



July 13, 2022

Ref: 280663

Heather Grieve, Chair
Board of Education
School District No. 73 (Kamloops-Thompson)
Email: hgrieve@sd73.bc.ca

Dear Heather Grieve:

Thank you for your letter of April 12, 2022, to the Honourable Jennifer Whiteside, Minister of Education, regarding a property acquisition funding request for a site currently available to support a future Aberdeen Secondary School. I am pleased to respond on Minister Whiteside's behalf.

The Ministry of Education and Child Care is aware of pressures stemming from enrolment growth in Kamloops. In 2021, the Ministry provided support for School District No. 73 (Kamloops-Thompson) to proceed to business case development for an elementary school in the Pineview Valley area. This is further to other school capital investments in the District since 2017, totalling nearly \$70 million which include a 525-seat addition at Valleyview Secondary, and replacement of Parkcrest Elementary at a new expanded capacity.

Recently, the Ministry provided a 2022/23 Capital Plan Response Letter, which outlined support for the Batchelor Heights Elementary project to proceed to business case development. The Ministry appreciates the District continuing to highlight the importance of a site acquisition for a future Aberdeen Secondary school site, as well as sharing that this site and the price negotiated with the current owner as only being available until December 2022.

We understand Ministry and District staff have already begun discussions on the District's 2023/24 Five-Year Capital Plan submission, and expect this site to be a high priority for the District. Over the coming months, the Ministry will work to determine priority projects that can be accommodated within government's overall fiscal plan. It is our intent to communicate approved priorities in writing with each school district, following the next provincial budget.

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Again, thank you for writing.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "C.A. Zacharuk". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "C" and "A".

Christina Zacharuk
Deputy Minister

pc: Rhonda Nixon, Superintendent, School District 73 (Kamloops–Thompson)
Capital Management Branch