



September 15, 2021

The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada
Office of the Prime Minister
80 Wellington St
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2

Re. Federal Safe Return to School fund for 2021/22

Dear Prime Minister Trudeau:

As you are aware, school districts around British Columbia are working hard to mitigate COVID-19 in our schools. Currently, a more contagious variant of the virus is circulating and causing a fourth wave and children under the age of 12 are more vulnerable as there is no vaccine available for this age group.

Last year at this time, your government provided school districts with additional funding to help keep schools safe. School District 72 received \$2,033,406 as part of this much appreciated and needed funding.

School District 72 (Campbell River) used these funds wisely to:

- Provide additional cleaning for all classrooms, worksites and buses
- Purchase PPE including masks, face shields and gloves
- Purchase additional cleaning and sanitizing supplies
- Provide additional teachers for distance learners
- Provide sick coverage

Unfortunately, this year your government has not provided similar funding which will make our COVID-19 mitigation efforts much more difficult. We have allocated \$170,000 from our unrestricted surplus, but this in no way will be able to make up for the lack of a COVID grant this year.

On behalf of the Board of Education for Campbell River, I respectfully ask that you review funding to school districts and offer us more financial support to mitigate COVID-19 in our schools and keep our staff and students safe.

Sincerely,

Originally signed by the Board Chair

John Kerr
Chair, School District 72 Board of Education

c: The Honourable Rachel Blaney, M.P.
Jeremy Morrow, Superintendent/ CEO, School District 72
Kevin Patrick, Secretary-Treasurer, School District 72