



28th January 2020

School District 73 Trustees
C/O Chair Kathleen Karpuk,
Kamloops, B.C.

Re: Sun Peaks Reconfiguration Consultation

Dear Trustees,

Thank you for meeting with the Sun Peaks parents and residents to review the options available in the Sun Peaks community.

Members of council wish to support the community objectives of realizing a leading innovative and inspirational educational opportunity for children in Sun Peaks. The residents of Sun Peaks have clearly spoken in terms of the importance of education for our growing community. Through resident's financial contributions of some \$800,000 in donations to fund the opening of the first education facilities and 10 years of operations and the Municipality's \$336,000 investment in the present 6 school classrooms, our citizens have 'lifted well above their weight' in terms of supporting this community's school and education in Sun Peaks.

Members of council repeatedly hear from the younger families who move to Sun Peaks, these families have compared education in the larger cities with tourism communities like Sun Peaks and Big White and have concluded that Sun Peaks education model offers the educational environment that they believe will inspire and educate their children. They are choosing to live in Sun Peaks because of the unique educational experience offered. This choice of lifestyle truly reflects who we are as a community.

Sun Peaks is one of a few unique opportunities in the Province. Tourism is the core of our economy and business seasonality is a fact of life for many residents. We recognize that an intense winter season of seven days a week is not the Province's economic norm and most public institutions do not function on the kind of work schedule that our residents face. We trust that you will consider some 'thinking outside the box' that assists residents to fulfil their dreams and aspirations of a meaningful life for themselves and their children. We are proud of the progress and performance of the Sun Peaks students and truly believe that this educational model could assist the Ministry and School Districts in the Province to reach higher educational objectives and healthy social wellbeing of students in every community. A number of leading educators have suggested to members of Council that Sun Peaks may well be leading the way to more responsive future educational challenges.

Longer term, we are confident that Sun Peaks will continue to grow as fast as the educational facilities grow. There is an air of excitement around a bricks and mortar school. Council members are approached by property owners who strongly support the building of a school with leading edge recreational and cultural facilities and we are confident that the community will support the financial commitment to facilities not normally part of a small rural community.

Our longer term vision is to join School District 73's sports academy programs where students who wish to commit to a winter sports program would receive specialized sports training and full education opportunities. Such a program would require some adjustments to educational hours and school days in order to meet the training and competitive schedules of sports like alpine and freestyle skiing as well as snowboarding and cross country skiing. We are prepared to join you with these exciting programs.

We look forward to working with the School District and the Province to establish leading edge sport and education facilities in Sun Peaks. Hopefully your review of this reconfiguration will consider a flexible schedule that meets administrative and community priorities and open the door for future sports and educational programs to the benefit of students throughout this district.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Al Raine". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "A".

Mayor Al Raine,
Sun Peaks Mountain Resort Municipality