again, thank you for your advocacy on this important issue.

Sincerely,



Frank Lento, Board Chair,  
SD5

Encl/1

Cc\*: Mike Bernier, Minister of Education  
Tom Shypitka, MLA - Elect, Kootenay East BC  
John Horgan, Leader, BC New Democratic Party  
Rob Fleming, Education Critic, BC New Democratic Party  
Gordon Swan, President, BCSTA  
BCSTA for distribution to member Boards of Education  
Mike Lombardi, Chair, Former Vancouver School Board  
Glen Hansman, President BC Teachers' Federation  
Jen Mezei, President, BCCPAC  
Shelley Balfour & Christina Smith, CFTA Co-Chairs  
Debbie Therrien, DPAC Chair  
Aaron Thorn, President, SD5 Administrators' Association  
Charley Beresford, Columbia Institute  
Catherine Shaw, FACE BC Vancouver  
Black Press  
Black Rock News

Frank Lento (Chair) • Trina Ayling • Bev Bellina • Jacqueline Blumhagen • Gail Brown  
• Curtis Helgesen • Chris Johns • Doug McPhee • Patricia Whalen

Cranbrook Daily Townsman  
Drive 102.9/B104 Radio  
Elk Valley Herald  
e-know Online News  
Fernie Free Press  
Kootenay Advertiser  
Summit 107 Radio

\*This correspondence is public and transparent. Please feel free to share and/or respond with comment.

Frank Lento (Chair) • Trina Ayling • Bev Bellina • Jacqueline Blumhagen • Gail Brown  
• Curtis Helgesen • Chris Johns • Doug McPhee • Patricia Whalen

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