

February 7, 2019

Mr. Frank Lento, Chair  
School District 5  
940 Industrial Road 1  
Cranbrook, BC V1C 6P1

VIA EMAIL

Dear Frank:

Thank you for your letter of January 25, 2019, and for sharing your thoughts on how Columbia Basin Trust and the School Districts might partner together.

It is important for the Trust to clarify that we are unable to provide any support to a school that would relieve, displace or offset any funding that a School District, the Province of BC or any other level of government might otherwise provide for the benefit of schoolchildren in the Columbia Basin. This is a requirement of our enabling legislation. For this reason, we are unable to support the annual allocation of funds for replacement or improvement of learning facilities in the Basin.

That said, over the years, we have been able to partner with schools on a wide range of initiatives and projects where our organizations have common objectives in the Basin, and where the Trust's support has not relieved government of their obligations. These have ranged from environmental education to ArtsStarts. A very recent example is our current focus to support sport and physical literacy of school aged children across the Basin; we recently funded a total of \$177,570 in School District projects.

Our staff reached out to initiate and are continuing dialogue with Superintendents of the School Districts in the Basin on ways that our organizations could collaborate that are consistent with our legislation. The purpose of these discussions is to explore areas of shared priority, and opportunities for us to work together on those shared priorities. Our staff next meet with the School District Superintendents on May 7.

I look forward to the outcome of the discussions, and I am hopeful that we will continue to find ways to work together to serve the Basin that are consistent with our organizations' mandates.

Sincerely,



Rick Jensen  
Board Chair  
Columbia Basin Trust

cc: Board, School District 6, Rocky Mountain  
Board, School District 8, Kootenay Lake  
Board, School District 10, Arrow Lakes  
Board, School District 19, Revelstoke  
Board, School District 20, Kootenay Columbia  
Board, School District 57, Prince George