

# Annual Report

**[INSTRUCTIONS: The red printed instructions in this document should be deleted from the final report.** Section 38 of the *Public Interest Disclosure Act* (“PIDA”) requires that the Superintendent issue an annual report of the disclosures, investigations, findings and recommendations made or received under PIDA within the prior year. This document sets out minimum recommended reporting requirements under s. 38 of PIDA. However, it is open to a School District to include more explanatory information, provided that the additional information does not breach the School District’s privacy obligations, such as by disclosing information that would allow a discloser or respondent to be identified.]

## Message from the Superintendent

(The Superintendent may wish to include a summary statement about the School District’s experiences under PIDA for the year. This is optional).

## What is the Public Interest Disclosure Act?

The *Public Interest Disclosure Act* (“PIDA”) is legislation that supports ethical and accountable practices by encouraging the employees and board members of governmental bodies to report serious misconduct for investigation and further action.

PIDA provides a framework for employees to report serious wrongdoing, and provides them with protection against reprisals. The types of wrongdoing that can be reported under PIDA include:

- A serious act or omission that constitutes an offence under an enactment in BC or Canada;
- An act or omission giving rise to a substantial and specific danger to the life, health or safety of persons, or to the environment;
- A serious misuse of public funds or public assets; and
- Gross or systemic mismanagement.

The Board of Education of School District No. 5 (Southeast Kootenay) (“District”) became subject to PIDA on **December 1, 2023**. Under section 38 of PIDA, the District is responsible for issuing this annual report on the disclosures that it received under PIDA within the year.

## Disclosures

1. **Number of Disclosures Received:** \_\_\_\_\_

(including referrals from the Ombudsperson of British Columbia and other government bodies)

**2. Number of Disclosures Acted On / Not Acted On:**

(Disclosures not “acted on” include those disclosures the School District declined to investigate, for example where the allegations are outside the scope of PIDA or do not meeting the definition of “wrongdoing” or where they are investigated under another policy or process.)

**No. of Disclosures Acted on:** \_\_\_\_\_

**No. of Disclosures Not Acted on:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Basis for not acting on a Disclosure:**

(This section is not mandatory, but a District may wish to include a description of the basis for not acting on a disclosure or referral. If a description is included, it is important that privacy interests are considered. For a list of circumstances where a public body may refuse to investigate see section 22 of PIDA and the Regulations under PIDA).

**3. Number of Disclosures Investigated by the District:** \_\_\_\_\_

**4. Number of Disclosures giving rise to a finding of Wrongdoing under PIDA** \_\_\_\_\_

**5. Description of Any Findings of Wrongdoing and Related Recommendations**

A description of any findings of wrongdoing resulting from an investigation by the District or the Ombudsperson must be included together with a summary of any recommendations and action taken or not taken by the School District. The District is prohibited from disclosing information in this section that would unreasonably invade a person’s privacy, identify a discloser or reveal the identity of a person who was the subject of an investigation). A table is included below as one means of setting out this information, but the district may instead elect to provide a narrative description.

Nature of Finding of Wrongdoing	Recommendations	Corrective Action Taken or Reasons why Corrective Action Not Taken

For privacy reasons, the findings and recommendations in the above Table are provided in summary form.