



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
of BRITISH COLUMBIA

Hon. Rob Fleming
Minister of Education
Room 124, Parliament Buildings
Victoria, B.C. V8V 1X4

May 26, 2020

Dear Minister Fleming,

I am writing on behalf of the BC Liberal Caucus regarding re-opening schools and the protective measures that will be in place to ensure a safe work and learning environment for both teachers and students.

Despite your ministry's release of COVID-19 health and safety guidelines for schools, my colleagues and I continue to hear from parents, educators and support staff from across this province who feel that more needs to be done to ensure our schools can conduct proper health and safety practices when students return to classrooms.

In your COVID-19 public health guidance, you iterated that students, educators and staff will be required to follow enhanced safety measures, including orders for students to clean their hands before entering school property and that hand-sanitizing and cleaning stations be made available along with well-stocked cleaning supplies and PPE. However, how your ministry intends to help provide handwashing stations and PPE to our classrooms to ensure our teachers and students can conduct the best health and safety practices, remains uncertain.

Therefore, the Official Opposition is calling on your government to take the following immediate actions:

- Provide the appropriate resources and provincial guidelines to ensure all classrooms have access to hand washing or sanitation stations, either directly in the classrooms or through converted drinking fountains and hand sanitization stations.
- Allocate funds to support schools with the purchase of PPE to minimize health risks to teachers, students, and families.

We believe this government has a responsibility to ensure classrooms are provided with the necessary resources to operate as safely and efficiently as possible. As your government looks



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to reopen our schools the safety of children must be the top priority. We hope your ministry will continue to be open to new ideas and responsive to requested actions so that we can all continue to take on the challenge of safely reopening our schools together.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dan Davies', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Dan Davies
MLA, Peace River-North
Official Opposition Critic for Education
BC Liberal Caucus

CC:

BCTF (Email)
BCSTA (Email)
BCPVPA (Email)