



SEVENTH-DAY
ADVENTIST®
CHURCH

British Columbia Conference
Serving BC, Yukon and Western NWT

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Dear Parents,

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I hope that you are enjoying the last few weeks of summer and your children can enjoy the outdoors as much as possible. I myself have been able to get a few rounds of golf in and enjoyed some nice hikes in the mountains.

As the Ministry and our Provincial Health Officer made the announcement that we would be going back to school this fall with some guidelines it has caused some uneasiness within our communities. Is it too soon? Shouldn't we just offer online learning? How safe is it?

I am so very proud to say that I live in BC and that the world has looked at our province as a leader in handling this pandemic. I admire Dr. Henry and her vision as we have all listened and followed her advice. We closed all our schools in March on the advice of the Provincial Health Office and then we re-opened our schools on June 1, 2020 as they told us that it was safe to do so. It was a trial run to see how it might look in the fall. Each of our schools opened and we had a good experience as none of our schools had any cases of Covid-19. In fact, in the peak of June there were over 150,000 children attending schools in BC and from what has been reported, only one case of Covid was reported and that was with a staff member not a child.

It is easy to read all the scientific evidence out there by agencies across the world. It is even easier to find articles that will support our own personal views on what should be done with our children once school starts. We have been asked to re-start our schools this fall in accordance to the Ministry and PHO guidelines. We have trusted them so far and with great results. I truly believe that they have the best interest for our children in all areas of their lives.

I want to encourage you and let you know that our Seventh-day Adventist schools will do our best in keeping your children safe. We will take the necessary precautions to ensure that proper cleaning and sanitizing measures are in place. We will follow the guidelines that have been laid out for schools and uphold them to ensure your child's safety. We will be in constant communications with the Ministry and the PHO and will make any changes necessary to stay current with this situation.

I am not sure we will ever feel like we are back to normal. So much has changed since March. One thing that hasn't changed is our commitment to delivering a well-rounded Christian education that takes into consideration all aspects of your children's lives. It is not just about the academics—we are deeply concerned with the mental health of your children, too. Thank you for allowing us this amazing opportunity to teach your children. It is an honor and privilege to be a part of your lives and we appreciate your trust and commitment to our programs. **Psalms 91:2 I will say of the Lord, "He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust."**

Phil Hudema
Superintendent of Education
SDABC